



WWW.CWBA.ORG.AU

2020 Annual Report



CONTENTS

- 1.0 Chairperson’s Report 3
- 2.0 Overview 5
- 3.0 CWBA Aims & Objectives 7
- 4.0 2019-2020 Operations and Achievements 8
 - 4.1 Declared Pest Rate 8
 - 4.2 Funding & Grants..... 10
 - 4.3 Partnerships and Agreements 11
 - Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions 11
 - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 12
 - Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) 13
 - Liebe Group..... 13
 - 4.3 LPMT (Dogger) Program 14
 - 4.4 Community Bait Rack Program - Fox & Wild Dog Baiting 14
 - 4.5 CWBA Annual Aerial Baiting Program for Wild Dogs 15
 - 4.6 Community Rabbit Control Program - Rabbit Baiting 15
 - 4.7 Feral Pig Control 15
 - 4.8 Restricted Chemical Product Permits..... 16
 - 4.9 Community Engagement..... 18
- 5.0 Wild Dog Activity and Stock Losses..... 19
- 6.0 Summary 21
- Appendices 1: Area of Operation..... 22
- Appendices 2 Financial Report Summary 23
- Appendices 3: Auditors Report..... 25

1.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The 2019/20 financial year has produced exceptionally good results for the CWBA, particularly in reducing stock attacks by Wild Dogs. This has been the main focus of our efforts and the results speak for themselves. This has been our second year with a Declared Pest Rate and although we endured a rate rise, I feel we still have overwhelming support within the CWBA area. The system of using a DPR to control declared pests may not be perfect, but we feel it's the fairest and most equitable way to control pests which roam free and don't respect property boundaries. It ensures that every landholder contributes to the effort. The CWBA continues to explore all outside funding sources and once again we have been successful here. This outside funding helps to minimize the landholder contribution.

Wild Dog control efforts have seen stock attacks reduce by 60% year on year. This trend is continuing. I see this as a huge achievement considering the dire situation, we were facing several years ago. Quite a few landholders on the eastern margins were forced to completely destock permanently due to persistent Wild Dog attacks. We have stemmed the tide, but we mustn't become complacent. At this stage it appears that our current LPMT time allocation on Wild Dogs is sufficient, but we need to see a sustained result before we reduce our time allocation.

CWBA conducted an aerial shooting program for Feral Pigs in 2019 but the damage levels and pig numbers are still concerningly high, mainly in the Morawa Shire. We are in the early stages of developing a partnership with the Midlands Biosecurity Group to undertake a coordinated Feral Pig control program where our regions adjoin, between Mingenew and Morawa. Our Morawa members are expecting more results and our aim is to deliver that.

Rabbit bait mixing days are continuing, although with limited support from landholders. Perhaps this is an indication that the problem is not serious. Nevertheless, we will be continuing with the bait mixing days and we encourage landholders to take advantage of the free baits.

Fox control is a by-product of a good Wild Dog control program. Anecdotal evidence is confirming low fox numbers where extensive baiting is undertaken.

CWBA continue to have a good working relationship with our neighboring RBGs in the agricultural areas. I would like to thank the respective members of the Northern Biosecurity Group, the Midlands Biosecurity Group and the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association.

Relationships with DBCA have generally been good although this comes with considerable effort. DBCA manage large areas of uncleared land in the CWBA area. For effective Wild Dog and Feral Pig control the CWBA needs DBCA to uphold their responsibilities under the BAM Act 2007, or at the very least allow CWBA to undertake this work without undue hindrance. Both groups are making a conscious effort to maintain a good relationship.

Likewise, our relationship with DPIRD has been generally very productive, although the wheels of progress turn slowly at times in the administration of our Declared Pest Account. Section 4.1 of this report outlines where efficiencies could be made.

The CWBA Board are mindful of the amount of time having to be spent by our Executive Officer in pursuing the greater good of efficient cooperation between ourselves and these government departments. Whilst time consuming, some advantage is gained by every RBG when improvements are made.

Now for some acknowledgements. First and foremost are our people on the front line of pest control. Thanks to our 3 LPMTs Graeme Newton, Pat Darling, Jeff Taylor and their coordinator Russell McPherson.

Thanks to our 4 Board members who retired during the 2019/20 year. Ricky Storer, Greg Westlund, Phil Logue and Russell McPherson. Each of these were long-standing board members who only retired due to their circumstances changing meaning they were no longer eligible for membership. Special thanks to Ricky, who as outgoing Chairman has left this organization in a very stable position and well set up for the future. Ricky's expertise and commitment has made it easy for his replacement as Chairman and for the entire Board.

Welcome to our new Board members who joined us during the year, Henry Gratte and Rod Desmond. Unfortunately, Rod has now also become ineligible to be a member and will be retiring at the upcoming AGM. No doubt we will be welcoming some new Board members this year. While this turnover of Board members is unfortunate, I believe we still have a very stable group of Board members with plenty of experience in the history of this organization. I would like to thank all the Board members, retiring and current.

The quiet achiever in our group is our Executive Officer Linda Vernon. Linda provides CWBA with a level of governance and communication expertise which is widely recognized among all RBGs and government departments. She has grown this organization into a widely respected group and we are very fortunate to have employed an EO of her caliber. Since assuming the role of Acting Chairman I have come to respect her professionalism and dedication, often beyond the call of duty.

I believe the CWBA has a very positive future and I encourage all landholders and members to become involved at any level of commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Patmore', written in a cursive style.

Chris Patmore

Acting Chairman CWBA

M: 0427 552 018

2.0 OVERVIEW

The CWBA has been operating as a Recognised Biosecurity Group since 2017 and aspires to most effectively use the group's resources to manage priority declared pests and to assist the group to meet its responsibilities under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act).

It has a Strategic Plan and Annual Operational plans that outline a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach to invasive species management that will enhance the coordination of:

- On-ground activities to manage priority biosecurity threats;
- Training, education and awareness raising opportunities; and
- Collaborative arrangements with government and non-government stakeholders to identify, manage and mitigate high priority feral pest threats.

Board of Management

The CWBA Constitution provides for a Board of Management who are responsible for overseeing the affairs of the Association. The Board of Management consists of a Chairperson; Deputy Chairperson; Secretary and Treasurer and no less than 3 and no more than 7 other members. Directors terms of appointment are for a three-year period.

