



2019- 2020



OPERATIONAL PLAN

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

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INTRODUCTION

The CWBA is a Recognised Biosecurity Group and has a key role in assisting landholders to control declared pests in the area of management. This area is currently defined, as Koorda, Perenjori, and Dalwallinu and Morawa which encompasses a full area of 21,901 square kilometres.

The CWBA encourages landholder and Shire involvement in a broad scale, coordinated approach for effective pest control, targeting wild dogs, red foxes, European rabbits and Feral Pigs as well as other declared pests seen as a priority for the group.

The CWBA successfully implemented its first Declared Pest Rate in 2018-2019. The funds raised through the DPR are matched dollar for dollar by the WA State Government. DPR funds can only be spent within our area of operation and on species prioritised by the community. We will again request the Minister for Agriculture and Food to approve a Declared Pest Rate (DPR) in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori for 2019-2020 of:

The CWBA request the Minister for Agriculture and Food to approve an ad valorem rate Declared Pest Rate for 2019-2020 of \$127,200 on land in the local government districts of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori, that is:

- i. identified as freehold on the rural valuation roll maintained under the Valuation of Land Act 1978; and*
- ii. no less than 100 hectares in area; and*
- iii. a minimum of \$80.00 per VEN.*

This operational plan identifies how the funds will be spent. This system will provide our communities with guaranteed annual funds and sustainability to address priority pests using current best practice management techniques.

This Operational Plan details the organisations activities including the budget considerations. This plan will link to the “CWBA Species Management Plan” which currently being developed through the Board of Management, CWBA members and community consultation workshops and will assist the CWBA to meet the responsibilities under the BAM Act.

The CWBA will continue to assist landholders in the control of these species using funding by the Declared Pest Rate in 2019-2020.

There are insufficient funds to implement all activities identified in our organisations strategic plan, so the CWBA Operational Plan outlines a range of activities that have been identified and prioritised by the Board of Management to have the most impact on the control of the priority Declared Pests within the region.

Additional funding will be sought to supplement this Operational Plan from government and industry grant opportunities. The CWBA has identified the following grant funding opportunities, but at the time of developing the 2019-2020 Operational Plan do not know if the outcome of this funding will be successful, so these funds cannot be accounted for.

AWI Community Wild Dogs Control Initiative II - \$50,000 for Community Wild Dog Bait Rack Programs.

Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme - \$20,000-\$60,000 for supporting CWBA Wild Dog Annual aerial baiting program and LPMT days on the ground, particularly targeting “gap” areas in the region such as Mellenbye, Bunawarra and Barnong, as well as any other land that does not have an active Wild Dog Control management plan in place.

Communities Combating Pests and Weed Impacts During Drought Program - *Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds* – seek \$98,000 through a joint application with the Shire of Dalwallinu to contribute towards the CWBA Wild Dog Control Program, the CWBA Community Bait Rack Program and to identify and develop coordinated control activities for the management of increasing Emu numbers across the region which are having a negative impact of cereal cropping enterprises.

It is hoped that if successful in receiving this additional funding, it would enable the CWBA to implement additional activities to speed up our ability to achieve our goals for declared pest management in the region and therefore into the future review the amount and need of a Declared Pest Rate on ratepayers.

HISTORY

The CWBA is a recognised biosecurity group (RBGs) and has a key role in assisting landholders to control declared pests in the area of management. Form in 2017 from the previous Central Wheatbelt Declared Species Group (CWDSG) servicing the Shires of Koorda, Dalwallinu and Perenjori. The CWDSG was formed by local landholders in 2012 in response to escalating Wild Dog attacks on livestock in the area. Bait racks were formed to target the worst affected areas.

The group managed to obtain funding and since then has worked hard with this funding to contract Licenced Pest Management Technicians (LPMT's) to work on affected farms, pastoral land and crown land night and day to reduce stock attacks and losses. CWBA also runs bait days to produce free 1080 meat baits for landholders as well as funding free rabbit bait mixing days to combat the feral pests which affect our land and livelihood.

In 2018 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 for its 2018-2019 Operational Plan of:

- 0.0234 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 CWBA encourages landholder, government and industry involvement in a broadscale, coordinated approach for effective pest control targeting Wild Dogs, European Rabbits and Feral Pigs as well as other declared pests seen as a priority for the group.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The [Strategic Plan](#) (the Plan) for the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association Inc (CWBA) identifies the strategic directions of the CWBA over the coming three years to direct the management of declared pests in the Shires of Morawa, Perenjori, Dalwallinu and Koorda. It's based on identified needs of stakeholders and payers of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) and aligns with a range of industry and strategic plans. The plan provides guidance for the on-ground operations of the group, as contained in its annual Operational Plan.

