



ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023

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1.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The 2022/23 financial year has been another successful year for the CWBA. Once again, our major focus has been on wild dogs and feral pigs. Stock attacks from wild dogs have had another increase, although still well below the numbers we were seeing prior to our foundation 5 years ago. This is directly attributable to having our access to government-managed lands restricted. Feral pig numbers are trending downwards due to our control work, but still higher than we would like to see.

This has been our fifth year with a Declared Pest Rate and although we endured another 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 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. I'm pleased to report that more than 80% of our expenditure was on-ground work and less than 20% for administration and communications.

With wild dogs, our regular wild dog LPMTs are working together as a great team and can be responsive and flexible when issues inevitably arise. This has ensured that any problem areas are tackled before the wild dogs become embedded in the area. I would like to thank Graeme Newton and Pat Darling who retired at the end of December. Following a successful recruitment process, we were able to secure the service of experienced LPMT Allan Straw. Allan and our ongoing LPMT Jeff Taylor are doing an excellent job covering our four shires, along with our Dogger Coordinator Russell McPherson.

It is disappointing that access to some land in our area is no longer allowed due to native title issues. On some other land we have access under temporary permits when a more permanent solution would give us more certainty. These access issues are causing a noticeable increase in stock attacks in surrounding areas.

With feral pigs, we have mainly been working in the Morawa Shire, alongside the Mingenew and Mullewa regions with Paul Pitaro as our LPMT. Using a formalised partnership with Midlands Biosecurity Group and in conjunction with Northern Biosecurity Group, we have suppressed the feral pig numbers which were threatening to get out of hand.

Our control work on wild dogs, feral pigs, foxes, and rabbits has much wider benefits than just on-farm. The benefits are enormous for the survival of native wildlife, habitats, and the wider landscape such as wetlands. Around 80% of our LPMT time is spent on government managed lands.

Our relationship with DPIRD has generally been productive, although a considerable amount of our time has been spent trying to resolve ongoing administrative issues related to the Declared Pest Account. Constant staff changes within DPIRD have caused delays and are often a distraction for our Executive Officer when our efforts need to be more on-ground. We remain fully committed to working positively with DPIRD.

I would like to thank our Board members for their work during the year. Other than our EO, all positions on the Board are voluntary and I know the community appreciates the time put in by the volunteers. During the year we welcomed Carl Fuchsbichler who filled a casual Board vacancy.

Once again, I acknowledge the exceptional work of our Executive Officer Linda Vernon. I know the Board appreciates Linda's work for CWBA and for the wider RBG system across WA. With Linda at the helm, CWBA has become a widely respected organisation.

Looking to the future, our 2023/24 operational plan is underway with similar programs to recent years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Patmore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and "P".

Chris Patmore

Chairman CWBA

M: 0427 552 018

2.0 OVERVIEW

The Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA) is pleased to present its Annual Report for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The CWBA has been a Recognised Biosecurity Group since 2017, serving as a beacon of collaboration and innovation in the realm of biosecurity management. Prior to this recognition, the group operated as a Declared Species Group starting in 2012. Over the years, CWBA has strived to effectively utilize its resources to manage priority declared pests and fulfill its responsibilities under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act).

Strategic Vision and Planning

At the heart of CWBA's endeavours lies a robust Strategic Plan that outlines the organisation's direction for the next five years. This strategic blueprint is designed to direct the management of declared pests within the Shires of Morawa, Perenjori, Dalwallinu, and Koorda. It is firmly rooted in the identified needs of stakeholders and payers of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR), aligning seamlessly with a multitude of industry and strategic plans. Importantly, this plan offers comprehensive guidance for the on-ground operations of the group, as evidenced in its annual Operational Plan.

Operational Excellence

CWBA's Annual Operational Plans serve as a cornerstone for its proactive approach to invasive species management. These plans meticulously lay out a collaborative, multi-stakeholder strategy that enhances the coordination of various facets of biosecurity management, including:

- 1. On-Ground Activities:** CWBA remains committed to addressing priority biosecurity threats through efficient and effective on-ground operations. Whether it's dealing with declared pest incursions or mitigating potential risks, our team is dedicated to making a tangible difference in our region.
- 2. Training, Education, and Awareness:** Recognising the importance of knowledge dissemination, CWBA invests in training, education, and awareness-raising, we implement appropriate initiatives to empower our community with the skills and information necessary to play an active role in biosecurity management.
- 3. Collaborative Partnerships:** CWBA understands that success in biosecurity management hinges on collaboration. To this end, we continue to forge robust partnerships with both government and non-government stakeholders. These alliances enable us to collectively identify, manage, and mitigate declared pest threats more effectively.

As we look back on the year 2022-2023, CWBA takes pride in its unwavering commitment to biosecurity management. Our efforts are driven by a clear strategic vision, inclusive operational planning, and a steadfast commitment to collaboration. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our stakeholders, partners, and the broader community for their support and dedication to the cause of declared pest control activities.

CWBA remains resolute in its mission to safeguard the region from threats of wild dogs, feral pigs, foxes and rabbits and looks forward to another year of progress and achievement in the relentless pursuit of limiting the impact of the declared pests on the regions agricultural industries, communities, and environment.

3.0 OUR 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 of 30 June 2023, the CWBA Board of Management consists of:

Position	Member	Term Expires
Chairman	Chris Patmore	2023
Deputy Chairman	Peter North	2024
Secretary and Treasurer	Linda Vernon, Executive Officer	Ex officio
Director	Carl Forward	2024
Director	Don Nankivell	2024
Director	Ashley Sanderson	2026
Director	Mark Sutton	2023
Director	Doug Cail	2023
Director	Brad Collins	2023
Director	Carl Fuchsbichler*	2023

*Carl Fuchsbichler joined the Board to fill a casual vacancy in February 2023.

4.0 OUR STAFF

The CWBA maintains a small dedicated and efficient team to ensure the seamless operation of the association.