As at 30 June 2020 The CWBA Board of Management consists of:

Position	Member	Term Expires
Acting Chairman	Chris Patmore	2020
Deputy Chair Person	<i>vacant</i>	
Secretary and Treasurer	Executive Officer	
Director	Mark Sutton	2020
Director	Ashley Sanderson	2022
Director	Peter North	2021
Director	Doug Cail	2020
Director	Rodney Desmond	2022
Director	Henry Gratte	2022

In 2019-2020 four Directors stepped down and tendered their resignations from the Board of Management in Ricky Storer, Greg Westlund, Phillip Logue and Russell MacPherson as their situations had changed and they no longer met the requirements for membership.

Dogger Coordinator

This year saw Russell MacPherson become the CWBA Dogger Coordinator as a contracted position for the CWBA. We are extremely lucky to have Russell to continue to be involved in our organization and his long-term knowledge of the region and relationship with landholders is invaluable. He continues to be the first point of contact for all stock attacks to be reported to by landholders in the region. Russell then provides this information to the relevant Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) and directs their activities as necessary. Russell continues to work with the Executive Officer and Board of Management to ensure that all stock attacks, dog sightings and any other information provided by landholders or LPMTs are recorded so that the group have a clear understanding of what activity is going on with Wild Dog presence/sightings and good data is recorded within the region.

Executive Officer

The CWBA continue to employ a part-time Executive Officer in Linda Vernon who is responsible for the day to day management of the Association including providing executive support to the Board of Management, administration and financial duties, overseeing the implementation of the Operational Plan, design and delivery of community engagement activities and the development of governance and strategic planning activities for the Association.

The Association's financial management is overseen by the Board and the Executive Officer who is supported by the services of a Bookkeeper, Anne Richardson from Scindian Accounting Services.

3.0 CWBA AIMS & OBJECTIVES

3.1 Our Aim

Effective management of feral pests in the Central Wheatbelt.

3.2 Our Objectives

The objectives of the CWBA cover three core themes:

- Management
- Engagement and Collaboration
- Measurement.

Management

- a. Develop and implement proactive, best practice strategies to reduce the effects of declared pests (wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs and rabbits) on private and public lands

Engagement and collaboration

- b. Increase stakeholder participation and encourage landholders and the broader community to adopt sound biosecurity practices
- c. Provide members with a mechanism to exchange information, advice and assistance where appropriate
- d. Encourage and support collaboration for declared pest management in adjacent shires and regions

Measurement

- e. Observe, assess, and report on the progress concerning the reduction of negative impacts of declared pests.

4.0 2019-2020 OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 DECLARED PEST RATE

For 2019-2020 the CWBA requested the Minister for Agriculture and Food to approve a Declared Pest Rate (DPR) in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori of:

- 0.032 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value on land in the local government districts of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori, that is:
- identified as freehold on the rural valuation roll maintained under the Valuation of Land Act 1978; and
- no less than 100 hectares in area; and
- a minimum amount of \$80.00.

The Minister undertook consultation and approved the CWBA 2019/20 Operational Plan to control declared pests. On the 9th July 2019 the Minister prescribed the 2019-2020 Declared Pest Rate as recommended by the CWBA raising an estimated that \$133,246.00. These funds raised in 2019-2020 were matched dollar for dollar by the Western Australian State Government to an estimated total value of \$266,492.00 available to the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association Inc (CWBA).

The money must only be used to implement the CWBA's Operational Plan with total planned expenditure of \$367,012.00 in the prescribed local government district/s of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori.

2019-2020 saw the Office of State Revenue issue the Declared Pest Rate invoices to landholders late, with Rate Notices to the majority of the CWBA region not being issued until December 2019. Reminder notices were also not sent out until July 2020 and as at 30 June 2020 the CWBA has a total value of unpaid rates at \$16,883.00 of which \$12,380.00 were from the 2019-2020 financial year.

As the 2019-2020 DPR saw an increase from the 2018-2019 financial year of greater than 5% the Minister was required to undertake her own consultation as a part of the DPR consultation process and sent out 673 letters to landholders across the CWBA region. Three submissions were received, one in support and two opposed.

The process of raising funds through the implementation of the Declared Pest Rate has continued to be challenging. The biggest learning by the CWBA Board of Management is that the CWBA should not expect that 100% of rate payable amounts will be collected within a given financial year. In general, 60% of rates payable are collected/paid by the due date (i.e. 49 days from issue date) and another 25-35% collected by the end of the 3rd quarter of the financial year. DPIRD has advised that the CWBA Board of Management make budget provision for 20% of rates being unpaid within a given financial year.

As this is the CWBA's second year in raising a Declared Pest Rate the administration of this rate has continued also to be a challenge. The CWBA has been working with DPIRD through a range of concerns to see how both parties can look to improve this process. These concerns include:

1. Documented Declared Pest Rate Process. There is no clear, documented DPR process for both DPIRD and RBGs with timelines and dates.
2. Incorrect Information. There are consistently incorrect information and/or errors in both the consultation and invoicing process – which the number to call about is the RBG who usually has little to do with either process.
3. Communication. There is often poor, short-notice communication between DPIRD and RBGs on DPR activities including the issuing of rate notices and issuing of reminder notices.
4. Inadequate Modelling. The CWBA has lack of confidence in the BRAMS declared pest rate modelling provided due to past experience of errors in modelling and not a clear understanding of the modelling process. This has also led to questions about the ability to have differential rating processes and look at the RBG prescribed boundaries in relation to the actual on-ground operational activities.
5. Ratepayer Data. This needs to be better streamlined as at present the RBG is the middleman between the Local Government Data and DPIRD/OSR. Inefficient process. Lack of confidence that some or the right landholders are receiving a declared pest notice.
6. Declared Pest Account Statements and Invoicing. There have been instances where the release of funds and financial statements have been delayed. The CWBA needs access to this information to make timely and effective decisions regarding our control programs.
7. Carry Over/Contingency. This is not understood, is unclear and not documented between DPIRD and the CWBA other than a statement in this year's Directions Notices which is rather broad "Additionally, the second payment will be made less any residual funding from the 2019/20 financial year that has not been allocated for expenditure."

Overall, the CWBA Board of Management have been very pleased by the on-going support of landholders with in the region for the implementation of the Declared Pest Rate, as without access to this form of long-term sustainable funding the CWBA would not be able to implement effective control programs for Declared Pests.