The aims and objectives of the CWBA cover three core themes of Management, Engagement and Collaboration and Measurement; they are:

1. Develop, implement proactive strategies and report on the progress of reducing the effects of declared pests including but not limited to wild dogs, rabbits and foxes.
2. To increase stakeholder participation and encourage landholders and the wider community to adopt sound biosecurity practices and provide members with a forum to exchange information, advice and assistance where appropriate.
3. To implement best practice declared pest management on private and public lands in the area of management
4. The CWBA would welcome the opportunity to support declared pest management in adjacent shires and potentially amalgamate with other shires in the future allowing CWBA coordinated pest control over a broader area.
5. Grow and engage management strategies to minimise future impacts on landholder properties.
6. Apply best practice management on private and public lands.
7. Boost landholder participation, both private and public.
8. Observe, assess, and report on the progress concerning the reduction of impacts.
9. Deliver practical and encouraging community consultation to broaden stakeholder awareness.

STAKEHOLDERS

Engaged stakeholders are crucial to the successful implementation of the CWBA Strategic and Operational Plans. The CWBA recognise that stakeholders may not all have the same objectives for Declared Pest management, but landholder/land manager obligations must be met as stated under the BAM Act and the CWBA are keen to work with individual stakeholders to manage expectations and meet its objectives.

Identified stakeholders of the CWBA include, but are not limited to:

- Local Landholders in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Perenjori and Morawa
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (formally DPAW)
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (formally DAFWA)
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- Alterra Ltd (formally Carbon Conscious)
- Shire of Dalwallinu
- Shire of Koorda
- Shire of Perenjori
- Shire of Morawa
- Adjacent Shires (Wongan Ballidu, Moora, Coorow, Yalgoo, Mount Marshall, Trayning, Wyalkatchem, Carnamah, Three Springs)
- Australian Wool Innovation Limited
- Meat and Livestock Australia
- Livestock firms (eg West Coast Livestock, Paul Gatti, Stan Hathway, Elders, Landmark, wool agencies)
- Australian Wildlife Conservancy - Mt Gibson Sanctuary
- Bush Heritage Australia - Charles Darwin Reserve
- Gindalbie Metals Badja Station
- Adjacent Recognised Biosecurity Groups (Meekathara RBA, Eastern Wheatbelt RBG, Northern RBG)

SUMMARY FUNDING AND FORECAST EXPENDITURE 2019-2020

The Operational Plan outlines the activities and actions that the CWBA will undertake and the budget required as of 2019-2020 financial year. It is summarised in the tables below.

INCOME	DETAIL/NOTES	DPA/DPR	Other Sources
Rate revenue		\$127,200.00	
Govt matching		\$127,200.00	
Additional DPA		\$0.00	
Reserve fund	Allocated carryover		
Carryover		\$22,000.00	
Interest		-	
Total DPA/DPR		\$276,400.00	
Subscriptions	.		
RfR			\$40,312.00
AWI			-
Sales			-
Carryover	Own CWBA funds carry over from past Local Government contributions.		\$98,103.53
Interest	Current interest rate is 0.75%	\$1,380.00	-
Total- Other sources			\$138,451.53
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$277,780.00	-
plus Expected Carryover		\$416,231.53	

EXPENDITURE	DETAIL/NOTES	DPA/DPR	Other Sources
	Program 1 – Wild Dogs & Foxes		
	Bait Manufacture	\$5,000.00	-
	Poisons & Traps	\$6,750.00	-
	RCP Permits	\$1,000.00	-
	LPMT Contracts	\$113,300.00	\$100,312.00
	LPMT Coordinator	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00
	Total Program 1	\$128,050.00	\$103,312.00
	Program 2 – Feral Pigs		
	Aerial Shooting	\$8,000.00	-
	Bait Manufacture	\$2,000.00	-
	RCP Permits	-	-
	LPMT Contracts	\$3,750.00	-
	Total Program 2	\$13,750.00	-
	Program 3 – European Rabbit		
	Bait Manufacture	\$10,000.00	-
	RCP Permits	-	-
	LPMT Contracts	\$2,300.00	-
	Total Program 3	\$12,300.00	-
	Program 4 - Community Engagement		
	Community activities	\$5,000.00	\$400.00
	Materials	\$2,000.00	-
	Equipment	-	-
	Consultation for operational plan (DPR)	-	\$4,900.00
		-	-
	Total	\$7,000.00	\$5,300.00