Executive Officer

At the helm of our day-to-day management is our part-time Executive Officer, Linda Vernon. Linda shoulders a multifaceted role as the Executive Officer encompassing the following responsibilities:

- **Executive Support:** provides invaluable executive support to the Board of Management, offering expertise in governance, administration, and financial matters for the Association.
- **Operational Implementation:** is the driving force behind the implementation of our Operational Plan, ensuring that our strategies and objectives are executed as intended.
- **Community Engagement & Partnerships:** takes a lead role in designing and delivering community engagement and collaborating with government on initiatives, fostering vital connections within our region.

To bolster our financial management, the Board and Executive Officer collaborate closely, exercising diligent oversight. This partnership is further fortified by the invaluable services of a dedicated Bookkeeper who supports our financial processes. The 2022-2023 year saw a change in Bookkeepers with Anne Richardson from Scindian Accounting Services resigning in late July 2022 to return to the mining industry after supporting us in this role for just over 3.5 years. In December 2022 we appointed the services of Danielle Carlson, Merredin Bookkeeping Services to the role of our associations Bookkeeper, this ensures that CWBA's financial health remains robust and transparent, a testament to our commitment to sound fiscal management.

LPMT Coordinator

Russell MacPherson remains a valued part of the CWBA team, serving as our Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMT) Coordinator through a dedicated contract arrangement. The CWBA is privileged to have Russell's continued involvement in our organisation, and his enduring connection to the region, along with his strong relationships with our Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) and landholders, is an invaluable asset to our operations.

5.0 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.

6.0 2022-2023 OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

6.1 DECLARED PEST RATE

For 2022-2023 the Minister for Agriculture and Food approved a Declared Pest Rate (DPR) in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori of:

- 0.4154 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of freehold land in the local government districts of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori, that is no less than 100 hectares in area and with a minimum rates payable amount of \$83.00.

BRAMS Modelling data of 2022-2023 CWBA Declared Pest Rate of 0.04154% (cents-in-the-dollar)

Shire	Rates Amt	% Cont.
Dalwallinu	74,011.18	41.0%
Koorda	27,875.60	15.5%
Morawa	31,508.46	17.5%
Perenjori	45,996.74	26.0%
Total	179,391.98	100%

The rates determination each year may vary due to several factors, including but not limited to property subdivisions; changes in unimproved land values; pensioner postponements under the BAM Act or any other applicable exemptions, as determined on a case-by-case basis by the Commissioner of State Revenue. At time of gazettal in July 2022 it was estimated that \$179,391,98 was to be raised through the determination of rates in the CWBA area in 2022/23. The total amount raised through the determination was \$210,264 and was matched by State Government funding.

The Quarter 3 Declared Pest Account stated the value of unpaid rates for in March 2023 as \$116,842. The CWBA raised their concerns with DPIRD about this large number of unpaid rates, disputing that this would be unlikely. As of 30 June 2023, the cumulative value of unpaid rates for the CWBA area is unknown. CWBA have continued raising concerns with DPIRD about this and they are currently investigating with Revenue WA as to why this may be the case. DPIRD have been unable to provide CWBA with the unpaid rate amount as of 30 June 2023, but have confirmed that the CWBA DPA Statement 22/23 Q3 is incorrect regarding the value of unpaid rates, the correct amount is not known and that there is no timeline on providing the correct information.

This is the CWBA's fifth year in raising a Declared Pest Rate. The administration of this rate has continued to be a task that is surrounded by uncertainty. The CWBA with much frustration and disappointment has participated in many meetings, workshops, and forums as a part of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act 2007 review over this period to provide feedback and input into the review process of RBGs and the collection of a DPR.

RBGs play a crucial role in biosecurity management and deliver valuable services to local communities in declared pest control. In June 2023 the BAM Act Review Panel released its Stage 3 Discussion Paper with many of the recommendations being alarming to the CWBA. We believe that the current biosecurity system under the current Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act overall is sufficient. We acknowledge the need for some improvement to better meet the evolving needs of our community, while recognising the imperfections, we feel it is crucial to explore ways to enhance the existing system rather than resorting to the creation of a new levy/rating system or establishing a new body. By focusing on improving coordination, increasing resources, refining, and improving government processes, and enhancing stakeholder engagement, we can address the gaps and inefficiencies within the current framework. This approach allows for a more cost-effective and streamlined solution that aligns with the community's needs and priorities without introducing unnecessary new complexity or burden.

RBGs offer efficient administration and outcomes, ensuring ownership of declared pest control for widespread and established pests. They fill knowledge gaps, promote shared responsibility under the BAM Act and provide vital services to communities. This service could be lost through the adoption of some of the opportunities being explored in the BAM Act review.

6.2 OTHER FUNDING & GRANTS

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM – WILD DOG MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The CWBA continues to be supported through 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 \$62, 500 was received for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

6.3 PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

The CWBA has a complex relationship with DBCA and its two operational regions, the Mid-West Region and the Wheatbelt Region. Our interactions have been somewhat challenging again across the 2022/23 year the overall experience continues to be less than ideal. While we appreciate the efforts in certain areas, including the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DBCA acting through its Director General in March 2023 that sets out the respective responsibilities and obligations of both parties in relations to the control of declared pests by the CWBA, our contractors and volunteers in CALM Act lands, UCL and UMR in the CWBA region, we've encountered some difficulties that have made our working relationship somewhat tenuous.

On 31st December 2022 all the CWBA permits for CALM Act lands, UCL and UMR in the CWBA expired and the permits were not renewed despite the assurance by both DPIRD and DBCA and best efforts of the CWBA that this situation could be avoided. This meant that all activities for wild dog control ceased on these lands (total area of 426,933.35ha) in the CWBA region until new permits were advocated for, submitted, and processed, which took until early March 2023. We were successful in gaining 3 year permits for the lands in the majority of the DBCA Wheatbelt region to 30 June 2026, but for lands in the Mid-West DBCA region these new permits were issued only for a 3-month period to 30 June 2023 and beyond that is again uncertain. During this period, we also saw a significant increase of stock attack by wild dogs on agricultural lands which was very disappointing.