4.2 FUNDING & GRANTS

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM – WILD DOG MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The CWBA were successful in receiving financial assistance from the Royalties for Regions Program – Wild Dog Management Program to employ one half-time (0.5FTE) Licensed Pest Management Technician to reduce the number of Wild Dogs on government managed lands and adjoining agricultural land. Funding of \$140,625.00 was received for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020. The CWBA wrote to the Minister to urge her to continue providing this funding beyond 2020 and have also provided a submission to the Business Case being prepared by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. This has resulted in this funding being extended for a period of 12 months to 30 June 2021, with the CWBA to receive \$66,875.00.

COMMUNITIES COMBATNG PEST AND WEEDS IMPACTS DURING DROUGHT – COMBATING PESTS IN THE CWBA REGION, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Shire of Dalwallinu on behalf of the CWBA were successful in receiving \$88,000.00 for a twelve-month project from 1 July 2019 from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Communities Combating Pests and Weed Impacts During Drought Program for Wild Dog control in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori.

SHEEP/GOAT INDUSTRY FUNDING SCHEME WILD DOG GRANTS – CWBA WILD DOG MANAGEMENT – CONTROLLING THE GAPS

The CWBA successfully applied for \$180,000.00 of funding over three years from 1 July 2019 from the Sheep/Goat Industry Funding Scheme Wild Dog Grants to better target Wild Dog control activities in identified “gap” areas in our region by providing additional funding support to the CWBA LPMT Program allocating additional LPMT days to targeting identified gap properties in partnership with the Northern Biosecurity Group and funding the CWBA Aerial Baiting Program targeting Wild Dogs on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), Saltlakes, Conservation Estates and pastoral properties inside the State Barrier Fence once a year for three years in partnership with the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group.

4.3 PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

The CWBA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Geraldton (Midwest Region) of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) expired at 30 June 2019. This MOU relates specifically to the control of Wild Dogs on Parks and Wildlife managed lands and outlines a series of common understandings and statements of agreements. The document also outlines ability and requirements for CWBA LPMTs to undertake control activities on Parks and Wildlife managed lands in the region, including specifically within the Karara Conservation Park including Kadji Kadji, Lochada and Karara complexes. This has coincided with DBCA looking to implement a State-Wide MOU with RBGs. A template was developed by Corrin Everitt DBCA Invasive Animals Program Coordinator and consultation occurred with the RBG Executive Officer Group in November 2019. Many concerns were raised over the ensuing period about the MOU template presented by DBCA of which key areas were:

1. Leg-hold trapping on CALM Act Lands. Whilst this is not presently an issue for CWBA, if the Karara Conservation Park (ex -Kadji, Karara and Lochada pastoral leases) are formally recognised and made a National Park as proposed by the State Government in this MOU timeframe then this is an issue for CWBA to implement effective control activities for Wild Dogs.
2. RCP Permits – CWBA are not prepared to take on the responsibility for RCP Permits for DBCA managed lands for Wild Dog Control.
3. Signage – CWBA are not prepared to be responsible for signage if DBCA do not have the funds to have appropriate signage on DBCA managed lands.

In March 2020 RBGs were advised that the MOU template had “been endorsed by the Department and sent out to the regions for their use. The MOU is a State-Wide template and it is up to the RBGs to negotiate with the relevant DBCA district aspects of the MOU that may not be relevant to their patch.”

Corrin also advised that she had asked to meet with DPIRD to discuss the RCP process and investigate the waiver of fees associated with these permits for DBCA managed lands. CWBA has commenced negotiations with the two regional DBCA Offices in Mid-West and Wheatbelt to negotiate the proposed MOU as advised by Corrin Everitt.

Appreciation and acknowledgement are again extended to Jamie Conway-Physick, Senior Operations Officer -Rangelands from the Mid-West DBCA Office, for his support and working relationship with the CWBA, he has now moved on. The CWBA are looking forward to working with John Coetsee and Michael Raykos from the DBCA Mid-West Office and Adrian Chesson, DBCA Wheatbelt.

Over this 12-month period the CWBA has worked tremendously hard to get a new MOU in place between DBCA and the CWBA. It has taken a large amount of time and effort.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The CWBA have continued to worked closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Biosecurity team to implement our second Declared Pest Rate and meet all our reporting obligations as a Recognised Biosecurity Group under the BAM Act 2007. The DPIRD organization re-structure has been a barrier to productively moving forward during this period and our RBG is looking forward with anticipation to seeing the “Office of RBG” and working with its staff.

This process of operating and governing an RBG continues to be a learning curve for our group and we acknowledge also the Department’s continued investment and support in this space. Particular thanks to Glenice Batchelor, Biosecurity Officer, Community Engagement, Sustainability and Biosecurity Project Team who finished working for the Department in January. This role has continued to provide an important consistent communication and information link, liaison and support between the Department and CWBA and the CWBA look forward to continuing the relationship with Kim Haywood.

The CWBA have worked in partnership with Tracey Kreplins, Research Scientist, Invasive Species, Sustainability and Biosecurity on collecting DNA samples from Wild Dogs as a part of her DNA and kin relationship of Wild Dogs.

We have also supported the collaboration study between Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA) on trialing the use of the Eradicat® Bait for Feral Cats as well as Wild Dogs and Foxes. This project is still awaiting final ethics approval.

Discussion has been had with DPIRD around a social license to operate and improving communications around declared pest control activities, particularly in regards to Wild Dog control in Western Australia. We look forward to seeing what may occur in this space, as it is important that we have clear key messages as an industry and risks are managed.

DPIRD engaged a consultant to undertake a mid-term review of the WA Wild Dog Action Plan 2016-2021 (WDAP) and CWBA participate in surveys and discussions with the consultant as well as submitting a Business Case for consideration by DPIRD in the development of the WA Wild Dog Plan No2. It is disappointing to note that we are unaware of what has been included in this next plan and eagerly await an announcement by government.

Upgrade and maintenance activities continue along the State Barrier Fence which is managed by DPIRD with over 75km of fence within the CWBA area having been upgraded or replaced in this period. This has not been without some dramas and sufficient quality control with a 11km length of replacement fence being left “open” for an unacceptable period of time in December 2019. The State Barrier Fence continues to be the number one tool in managing declared pests and stopping them entering the CWBA region from the rangelands. This infrastructure and its maintenance are vital in ensuring effective control activities can be implemented in the CWBA region.