Program 5 -Governance & Administration		
Executive Officer	\$50,400.00	-
Meeting costs	-	\$3,000.00
Professional	\$7,300.00	\$1,000.00
Insurance	\$6,000.00	-
Board Development, Training & Sitting Fees	-	-
Overheads	\$1,600.00	-
Total	\$65,300.00	\$4,000.00
TOTAL COST	\$226,400.00-	\$112,612.00
<i>Contingency allocation for DPR non-payment</i>	\$28,000.00	
GRAND EXPENDITURE	\$254,400.00	-
OUTCOME	\$367,012.00	-

PROGRAM DETAILS AND OUTCOME STATEMENTS

The tables below outline the program details and outcomes for each of the Declared Pest species.

Program 1 – Wild Dogs & Foxes		
Outcome:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce Wild Dog and Fox numbers to reduce stock loss. 		
Actions	Input	Success/Measurement
1. Aerial Baiting Program*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 days helicopter & LPMT services 5,000 Dried Meat Baits. 	5,000 baits laid in identified hard to access areas*.
2. Community Wild Dog Bait Rack Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPMT time 50,000 Dried Meat Baits 	2 Bait Rack Activities (March/April & September) 50,000 Dried Meat Baits made and laid. Increase in productivity in livestock stakeholder's business.
3. Poisons & Traps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60Traps 1080 Poison Strychnine 	Traps and Poisons purchased
4. LPMT Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator 	LPMT Coordinator engaged.
5. LPMTs Contracted for on-ground works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx. 330 LPMT days. 	LPMTs contracted and days worked.
6. RCP Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx. 10 RCP Permits/Amendments 	No. of successful valid RCP Permits

**Program dependant on CWBA being successful in receiving external funding.*

Program 2 – Feral Pigs		
Outcome:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce livestock, pasture, crop and remnant vegetation damage caused by Feral Pigs. 		
Actions	Input	Success/Measurement
1. Aerial Shooting Program*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 days helicopter & LPMT services. 	No. Feral Pigs destroyed. No. landholders participate Landholder feedback from affected areas.
2. Coordinated Baiting Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPMT Time Grain Poison (1080 One Shot Bait) Camera Traps 	No. Feral Pigs poisoned. No. landholders participate Landholder feedback from affected areas.
3. RCP Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx. 6 RCP Permits/Amendments 	No. of successful valid RCP Permits

**Program dependant on CWBA being successful in receiving external funding.*

Program 3 – European Rabbit		
Outcome:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce livestock, pasture, crop and remnant vegetation damage caused by European Rabbits. 		
Actions	Input (Money/HR Required)	Success/Measurement
Community Rabbit Baiting Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPMT Time Grain Poison (1080 One Shot Bait) 	No. landholders participate Km Bait laid Reduction in damage caused by rabbits.
RCP Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx. 6 RCP Permits/Amendments 	No. of successful valid RCP Permits

Program 4 – Community Engagement		
Outcome:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake targeted stakeholder consultation re: DPR Encourage a “best practice” approach to management and control of Declared Pests. 		
Actions	Input (Money/HR Required)	Success/Measurement
Consult and communicate with community about the DPR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brochure/Flyer/Letter Website Social Media Information Address Stakeholder Meetings Local Paper adverts/articles Survey 	DPR is supported across the four shires.
Provide members with information and a mechanism to exchange information, advice and assistance where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly Newsletter Workshops/Training Website Social Media 	Target species are controlled humanely. Landholders control pests on own land. Increase in participation

Program 5 – Governance & Administration		
Outcome:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good organisational reporting and financial governance are achieved. 		
Actions	Input (Money/HR Required)	Success/Measurement
Administration and leadership are provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Officer • Directors • 4 Board of Management meetings. 	Good organisational governance.
Collect usable data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral Scan 	Consistent and accurate data is gathered and used for decision making
Meet all reporting requirements and financial obligations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report produced. • Bookkeeper • Financial Reporting and Audit completed. 	Transparent and accountable reporting documentation.