Native title negotiations are currently being undertaken between native title groups and the DBCA which is impacting the permits for wild dog control in the Mid-West region. DBCA is unable to provide land access authorisations for lands that are a part of these negotiations and where the native title holders have indicated they do not support wild dog control. In our ongoing efforts to understand and form a partnership with the Joint Management Board arrangements between Mid-West DBCA and the Yamajti and Badamia Traditional Owners in our region, we recognise the profound significance and depth of the joint management arrangements and understand that such important collaborations can sometimes navigate through complexities. While there has been much frustration and disappointment in trying to develop effective working relationships and work to maintain support for wild dog control activities. We value and respect the perspectives and aspirations of all parties involved, but our commitment remains unshaken to ensure that declared pests are managed in the region both on agricultural and non-agricultural lands for the betterment of the whole community.

There have been instances where communication and collaboration could have been more effective, leading to disappointment in the outcomes we were hoping to achieve. We believe that there is room for improvement, and we remain committed to finding common ground and working together to progress these issues and achieve our mutual goals over the next 12 months.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Office of RBG

The CWBA have continued to work closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Office of RBG team to implement our fifth Declared Pest Rate and meet all our reporting obligations as a Recognised Biosecurity Group under the BAM Act 2007. The DPIRD relationship has progressed this year with a change in staff, which presented an opportunity for fresh perspectives, insights and processes. A highlight of the year was the Annual RBG forum held on the 15th and 16th February 2023 in Perth providing an opportunity for all RBGs and relevant organisations to come together.

State DPIRD-RBG Advisory Group

Linda Vernon, CWBA EO is a delegate on the inaugural Advisory Group which has in the last twelve months developed a terms of reference and held regular bi-monthly online meetings to provide an established medium for two-way communication and understanding between RBGs and the Department

Invasive Species Management and Research

The CWBA continue working in partnership on research projects with Tracey Kreplins, Research Scientist, Invasive Species, Sustainability and Biosecurity which now include:

- collecting DNA samples from wild dogs as a part of her DNA and kin relationship of wild dogs;
- trialling the use of the Eradicat® Bait for Feral Cats as well as wild dogs and foxes; and
- establishing a landscape scale wild dog and feral pig monitoring network to improve delivery of coordinated and effective pest management – the Evorta Camera network.

The CWBA has also participated in feedback, raised concerns, and advocated to the Department in the development of the following draft publications:

- Wild Dog Management Best Practice Manual for Western Australia
- FAQs of Wild Dog Mythology
- Guidelines of the use of non-Cat D firearms for small-scale aerial shooting of Livestock Feral Animals in Western Australia.

State Barrier Fence

The State Barrier Fence continues to be the number one tool in managing declared pests and stopping wild dogs and other Declared Pests from entering the CWBA region from the Rangelands. The CWBA continues to secure annual permits from the Department to undertake wild dog control activities along the western side of the SBF. No major upgrades were completed during this last 12 months of the State Barrier Fence in the CWBA area. The grids and grid maintenance continue to be an on-going issue in the region as well as regular maintenance activities along the fence to ensure that it is accessible. This infrastructure and its maintenance are vital in ensuring effective wild dog control activities can be implemented in the CWBA region.

OTHER PARTNERHIPS

LIEBE GROUP

The CWBA has continued progressing their partnership with the Liebe Group to utilise their communication networks, resources, and facilities to improve and increase landholder engagement in the CWBA region. We thank the Liebe Group for continuing to support our organisation and allowing us the opportunity to leverage their networks and resources.

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL

Over the past year, we have greatly appreciated our ongoing partnership with NACC. While we acknowledge that there hasn't been significant progress in our collaboration during this time, we have actively sought to strengthen our relationship whenever possible. With the BAM Act review interested in exploring a NRM model as a potential future delivery mechanism for Recognised Biosecurity Groups and Declared Pest Rates, we have dedicated efforts to better understand each organisation's vision and capacity for managing declared pests in the region. NACC has played a pivotal role in supporting our Feral Pig control initiatives in the mid-west region and generously provided letters of support for grant funding applications. While tangible progress has been limited, our commitment to working together remains steadfast, and we look forward to exploring new avenues for collaboration in the future.

GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE

The CWBA is an associate member of the Grower Group Alliance (GGA). GGA helps member groups become more visible in the industry and gain access to collaborative opportunities by developing their capacity and connection to a trusted, high-profile network.

RBG MONTHLY MEETINGS

The RBGs have monthly online meetings that provide a regular platform for the 14 RBGs to share timely information, updates, and insights related to biosecurity challenges, pest management strategies, and emerging threats. This consistent exchange of information allows RBGs to stay informed about developments across the state, helping us adapt and respond effectively to changing conditions. This enhanced collaboration and coordination among RBGs operating across the state to identify opportunities for joint initiatives including a range of grant funding opportunities.

6.3 LPMT (DOGGER) PROGRAM

The CWBA contracted the services of the following Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) over this period.

	LPMT Name	Area Covered
LPMT 1	Graeme Newton	Dalwallinu & Koorda
LPMT 2	Jeff Taylor	Morawa, Perenjori, Dalwallinu & Koorda
LPMT 3	Pat Darling	Morawa
LPMT 4	Allan Straw	Morawa & Perenjori

They worked a total of 349.5 days across the region undertaking control activities of baiting, trapping (at any one time there was an average of 30 traps in the ground across the region) and shooting on both public and private land primarily targeting wild dogs, foxes and rabbits. For the fifth consecutive year, the CWBA has successfully maintained a record of over 300 days of consistent LPMT control activities in the region, demonstrating the significant positive impact of the declared pests despite the challenges faced with land access and permit issues.