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY – MT GIBSON

The MOU agreement between Australian Wildlife Conservancy ceased at 30 June 2019. The CWBA had many meetings and discussions with Australian Wildlife Conservancy staff over this twelve month period and have been unable to agree to a new MOU for Wild Dog control with the main reason for this being that they were “not prepared to jeopardise our RCP permit for non-compliance so, if you are able to obtain a stand-alone CWBA LPMT RCP Permit for Mt Gibson, there should be no impediment to continuing MOU discussions”. The CWBA position on RCPs is that under the Code of Practice it is the land owners/managers responsibility to have the RCP in their name, not the RBG. It is hoped by the CWBA to continue working together with the Mt Gibson Sanctuary team into the future on declared pest control activities.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL INNOVATION (AWI)

Meja Aldrich Wild Dog Control Coordinator WA, funded by AWI, has also continued to attend CWBA Board of Management meetings offering support, advice and networking knowledge to the Association over the last 12 months. The CWBA recognises the value of networking between RBGs across WA as well as nationally. Unfortunately, without consultation with the RBGs after four and a half years of supporting and funding the Wild Dog Control Coordinator in Western Australia, Australian Wool Innovation made the decision to close the position as at 1 September 2020.

LIEBE GROUP

The CWBA have worked on developing an initial partnership with the Liebe Group to utilize their communication networks, resources and facilities to improve and increase landholder engagement in the CWBA region.

4.3 LPMT (DOGGER) PROGRAM

The CWBA employed the following Licensed Pest Management Technicians;

	LPMT Name	Area Covered
LPMT 1	Graeme Newton	Dalwallinu & Koorda
LPMT 2	Jeff Taylor	Perenjori
LPMT 3	Pat Darling	Morawa

They worked a total of 340 days across the region undertaking control activities of baiting, trapping (with an average of 220 traps in the ground at any one time across the region) and shooting on both public and private land primarily targeting wild dogs, foxes and rabbits. This is second year in a row where the CWBA have been able to deliver over 300 days of consistent LPMT control activities.

The CWBA LPMTs utilized the national database and reporting program Feral Scan to record all of their control activity and observations in 2019-2020 in line with an agreement held by the CWBA with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. All three LPMT are contracted to 30 June 2021 and have worked exceptionally well as a team this year.

4.4 COMMUNITY BAIT RACK PROGRAM - FOX & WILD DOG BAITING

The CWBA has five bait racks located in the region which has local landholders as their Coordinators. These are for the purpose of making 1080 dried meat baits for targeted fox and wild dog control. This year coordinated baiting programs were organized for September 2019 and April 2020 at only 3 of the bait racks as the other bait racks still had sufficient baits remaining in their storage freezers. Landholders were provided with access to a total of 20,400 dried meat baits. 2,000 1080 warning signs were also purchased and supplied at the bait racks for landholders to use. Coordinated baiting is promoted at these two identified times to landholders, but landholders are also encouraged to implement a targeted baiting program on their property all year round.

Table 3: CWBA Bait Rack Data 2019-2020

Bait Rack	Coordinator	September 2019	April 2020
Morawa Bait Rack	Glen Tapscott	5000	3000
Perenjori Bait Rack	Glen Solomon	6400	3000
Mongers Lake Bait Rack	Russell Macpherson		3000
Goodlands Bait Rack	Ashley Sanderson		
Koorda Bait Rack	Carl Fuchsichler		
	Totals	11,400	9,000

4.5 CWBA ANNUAL AERIAL BAITING PROGRAM FOR WILD DOGS

Dependent of funding available the CWBA coordinate and implement an Aerial Baiting Program for Wild Dog Control in spring to be implemented to coincide with the September Community Bait Rack activity. For 2019-2020 the CWBA together with the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group we were able to contract the services of JL Taylor and Atkinsons Helico to coordinate a targeted aerial baiting program by helicopter for two days in the CWBA region. 5,000 1080 dried meat baits were laid at a range of identified locations across the region that had been identified as inaccessible by vehicle, with the majority of this occurring on unallocated crown land, saltlakes, conservation estate and the pastoral properties of Wanarra and Perengary.

4.6 COMMUNITY RABBIT CONTROL PROGRAM - RABBIT BAITING

The CWBA allocated and promoted the opportunity for landholders across the region to participate in a coordinated rabbit control program in February-March 2020 with access to free 1080 Rabbit Oat Bait Mixing days to landholders. Again, we experienced poor uptake of this program with only 15 landholders expressing an interest in participating in this activity, of which in the end only 13 landholders were provided with access to free 1080 One-Shot Oats purchased by the CWBA. These were mixed by the CWBA LPMT in with oats provided by the landholders, which was then laid on his property.

The other landholders did not participate at this point in time as they did not have a current valid Restricted Chemical Product Permit. The CWBA then assisted these landholders to obtain RCP Permits. Rabbit numbers were reported to significantly be increasing in numbers across the region at June 2020, but it was hoped that a strain of the Calcivirus would come through soon to knock them back down.

4.7 FERAL PIG CONTROL

The CWBA contracted the Mingenew-Irwin Group to implement a range of coordination, control and monitoring activities during January - March 2020 (initial short-term contract) for Feral Pigs in partnership with up to 20 landholders in the western region of the Shire of Morawa. The aim of the work undertaken on behalf of the CWBA, was to survey the farmers, identify those who were still experiencing activity after the 2018 & 2019 aerial shoot and to undertake baiting on the properties which still had activity. Many of the landholders involved in the aerial shoot were surveyed. All still reported high levels of feral pig activity, which is of great concern to the CWBA. Assistance was provided to two landholders that were identified as key Feral Pig control sites.

The Mingenew-Irwin Group also provided the CWBA with a comprehensive report on the activities which also included the following key recommendations for the Boards consideration:

1. Engage Landholders
 - Bring landholders together to discuss feral pigs and educate
 - Survey landholders to identify their priority for feral pig control and what triggers will increase/decrease this
 - Use case studies to promote the damage caused by Feral Pigs in other Australian regions.