OPERATIONAL PLAN TIMELINE

MONTH	PLANNED ACTIVITY	SUCCESS/MEASUREMENT
July 2019	Financial Audit	Audit successfully completed.
July 2019	CWBA LPMT Meeting	LPMTs attend.
September 2019	Community Wild Dog Bait Rack Program	No. Baits Made and No. landholders participated.
September 2019	Wild Dog Aerial Baiting Program	No. Baits laid
October 2019	CWBA Annual General Meeting and Board of Management Meeting	Annual Report tabled. No. attendees, feedback received.
February 2019	CWBA Board of Management Meeting	
February 2019	Community Rabbit Baiting Program	No. landholders participate. Kms Bait laid
February 2019	Community Feral Pig Control Program	No. landholders participate. Kms/No. Bait laid No. Feral Pigs Shot
March – April 2019	Community Wild Dog Bait Rack Program	No. Baits made No. landholders participate
April 2019	CWBA Board of Management Meeting	
June 2019	CWBA Board of Management Meeting	

TARGET SPECIES BAITING CALENDER

June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
Winter			Spring			Summer			Autumn		
Community Ground Baiting Program											
			Wild Dog					Rabbit	Feral Pig	Wild Dog	

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CWBA will undertake community engagement as both a process and an outcome to guide decision making, relationship development and capacity building.

As a part of the operational plan we will undertake a range of consultation, information, participation, collaboration and empowerment of its stakeholders. To answer the following questions:

Has the community had an opportunity to provide input into the plan?

Are we providing the services the community needs?

Is the community well connected and involved with the organisation?

How does the community feel about us?

Has the community changed its behaviour?

We have identified some key community engagement opportunities for 2019-2020 as well as a range of annual and on-going community engagement strategy products that are available to the organisation to assist us to continually answer the above questions.

Summary of 2019-2020 Key Community Engagement Opportunities

MONTH	PLANNED ACTIVITY	MEDIUM	SUCCESS/MEASUREMENT
July 2019	Survey – first year of DPR	Email, Members, Local Papers	Consult – No. responses/feedback
August 2019	Perenjori Agricultural Show – min. Brochure available.	Presence/Stand	Inform
August 2019	Mingenew Expo	Presence/Stand	Inform
August 2019	Dowerin Field Days	Presence/Stand	Inform
September 2019	Community Wild Dog Bait Rack Program, CWBA Wild Dog Plan	Liebe Newsletter, Local Papers, Email, Social Media	Participation & Empowerment– No. landholders.
September 2018	Koorda Show – min. Brochure available.	Presence/Stand	Inform
September 2018	Liebe Spring Field Day - min. Brochure available.	Presence/Stand	Inform
October 2019	CWBA Annual General Meeting	Meeting	Inform -
February 2020	Community Rabbit Baiting Program	Liebe Newsletter, Local Papers, Email, Social Media	Participation & Empowerment – No. landholders.
March 2020	Community Feral Pig Control Program	Mingenew-Irwin Group, Local Papers, Email, Social Media	Participation & Empowerment – No. landholders.
March 2020	CWBA Newsletter.	Members, Social Media, Local Papers	Inform – distribution, % open rate.
March 2020	Letters to Ratepayers – DPR, Operational Plan and CWBA Wild Dog Plan.	Mail Out	Consult – No. responses/feedback.
April 2020	Community Wild Dog Bait Rack Program, CWBA Wild Dog Plan	Liebe Newsletter, Local Papers, Email, Social Media	Participation & Empowerment– No. landholders.
April 2020	DPR Notices in local papers	Local Papers, Email, Social Media	Inform & consult - No. responses/feedback.
June 2020	CWBA Newsletter	Members, Social Media, Local Papers	Inform – distribution, % open rate.

CWBA Communications and Engagement Strategy Products 2019-2020

#	Goal	Type*	Stakeholder/Target	Resources Needed	Timeline	Responsibility
1	Current and up to date website www.cwba.org.au	Inform	Wider Community	Website	6 months	Executive Officer
2	Engage with and inform the community through Social Media (Facebook).	Inform	Wider Community	Facebook	Weekly-Monthly	Executive Officer
3	Presentation to Local Governments and Community Groups as requested.	Inform	Wider community	Executive Officer	Annually	Executive Officer with support from DPIRD