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Graeme Newton and Pat Darling for their dedicated service and valuable contributions to our organization and dedication to pest control activities in the region. In December 2022, both Graeme and Pat concluded their tenure with us, leaving behind a commendable legacy of hard work and commitment. As we transition into a new phase, we are excited to welcome Allan Straw, who has been contracted to join our team as an LPMT, bringing a wealth of expertise and experience to our pest management efforts. In this period of change, we have also undertaken a region-wide restructuring, with Jeff Taylor continuing his role, but his work region has now moved to the south of the region to focus on the Shires of Koorda and Dalwallinu and the southern end of the Shire of Perenjori and collaborating closely with Allan who will work mainly in the Shire of Morawa and northern end of the Shire of Perenjori. We are confident that with this dynamic team, we will navigate the challenges ahead and continue our mission of effective pest management for our community and environment.

The CWBA LPMTs continue to utilise the national database and reporting program Feral Scan to record all their control activity and observations in 2022-2023 in line with an agreement held by the CWBA with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

6.4 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 and storing 1080 dried meat baits for targeted fox and wild dog control. This year coordinated baiting programs were organized for September 2022 and March/April/May 2023. Landholders were provided with access to a total of 17,000 dried meat baits.

We reflect on the Community Bait Rack program for foxes and wild dogs, noting a decline in the number of baits produced and deployed by landholders. This shift in participation raises important considerations for our ongoing efforts in pest management. Several factors may have contributed to this decrease in baiting activity. Firstly, changes in landholder priorities and commitments, particularly if they no longer run livestock as a part of their agricultural enterprise. Secondly, there has been a noticeable undercurrent of apathy and complacency among some landholders, potentially stemming from the successes achieved by our control programs in the region. While we celebrate these achievements, it is crucial to remind our community that continued vigilance and proactive engagement are essential in maintaining these gains and preventing any resurgence of wild dog and fox populations that could undermine the progress we have made.

It is crucial to recognise that community baiting is a cornerstone of our wild dog control strategy. It not only aids in curbing the detrimental impact of foxes and wild dogs on our agricultural and environmental ecosystems but also fosters a sense of shared responsibility among landholders. 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 2022-2023

Bait Rack	Coordinator	September 2022	March/April 2023
Morawa Bait Rack	Glen Tapscott	3000	2000
Perenjori Bait Rack	Glen Solomon	5000	5000
Mongers Lake Bait Rack	Clayton Nankivell	0	0
Goodlands Bait Rack	Ashley Sanderson	0	2000
Koorda Bait Rack	Carl Fuchsbichler	0	0
Totals		8,000	9,000

6.5 CWBA ANNUAL AERIAL BAITING PROGRAM FOR WILD DOGS

In the past three years, the CWBA has undertaken the Aerial Baiting Program for wild dog Control, funded initially through the Sheep/Goat Industry Funding Scheme wild dog Grants. Encouraged by the program's success, our CWBA Board made a strategic decision to continue and fund it exclusively through resources generated from the Declared Pest Rate. This year, we once again participated in collaborative effort between the CWBA, Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group and the Northern Biosecurity Group as we joined forces to implement targeted aerial baiting in designated areas within our regions. To execute this program effectively, we engaged the services of JL Taylor and Desert Eagle Helicopters, supported by their team of people and our contracted LPMTs which proved instrumental in its successful execution.

The program, conducted from September 11th to September 14th, 2022, spanned the CWBA region, laying 5,000 dried meat baits, encompassing various sites including pastoral properties such as Wanarra, Perangery, Mellenbye, and Bunnawarra, as well as DBCA managed lands across multiple shires and additional unallocated crown land and salt lakes. Notably, this year's initiative observed a lower level of dog activity in certain areas, potentially influenced by factors such as changing ecological conditions and the success of prior control programs. Despite some weather challenges, our dedicated team persevered, systematically baiting strategic locations and meticulously tracking dog activity throughout the operation. This ongoing effort is crucial to maintaining the integrity of our wild dog control measures and safeguarding our region's livestock enterprises and ecosystems from the threats posed by wild dogs.



Photo: Dried Meat Baits being layed as a part of the annual aerial baiting program for wild dog control.

6.6 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 2023 with access to free 1080 Rabbit Oat Bait Mixing days to landholders. It continues to be a challenge to gain landholder support for and engagement in this opportunity. We saw a better uptake than in 2022 with 24 landholders participating but we would like to see more landholders expressing an interest in and participating in this activity. We had purchased 400 packets to ensure that we had adequate supply of poison on hand for this activity. We mixed approximately 2.73 tonnes of Oats and landholders laid approximately 455km of bait trails across the region, with most participants being from the Shire of Dalwallinu and Koorda.

Overall rabbit numbers again were reported to be increasing across the region and the CWBA purchased 20 vials of Calicivirus RHDV1 K5 strain which were released and monitored at identified sites across the region by LPMTs. Results seem to be showing only immediate local eradication of rabbits from the virus with it not spreading far across the landscape in our region.



Photo: LPMTs mixed 2.73t of Rabbit Oat bait for landholders in the region.

4.7 FERAL PIG CONTROL

The CWBA maintained its ongoing partnership with the Midlands Biosecurity Group for the 2022-2023 period, with a shared commitment to address the issue of feral pigs, a declared pest, within the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA) and Midlands Biosecurity Group (MBG) regions of Western Australia. Additionally, our collaborative efforts extended to the Northern Biosecurity Group (NBG) region, with a specific focus on addressing feral pigs that traverse the Mullewa-Morawa and City of Greater Geraldton-Mingenew boundaries.