2. Effective Coordination
 - Establish relationship and engage all stakeholders
 - Coordination of all methods of control
 - Engage shooters and hunters, and utilise their knowledge

3. Data collection
 - Cost break down of different control methods
 - Case studies on Northampton/Collie groups/landholders
 - Better understanding of feral pig movements during the season
 - Apply for funding for tracker collars
 - NBG has a tracker collar project, which might provide some insight
 - Local shooters may have knowledge

4. Trespassing control
 - Inform landholders of their rights and how to manage trespassing
 - Determine if Northampton's attempt using the police was effective
 - Work with local police to trial patrols in hot spots

The CWBA will consider many of these recommendations when it undertakes its future Operational Plans. Many thanks need to be extended to Rachael Mason from the Mingenew-Irwin Group, and the landholders but particularly Brad Collins and Carl Forward for their time and effort and local knowledge which has been invaluable in continuing to drive this issue with the CWBA Board of Management.

4.8 RESTRICTED CHEMICAL PRODUCT PERMITS

The CWBA offer to pay for and provide assistance to landholders to submit applications to obtaining Restricted Chemical Product (RCP) Permits so that they themselves and the CWBA employed LPMTs could access their properties to undertake control activities. A total of 22 landholders were provided with assistance to complete RCP permits or permit amendments.

The process of Restricted Chemical Product Permits which is administered by DPIRD has been an emerging issue over the last twelve months. The CWBA feel that the current RCP process is a barrier to effective and timely pest control activities and has written to the Department during this period and asked if this could be reviewed and updated. Initial feedback provided to the Department this year has been:

1. Understanding of the quality of mapping required, product quantity and what constitutes a baiting program is not clear and information to assist this is often not easily available (particularly to landholders).

2. The paper RCP application form is still not right to meet all party's needs (Applicant, RBG & DPIRDs), so this then leads to assumptions being made by the applicant and the assessing officer.

We have identified that landholders and Recognised Biosecurity Groups would benefit from access to GIS software and mapping data/tools to then be able to assist landholders in producing suitable maps (even though current form states hand drawn map is sufficient). Is this something that DPIRD is able to look into and assist with?

But ultimately, we feel that the paper application form is really not fit for purpose in this day and age. DPIRD need to be looking to move to an online application with a Client ID log in, access to online mapping (initial discussion was around the Smarty Grants online application tool), that is linked to an internal DPIRD database, that perhaps RBGs could also access (view only). We feel that this would really be a benefit to landholders, RBGs and DPIRD. RCP applications could then be more targeted, ensure that the right information is collected, trackable and then easily adjustable particularly in regards with baiting programs and timeframes.

We acknowledge that in the last 12 months the RCP application form has been updated and some great work has been done by DPIRD staff in this space, but believe greater steps can be made. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with DPIRD.

4.9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CWBA have been proactive and continue to engage with the community about Declared Pests, control activities and the incoming Declared Pest Rate. Below is an outline of key community engagement activities undertaken by the Association over the last twelve months.

Table 4: CWBA Community Engagement Activities 2019-2020

Month	Activity Type	Details
All Year Round	CWBA Website All information about the CWBA can be found here and is current.	www.cwba.org.au
	Social Media CWBA have a Facebook Page which relevant information is posted to all year round.	https://www.facebook.com/CentralWheatbeltBA/
July 2019	Email to CWBA Local Governments Letters sent to all four CWBA Local Governments informing them of the successful DPR outcome and offering to come and present to Council.	
	Dowerin Field Days RBG stand at the Dowerin Field Days	28 th -29 th August 2019
September 2019	AGM Notice to Members Notice of AGM and setting of DPR for 20-21.	13 September 2019
	Ladies Luncheon and Hands on Pest Control Workshop Joint workshop held with NACC and CWBA focusing on on-ground pest control activities.	17 September 2019
October 2019	Annual General Meeting CWBA Annual General Meeting, adoption of annual report and setting of the 20-21 DPR.	9 October 2019
	October E-news and Local Papers Update on the activities of the Association.	29 October 2019
November 2019	2018-2019 Annual Report Distributed to members and to key stakeholders by email and hard copy.	Hard copy by post.
	Morawa Landholders – Special Feral Pig Update Update on specific CWBA activities around Feral Pigs	22 November 2019
February 2020	February E-news and Local Papers. Update on the activities of the Association	31 January 2020
March 2020	Local Government Letter A direct letter to the President, Councilors and CEO was emailed updating them on the CWBA activities and the incoming DPR and ask for financial assistance.	4 March 2020
April 2020	Direct Ratepayer Letter Letter to every Ratepayer in CWBA with land over 100ha. Contact details from the all Local Government's Rate role.	1 April 2020
	April E-news and Local Papers. Update on the activities of the Association	15 April 2020
May 2020	Ministerial Consultation Ministerial Public Consultation Letter direct to all CWBA Ratepayers. Contact details from all Local Government's Rate role.	30 May 2020 – 29 June 2020

5.0 WILD DOG ACTIVITY AND STOCK LOSSES

The CWBA LPMTs trapped a total of 38 Wild Dogs for 2019-2020 and further 16 were shot by landholders. Again only 20 Wild Dog sightings were reported to the CWBA.

A total of 133 stock (sheep and goats) losses were report by landholders to the CWBA. We are pleased with the significant decline in stock attacks over this 12-month period, but we do believe that this is the minimum number of stock losses as it is likely to be more with some landholders still not reporting. The CWBA responds immediately when landholders report stock losses and Wild Dog sightings to the Dogger Coordinator and send a LPMT out to the area as soon as possible.