4	Current flyer and/or a poster to be used for field days and advertised at local shops for group key messages and contact details	Inform	Advertising for Events for anyone in the community/ area of management	Executive Officer, printing supplies	6 months	Executive Officer
5	Pull Up CWBA banner made available for use in all communities.	Inform	Advertising for Events for anyone in the community/ area of management	One banner per each shire	6 months	Executive Officer
6	Use rack days as a way of receiving feedback from the community and to consult with the community and encourage group cohesion	Consult	Landholders who attend the bait rack days	Executive Officer to liaise with most appropriate personnel to attend - Rack Coordinators send information to those they have as attendees	On going - Twice Yearly	Executive Officer, Dogger Coordinator, Bait Rack Coordinator and Directors
7	Document rack days and keep an inventory of the issues that arise during those days	Consult	Landholders who attend the bait rack days	Executive Officer form a response form to capture feedback efectively	On going - Twice Yearly	Bait Rack Coordinator
8	Word of mouth opportunity to consult with the community	Consult	Area of Management community	General conversation	On going	BoM Directors
9	Landholder training and workshops on pest management and control activities as requested by landholders.	Empower	Landholders	Facilitation and technical expertise as identified.	As identified	Executive Officer
10	Board Directors are key messengers from each shire/area as a key contact/messenger to distribute and receive information	Consult	Area of Management community	Board Directors	On going	BoM Directors

11	Distribute a community survey for the group to establish a base line for future follow up	Consult	Wider Community and Area of Management Community	Executive Officer, email network, Survey Monkey	6 months	Executive Officer
12	Identify key stakeholders and identify opportunities to work within those groups	Consult	Wider Community and Area of Management Community, NACC, Liebe Group, NEFF, EWBG, MRBA	Executive Officer	On Going	Executive Officer
13	Develop a strategic species management plan for the region with the community, review annually.	Involve/Participate	Area of Management community, DAFWA	Workshop in conjunction with DPIRD & community in key locations	1 year	Executive Officer
14	Identify where partnerships could be made targeting key groups to leverage funds and good pest management outcomes	Collaborate	NACC, Liebe Group, Mingenew-Irwin Group, Meekathara, Eastern Wheatbelt		1 year	Executive Officer
15	Measure how empowered the community is through a follow up survey	Empower	Wider Community and Area of Management	Survey Monkey	2 years	Executive Officer

Communications and Engagement Strategy Type explanation

Inform – “provide information” – only a one-way conversation

At its core, ‘informing’ is the most elementary and simplest engagement goal. Informing goal communicates that you will provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them with understanding the problem or issue you are focusing on, alternatives to addressing the problem or issue and/or solutions. Informing is generally one-way and primarily involves communicating information about an issue, decision, or process to citizens (DSE & DPI, 2013). A key to informing citizens is to provide them with the most balanced, impartial information as possible (DSE et al, 2013). The limiting characteristic of informing is that it generally does not allow for an exchange of ideas, discussion, dialogue or deliberation.

Consult – “seek feedback”

The second level of engagement is stakeholder consultation – in essence providing some mechanism to gather input on the issue, problem, or process you are concerned about.

Depending on the issue at hand, your objective(s) for this goal may be to elicit citizens’ or specific stakeholders’ opinions, perspectives, ideas, underlying values, solutions, or priorities. Regardless of your approach you should strive to gain as much feedback from local citizens and stakeholders as possible (DSE, 2013). Keys to obtaining strong community feedback consist of engaged listening, purposeful design, ensuring widely shared information and an understanding of the engagement process, its goals and limitations, and a clear demonstration of concern for what stakeholders have to say (DSE, 2013).

Involve “utilise feedback”

The third engagement goal in the public participation spectrum is involve. The goal to involve the public should reflect that you will work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered. If you include involve as one or your engagement goals it will serve you well to demonstrate that the information gleaned through involving the public is understood and considered.

Collaborate “work with stakeholders” – everyone has input

The fourth level of engagement is to collaborate. Your goal for collaboration is to partner with the public in each aspect of the decision being considered including the development of alternatives and the identification of a preferred solution. If the decision making authority does not rest with the public it is important to ensure the public understands that the preferred solution identified through the engagement process may not be chosen.

At its core, collaboration refers to the engagement of stakeholders in order to create an environment conducive for solving complex issues with plausible solutions – and catalysing the contributions and assets of stakeholders into action. Collaboration involves purposeful dialogue and deliberation designed to stimulate ideas and implementation of agreed-upon community action and priorities.

Empower – “it’s in the community’s hands”

Empowerment is frequently seen as penultimate goal of an engagement effort. Empowerment refers to placing either the decision making authority or the responsibility for implementing a particular solution in the hands of stakeholders participating in the engagement process.