This joint project encompasses coordinated initiatives in baiting, monitoring, and education across various land tenures. Feral pigs have been posing significant challenges to the regional landscape, adversely affecting soil and water quality, endangering native flora and fauna, including threatened species, causing damage to crops, and preying on livestock, particularly lambs. The primary objectives of this project are:

- a. **Cultivate Land Manager Relationships:** Foster strong relationships with land managers while providing coordination and mentorship for baiting and trapping programs targeting known feral pig 'hot spots' in both the CWBA and MBG regions on private properties.
- b. **Data Collection and Ground-Truthing:** Gather comprehensive data on feral pig activity, including damage assessments, population estimates, and locations. This information is instrumental in refining the Feral Pig Distribution map for Western Australia, drawing upon local insights and collaborating with other organisations and government agencies to inform the National Feral Pig Action Plan.
- c. **Community Engagement:** Encourage active participation of all landholders in their Recognized Biosecurity Group and their role in managing declared pests.

For the successful execution of this project, LPMT Paul Pitaro was once again contracted for a period of 100 days spread over 12 months. His primary responsibilities included providing on-ground support for feral pig monitoring, surveillance, and control activities. In collaboration with Coral Coast Helicopters, aerial culling operations were conducted in August 2022 and February 2023, resulting in the elimination of a total of 762 feral pigs.

Additionally, Paul facilitated landholders in implementing baiting methods, employing both 1080 grain baiting and trapping techniques over the course of the year, which led to the removal of an additional 305 feral pigs from the region. A comprehensive range of monitoring and surveillance activities complemented these efforts, ensuring a well-rounded approach to addressing the feral pig issue.



Photo: CWBA purchased a Pigbrig Trap for landholder use in 2023.

4.8 RESTRICTED CHEMICAL PRODUCT PERMITS

The CWBA has taken proactive steps to support landholders in obtaining Restricted Chemical Product (RP) Permits, which serve as a crucial authorization for both landholders and our employed LPMTs (Local Pest Management Technicians) to access properties for pest control activities. Over the past year, we have continued our commitment to facilitating this process, ensuring that landholders have the necessary permits to effectively manage pest issues on their properties.

In the reporting period, we have provided valuable assistance to a total of 34 landholders. This assistance involved guiding landholders through the application process for RP permits and helping them with any necessary permit amendments which are assessed and processed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). These permits are vital tools in our collective efforts to combat pest-related challenges in the CWBA region.

By streamlining the RP permit acquisition process and offering hands-on support, we aim to empower landholders with the ability to take swift and effective action against declared pests. These permits not only enable landholders to protect their livelihoods and ecosystems but also facilitate the cooperation and coordination essential for pest management initiatives conducted by our LPMTs.

This ongoing commitment to assisting landholders with RP permits exemplifies our dedication to fostering a pest-free and sustainable environment in the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA) region. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our support for landholders and the efficient management of pest issues that impact our community and its landscapes.

4.9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CWBA continues to be proactive and continue to engage with the community about Declared Pests, control activities and the incoming Declared Pest Rate.

Table 4: CWBA Community Engagement Activities 2022-2023

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
July 2022	Email to CWBA Local Governments Email sent to all four CWBA Local Governments informing them of the successful DPR outcome and offering to come and present to Council.	
August 2022		
September 2022	AGM Notice to Members Notice of AGM and setting of DPR for 2023-20234	
October 2022	Annual General Meeting CWBA Annual General Meeting, adoption of annual report and setting of the 23-24 DPR.	10 October 2022
	October E-news and Local Papers Update on the activities of the Association.	
November 2022	2021-2022 Annual Report Distributed to members and to key stakeholders by email and hard copy.	Hard copy by post.
February 2023	February E-news and Local Papers. Update on the activities of the Association	
	Landholder Meeting Feral Pig Landholder meeting at West Mingenew.	21 February 2023
March 2023	Local Government Letter A direct letter to the President, Councilors and CEO was emailed updating them on the CWBA activities and the upcoming DPR and BAM Act Review process.	
April 2023	April E-news and Local Papers. Update on the activities of the Association	

7.0 WILD DOG ACTIVITY AND STOCK LOSSES

The CWBA LPMTs trapped a total of 17 wild dogs for 2022-2023 and a further 12 were shot by landholders. Only 7 wild dog sightings were reported to the CWBA.

A total of 173 stock (sheep and goats) losses were reported by landholders to the CWBA. This is an increase compared to the previous 12 months, with a significant peak of stock attacks occurring in December 2022 of 70 stock deaths reported, followed by another 68 between January – June 2023. We feel strongly that this coincides directly with the reduced to no control measures that happened on government managed lands in our region from late December 2022 – March 2023.

The CWBA responds immediately when landholders report stock losses and wild dog sightings to the Dogger Coordinator and sends an LPMT out to the area as soon as possible.

Table 5: Summary of LPMT Reported Data 2017-2023

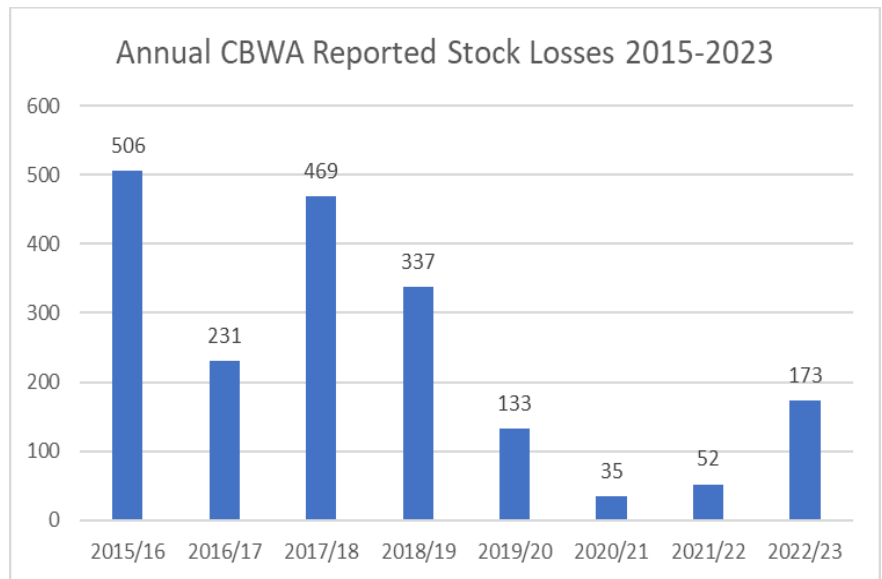
End of Year LPMT Statistics Summary	1 July 2017-30 June 2018	1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019	1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020	1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021	1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022	1 July 2022-30 June 2023
LPMT Days Worked	187	344	340	331.5	354.5	349.5
Baits Laid by LPMTs	12,814	7,700	9,880	8,300	4,960	13,880
Wild Dogs Trapped	25	67	38	25	24	17