Table 5: Summary of LPMT Reported Data 2017-2020

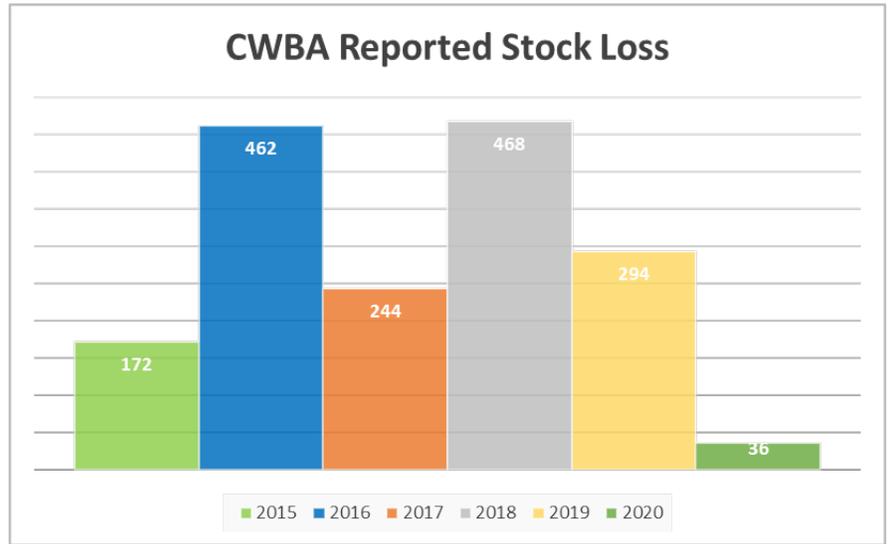
End of Year LPMT Statistics Summary	1 July 2017- 30 June 2018	1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019	1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020
LPMT Days Worked	187	344	340
Baits Laid by LPMTs	12,814	7,700	9,880
Wild Dogs Trapped	25	67	38

Table 6: Summary of Reporting by Landholders 2017-2020

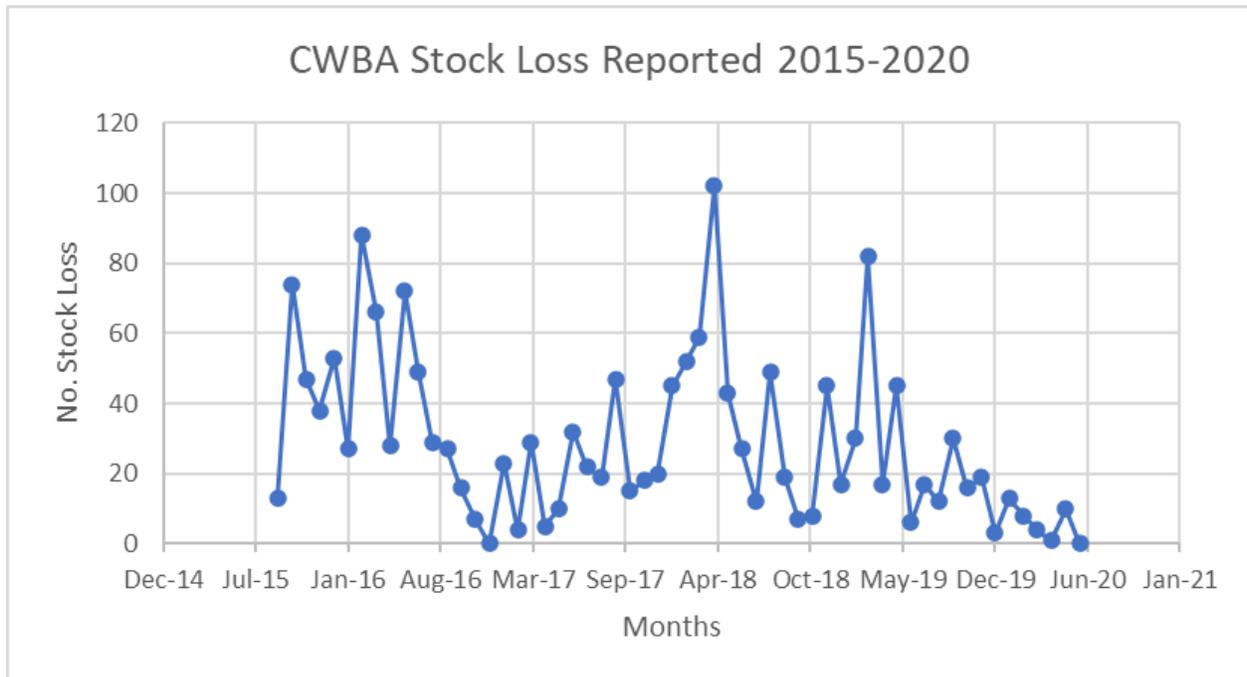
Landholder Reports	1 July 2017- 30 June 2018	1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019	1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020
Wild Dogs Shot by landholders	12	7	16
Reported Wild Dog Sightings	51	20	20
Stock Loss Reports	469	337	133

Table 7: Monthly Summary of Stock Loss/Stock Attacks Reported to CWBA

Month	No. Stock killed
July 2019	17
August 2019	12
September 2019	30
October 2019	16
November 2019	19
December 2019	3
January 2020	13
February 2020	8
March 2020	4
April 2020	1
May 2020	10
June 2020	0
TOTAL	133



Graph 1: Summary of CWBA Stock Loss Reported 2015-2012



6.0 SUMMARY

The CWBA has successfully seen the implementation of its second Declared Pest Rate in 2019-2020. This has again been well supported and received by the community enabling the Board of Management to focus its direction on improving the decision making, governance and administration around the Declared Pest Rate and annual Operational Plans.

The continuity of the CWBA team in Russell Macpherson, Patrick Darling, Graeme Newton and Jeff Taylor in the delivery of on-ground activities has been critical in delivering successful outcomes as outlined in the Operational Plan. We have employed the three Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) for 340 days who trapped or shot 38 Wild Dogs, had throughout the year each had between 33 and 111 traps in the ground at any one time and laid 14,880 baits across the region through ground and aerial baiting. 20,400 dried meat baits were made by the CWBA of which 10,520 were used by landholders free of charge in coordinated community baiting programs in September 2019 and April 2020. We held 6 bait days for landholders to access baits for the control of wild dogs, feral pigs, foxes and rabbits and assisted 22 landholders to obtain Restricted Chemical Product Permits or Permit amendments.

133 stock losses/attacks were reported to the CWBA during this period, this is a 60% decrease from the 2018-2019 year. Key hot spots are still in the east of the area's region on agricultural land adjacent to the State Barrier Fence. Around 60%-80% of LPMTs time is spent on government managed lands.

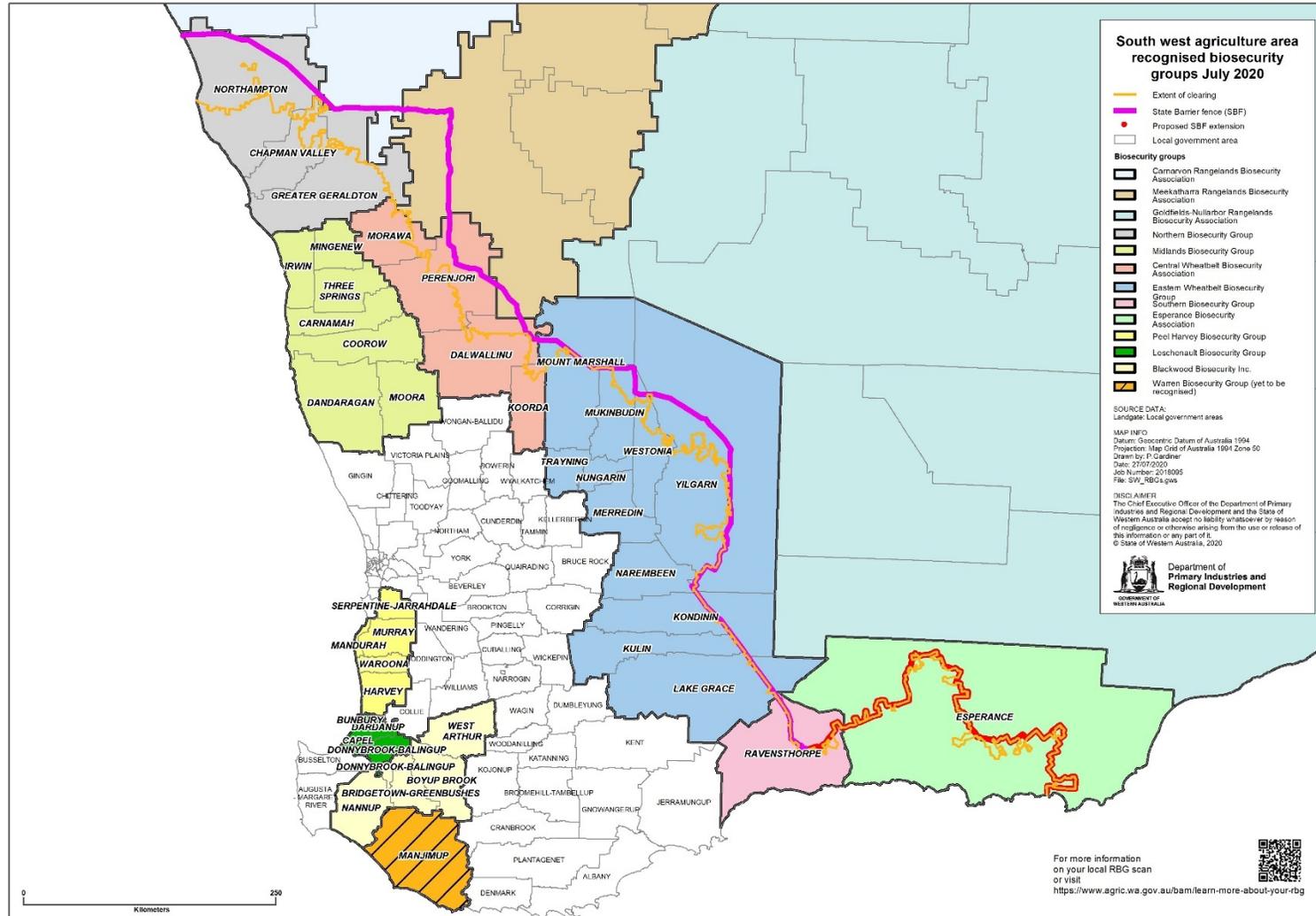
Anecdotally, rabbit numbers across the region were reported to be significantly increased around June 2020 but hope was that the species would soon be impacted by calicivirus with it being an effective biocontrol. The CWBA now have a better understanding of the Feral Pig problem in the region and are taking a good look at how to better deliver economic and effective control programs together with landholders and other stakeholders in the Shire of Morawa.

The CWBA has again been successful in attracting a number of external funds to assist with on-ground activities and is something that it will continue to do where funding is available so ensure that the Declared Pest Rate remains as low as possible for landholders.

Over this last 12-months and with the experience of implementing a Declared Pest Rate again the awareness around the many complexities of the administration and governance of an RBG and its associated Declared Pests has come to the forefront. The additional hours to accommodate adequately and comprehensively address many of these issues (particularly for Executive Officer time) is not allowed for in the RBGs Operational Plans. To this end it means that many issues are unresolved and on-going. Examples of this in 2019-2020 include; Restricted Chemical Product Permits, DBCA MOUs, Monitoring and Annual Reporting. To date there is also no State Coordinator or overarching representative body that could perhaps take on some of load on behalf of all RBGs to do this, which may be of benefit to all RBGs.

The strength and effectiveness of the CWBA lies in its volunteers and the local people, making local decisions about local pests. 2019-2020 has overall seen pleasing results from implementing the Operational Plan. These declared pests are a significant and real threat to productive agricultural systems, the environment and public health and safety in our region and across Western Australia. Again, not everyone will be directly impacted by declared pests, but success relies on well-timed cooperative control activities over the whole landscape with a nil-tenure approach.

APPENDICES 1: AREA OF OPERATION



APPENDICES 2 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

CWBA Financials

For the year ended 30 June 2020

Opening Balance 1 July 2019		\$407,343.23
Bank Accounts		
DPRID Bridging Funds Account	168,845.69	
CWBA Own Funds	96,775.28	
AWI Funds	-	
DPR Funds	141,601.13	
Debit Card Account	121.13	
Plus Income		
R4R Wild Dog Funding Grant	40,312.00	
R4R Capacity Building Project	-	
AWI Grant Funding	6,580.00	
DPR Rate Match Fund	240,246.00	
Shire Annual Contributions	-	
Interest Received on all Accounts	860.40	
Other Income	3,373.55	
		<hr/> 291,371.95
Less Expenses		
LPMT	248,155.30	
Project Management	86,834.24	
Community Engagement	4,291.39	
Projects / Baiting	78,938.67	
Other Expense	-	
		<hr/> 418,219.60
Less Asset		
Plant & Equipment	110.00	
		<hr/> 110.00
Plus GST Movement		
GST Collected	-5,473.90	
GST Paid	-7,260.35	
		<hr/> -12,734.25

Closing Cashbook \$267,651.33

Outstanding Transactions

Less Income	-	
Plus Expenses	-	
		\$267,651.33

Balance of Bank Accounts @ 30 June 2020

DPIRD Bridging Funds	28,618.57	
CWBA Own Funds	96,119.14	
AWI Funds	-	
DPR Funds	142,544.42	
Debit Card Account	369.20	
		\$267,651.33

APPENDICES 3: AUDITORS REPORT

11 September 2020

Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
58 Johnston Street
Dalwallinu WA 6609

Dear Committee

Financial Report Audit for the Year Ended 30 June 2020

We have completed the audit of your Association's accounts for the year ended 30 June 2020.