Table 6: Summary of Reporting by Landholders 2017-2023

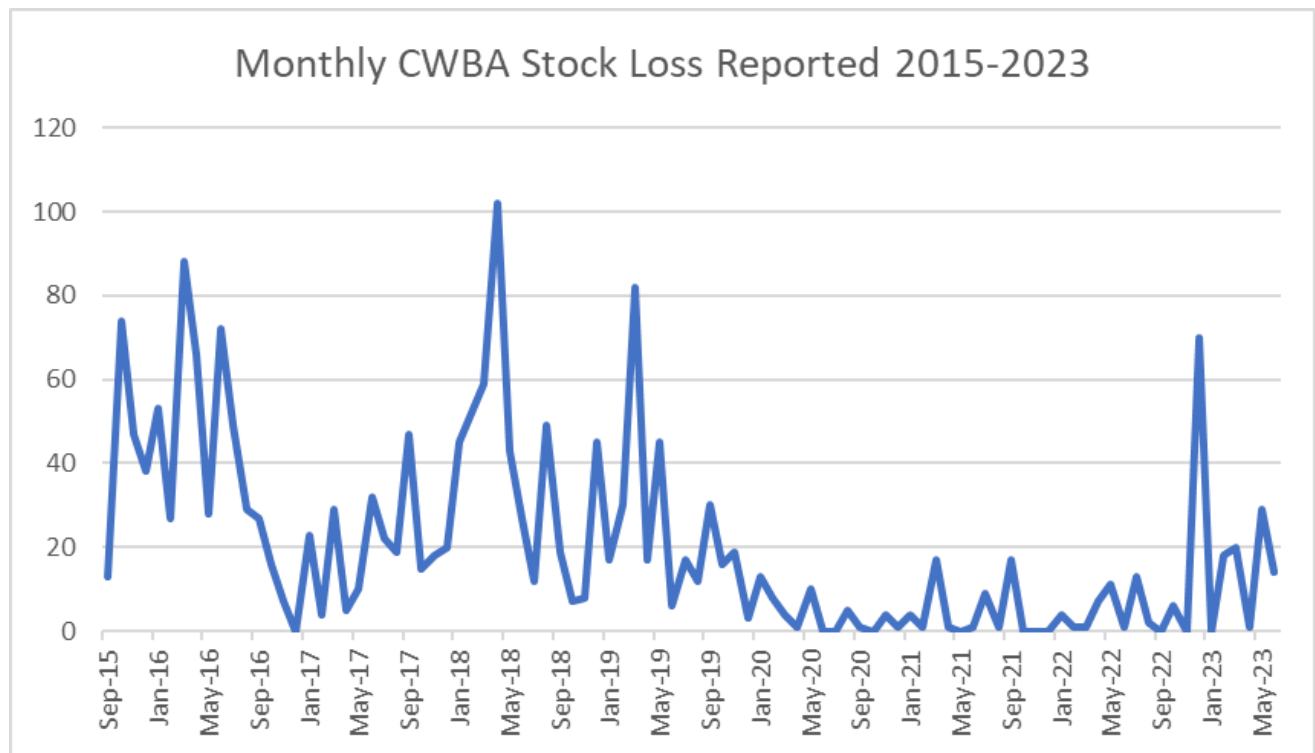
Landholder Reports	1 July 2017-30 June 2018	1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019	1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020	1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021	1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023
Wild Dogs Shot by landholders	12	7	16	3	7	12
Reported Wild Dog Sightings	51	20	20	5	7	7
Stock Loss Reports	469	337	133	35	52	173

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

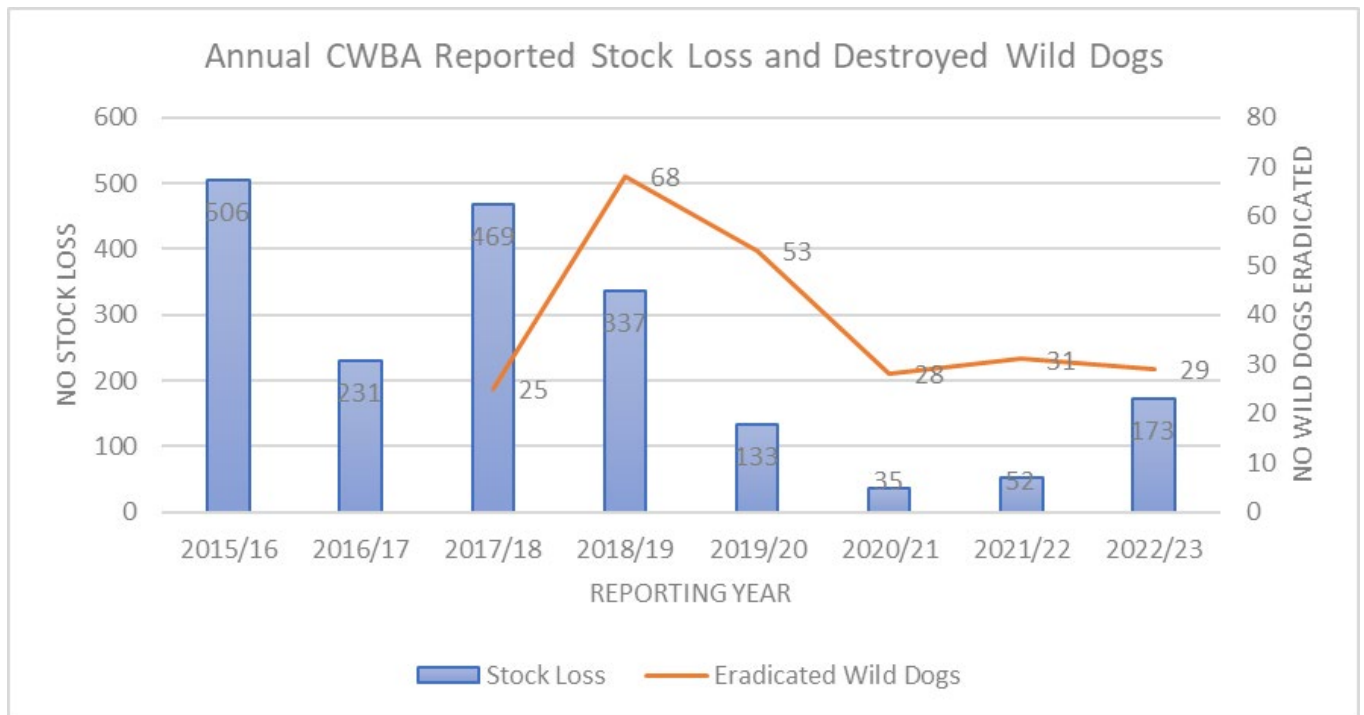
Month	No. Stock killed
July 2022	13
August 2022	2
September 2022	0
October 2022	6
November 2022	0
December 2022	70
January 2023	0
February 2023	18
March 2023	20
April 2023	1
May 2023	29
June 2023	14
TOTAL	173



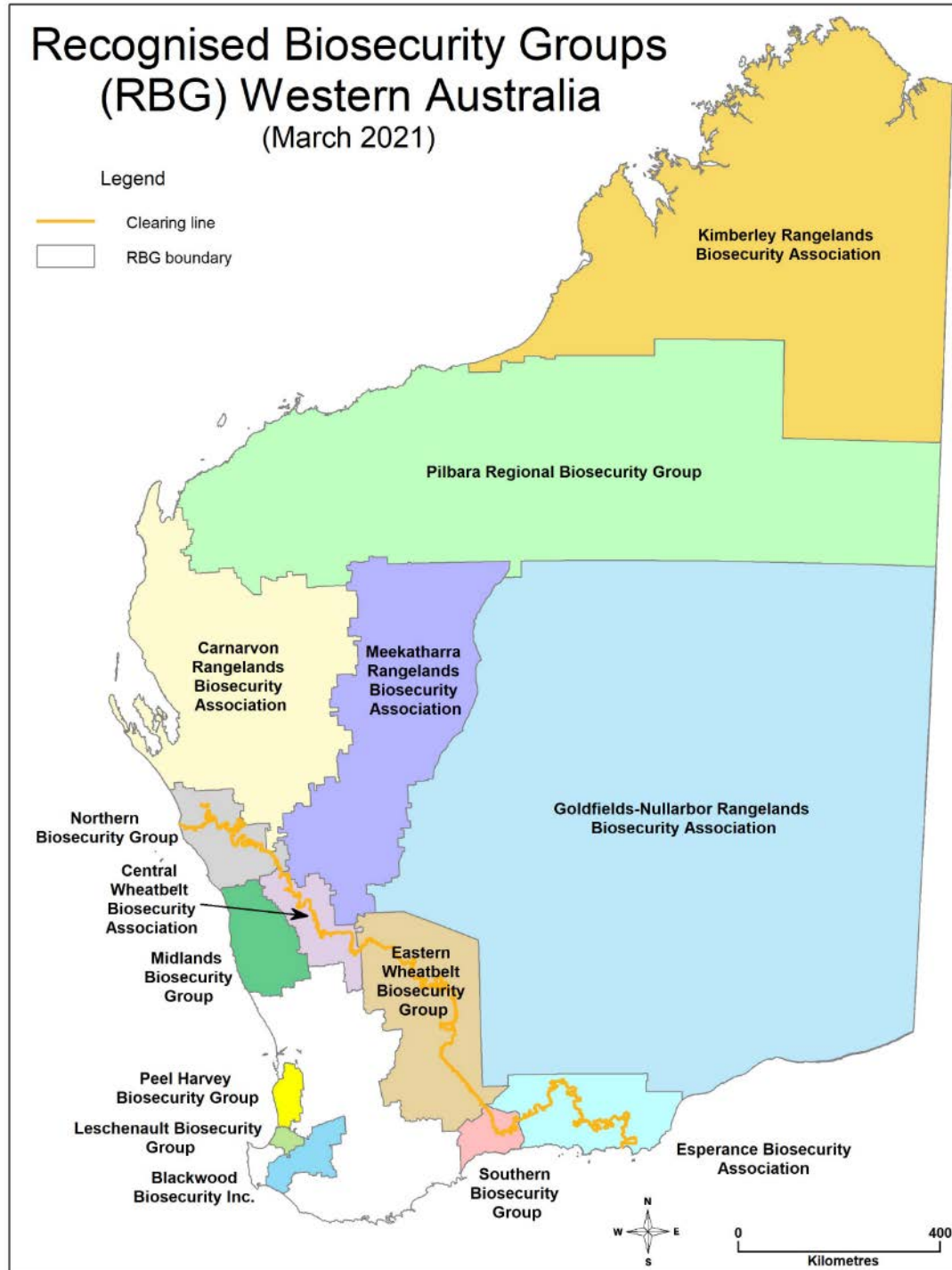
Graph: Summary of CWBA Monthly Stock Loss Reported 2015-2023



Graph: Summary of CWBA Year Stock Loss Reported & Destroyed Wild Dogs 2015-2023



APPENDICES 1: AREA OF OPERATION



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

DISCLAIMER

While all reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of the material in this document, the Western Australian Government and its officers accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions it may contain whether caused by negligence or otherwise or for any loss, however caused, sustained by any person who relies on it.