We direct your attention to the fact that the responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements and adequate disclosure is that of the Committee. This includes the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls, the selection and application of accounting policies, and the safeguarding of monies of the Association.

The purpose of our audit of the financial report is to express an opinion on that report, and this report on management issues includes only matters that come to our attention during the conduct of our work and, therefore, should not be regarded as a comprehensive statement of management issues that may exist.

Our audit procedures highlighted the following items; corrections have been made as required to ensure the accuracy of the financial statements.

DPR Rate/Matching

An adjustment has been made to reverse and remove INV18 sitting as a debtor at year end as there were insufficient funds in the DPR account to pay the invoice and therefore was not processed for payment by the DPIRD.

LPMT - Jeff Taylor

We noted an invoice for dogging services provided in 2019/20 financial year was recorded in the previous financial year in error. Therefore, we have made the adjustment to record this transaction in the appropriate year the services were rendered and paid.

We noted no other significant matters that should be raised or brought to the attention of the Management Committee.

We thank you for the kind assistance provided during the audit. If you wish to discuss any of the above items or require any further information, please contact us immediately.

Yours sincerely



LEANNE K OLIVER CPA RCA
Director

**CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258**

**Audited Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2020**

**CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

CONTENT
Statement by Members of the Committee
Balance Sheet
Income Statement
Statement of Change in Equity
Statement of Cash Flow
Notes to the Financial Statements
Independent Audit Report

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



CHAIRPERSON

Name: Christopher Patmore



TREASURER

Name: Linda Vernon

Dated this 9th day of September 2020

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

Assets	2020	2019
Current Assets		
Accounts receivable	520	-
CWBA Debit Card Account	369	121
CWBA Own Funds	96,119	96,775
DPIRD Bridging Funds	28,619	168,846
DPR Rate Funding	142,544	141,601
	<u>268,171</u>	<u>407,343</u>
Non Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment	11,074	10,964
Acc Depreciation - Plant & Equipment	(1,467)	(362)
	<u>9,607</u>	<u>10,602</u>
Total Assets	<u>277,778</u>	<u>417,945</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	2,250	33,376
GST collected	10,770	16,196
GST paid	(14,190)	(9,934)
	<u>(1,170)</u>	<u>39,638</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>(1,170)</u>	<u>39,638</u>
Net Assets	<u>278,948</u>	<u>378,307</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	378,307	348,211
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(99,359)	30,096
Total Equity	<u>278,948</u>	<u>378,307</u>

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2020

Income	2020	2019
DPR Rate/Matching	240,246	196,945
Grant Funding	6,580	159,653
R4R Capacity Building Project	-	39,050
R4R Wild Dog Funding	40,313	40,313
Total Income	287,139	435,961

Expenses

Accountant / Bookkeeping Fees	3,785	5,081
Administration Exp	3,395	7,169
Advertising / Signage	2,799	1,005
Aerial Baiting	19,980	16,780
Baiting Racks Gen Exp	5,880	2,254
Bank Fees	32	28
Chemical	542	240
CWBA Meeting Exp	2,397	1,894
Dogger Co-Ordinator	5,555	10,000
Executive Officer	50,417	43,793
Executive Officer - Travel & Accommoda	2,561	-
Feral Pig Control	9,000	27,539
Field Days	-	118
Freight	731	311
Goodlands Bait Rack	-	5,835
Insurance	26,021	11,566
Koorda Bait Rack	-	5,255
LPMT - General Exp	-	9,507
LPMT - Jeff Taylor	102,050	98,800
LPMT - Pat Darling	111,000	93,000
LPMT 2 - Gareme Newton	20,400	36,600
Monger Land Bait Rack	1,500	3,000
Monitoring Expenses	8,144	-
Morowa Bait Rack	1,500	11,036
Partners Community Engagement	1,000	1,188
Perenjori Bait Rack	4,700	8,064
Rabbit Control	3,450	64
RCR Permit	1,139	2,364
Signage	-	673
Superannuation expense	1,653	-
Website	470	5,681
Workshops	-	1,950

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION

ABN 46 359 975 258

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2020 (cont)

Expenses	2020	2019
Depreciation	1,106	362
Total Expenses	391,204	411,156
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(104,065)	24,804
Other Income		
Interest Income	860	2,699
Other Income	3,846	2,592
Total Other Income	4,706	5,291
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(99,359)	30,096

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Retained Profits	Total
Opening balance 1/07/2018	348,211	348,211
Net result for the year	30,096	30,096
Closing balance 30/06/2019	<u>378,307</u>	<u>378,307</u>
Opening Balance 1/07/2019	378,307	378,307
Net result for the year	(99,359)	(99,359)
Closing balance 30/06/2020	<u>278,948</u>	<u>278,948</u>

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers		291,323	441,252
Payments to suppliers and employees		(430,905)	(383,316)
Interest received		-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>(139,582)</u>	<u>57,936</u>
Cash Flow From Investing Activities			
Equipment purchased during the year		(110)	(10,964)
		<u>(110)</u>	<u>(10,964)</u>
Cash Flow From Financing Activities			
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(139,692)	46,972
Cash at the beginning of the year		407,343	360,371
Cash at the end of the year		<u>267,651</u>	<u>407,343</u>

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (WA) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112 Income Taxes
AASB 110 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a) Income Tax

The Association is a non-profit organisation and thus exempted from income tax liability by virtue of section 23(3) of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

b) Goods & Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

c) Plant & Equipment

Plant and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, and accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION.**

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2020, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

Auditors Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association as of 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

The financial report is prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework and accordingly may not be suitable for other purposes. The opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

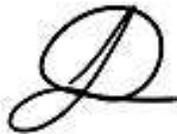
The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



LEANNE K OLIVER CPA RCA
Director

AUDIT PARTNERS AUSTRALIA
BELMONT WA

Dated at Perth, Western Australia this 11th September 2020