JobN# 2018095

APPENDICES 2: FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

CWBA Financials	
<i>For the period July 2022 to June 2023</i>	
Opening Balance 1 July 2022	\$237,396.75
Bank Accounts	
Grant Funding	93,303.04
CWBA Own Funds	112,700.61
DPR Funds	30,393.10
Debit Card Account	1,000.00
Plus Income	
R4R Wild Dog Funding Grant	62,500.00
Other Grant Funding	0.00
DPR Rate/Match Funding	410,904.00
Interest Received on all Accounts	2,738.58
Donations	0.00
Other Income	46,290.91
	\$522,433.49
Less Expenses	
Contractors	274,940.00
Project Management	91,311.29
Community Engagement	1,954.21
Projects / Baiting	129,997.49
Other Expense	-
	\$498, 202.99
Less Asset	
Plant & Equipment	3,383.00
	-
Plus GST Movement	
GST Collected	51,969.49
GST Paid	49,364.73
Outstanding Transactions	
Less Income	-
Plus Expenses	-
Balance of Bank Accounts @ 30 June 2023	
Grant Funding	35,395.03
CWBA Own Funds	128,529.11
DPR Funds	94,955.87
Debit Card Account	1,000.00
Closing Balance 30 June 2023	\$259,880.01

APPENDICES 3: AUDITORS REPORT

22 September 2023

Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
58 Johnston Street
Dalwallinu WA 6609

Dear Committee

Financial Report Audit for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

We have completed the audit of your Association's accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023.

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.

We noted no 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 2023

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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 2023 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: 20/09/2023

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

Assets	2023	2022
Current Assets		
CWBA Debit Card Account	1,000	1,000
CWBA Own Funds	128,529	112,701
Grant Funding	35,395	93,303
DPR Rate Funding	94,956	30,393
	<u>259,880</u>	<u>237,397</u>
Non Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment	20,175	20,175
Acc Depreciation - Plant & Equipment	(8,828)	(5,445)
	<u>11,347</u>	<u>14,730</u>
Total Assets	<u>271,228</u>	<u>252,127</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	483	(12)
GST collected	57,173	21,203
GST paid	(68,558)	(30,346)
	<u>(10,902)</u>	<u>(9,155)</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>(10,902)</u>	<u>(9,155)</u>
Net Assets	<u>282,130</u>	<u>261,282</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	261,282	365,824
Net Surplus (Deficit)	20,848	(104,542)
Total Equity	<u>282,130</u>	<u>261,282</u>

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

Income	2023	2022
DPR Rate/Matching	410,904	209,596
Grant Funding	46,200	90,800
R4R Wild Dog Funding	62,500	62,500
Total Income	519,604	362,896

Expenses

Accountant / Bookkeeping Fees	4,508	5,759
Administration Exp	1,099	3,211
Advertising / Signage	502	520
Aerial Baiting	33,780	51,814
Aerial Shooting	26,229	-
Baiting Racks Gen Exp	19	483
Bank Fees	40	52
Chemical	13,466	6,956
Contractors	268,940	-
CWBA Meeting Exp	1,481	2,030
Dogger Co-Ordinator	6,000	6,000
Executive Officer	48,216	41,030
Executive Officer - Travel & Accommoda	4,895	2,884
Feral Pig Control	41,560	49,524
Freight	-	564
Goodlands Bait Rack	1,500	1,320
Koorda Bait Rack	-	2,640
Insurance - Pub Liability Etc	5,570	20,969
Insurance - Workers Comp	18,469	-
LPMT - Jeff Taylor	-	122,250
LPMT - Pat Darling	-	112,500
LPMT 2 - Gareme Newton	-	35,750
Monger Land Bait Rack	-	1,584
Monitoring Expenses	2,106	3,206
Morowa Bait Rack	1,350	2,640
Partners Community Engagement	1,318	1,122
Perenjori Bait Rack	6,450	7,000
Rabbit Control	1,640	6,221
RCR Permit	1,898	835
RCR Permit Assistance	-	759
Superannuation Expense	3,539	5,886
Telephone	3,494	-
Website	43	1,015
Workshops	91	-

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023 (cont)

Expenses	2023	2022
Depreciation	3,383	2,595
Total Expenses	501,586	499,119
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	18,018	(136,223)
Other Income		
Interest Income	2,739	181
Other Income	91	31,500
Total Other Income	2,829	31,681
Net Surplus (Deficit)	20,848	(104,542)

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Retained Profits	Total
Opening balance 1/07/2021	365,824	365,824
Net result for the year	(104,542)	(104,542)
Closing balance 30/06/2022	<u>261,282</u>	<u>261,282</u>
Opening Balance 1/07/2022	261,282	261,282
Net result for the year	20,848	20,848
Closing balance 30/06/2023	<u>282,130</u>	<u>282,130</u>

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers		519,694	394,396
Payments to suppliers and employees		(499,950)	(508,067)
Interest received		2,739	181
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>22,483</u>	<u>(113,490)</u>
Cash Flow From Investing Activities			
Equipment purchased during the year		-	(4,701)
		<u>-</u>	<u>(4,701)</u>
Cash Flow From Financing Activities			
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		22,483	(118,191)
Cash at the beginning of the year		237,397	355,588
Cash at the end of the year		<u>259,880</u>	<u>237,397</u>

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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 2023, 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 2023 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
EAST VICTORIA PARK WA

Dated: 22st September 2023