CWBA

Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association Inc

STRATEGIC PLAN

2021-2025

Local People
Local Pests
Local Decisions

CONTENTS

Biosecurity is as much about *prevention* as it is about *control*.

INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Plan (the Plan) for the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association Inc (CWBA) identifies the strategic directions of the CWBA over the coming five years to direct the management of declared pests in the Shires of Morowa, 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.

This plan incorporates local knowledge obtained through stakeholder consultation, along with data and management principles developed by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), through key documents such as the 'Invasive Species Plan for Western Australia' and the 'Invasive Species Position Statement'.

It's designed to most effectively use the group's resources to manage priority declared pests at a landscapes scale and to assist the group to meet its responsibilities under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAMA).

This collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach to invasive species management 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, control, and prevent high-priority feral pest threats.

01 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

OUR AIM

Effective management of feral pests in the Central Wheatbelt.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the CWBA cover three core themes:
- Management
- Engagement and Collaboration
- Measurement

1. **Management**
- 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.

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

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

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

02

The roles and responsibilities of key project stakeholders are outlined below.

CWBA	- Provide **leadership** in the management of declared species in the region. **Collaborate** with landholders and government agencies to develop and implement strategic, landscape-wide management programs for invasive species. **Participate** in coordinated, targeted invasive species control activities with relevant stakeholders.
Private land occupiers, owners and managers (also termed as landholders)	**Control** invasive species on their own landholdings. **Participate** in biosecurity group and RBG programs and initiatives.
Community groups including regional NRM groups, grower groups and biosecurity groups	**Provide services** in invasive species management in line with funded programs.
Utilities and government authorities	**Manage** invasive species on land held by utilities (e.g. Water Corporation) and government authorities (DBCA managed lands).

03 TARGET SPECIES

Declared animal pests being targeted by the CWBA are Wild Dogs, Foxes, Feral Pigs, and Rabbits.

1.Wild Dogs
Wild Dogs continue to cause livestock losses across the Central Wheatbelt. Whilst reductions in Wild Dog populations has occurred through the activities of the CWBA, ongoing work is essential to keep populations at a level that will enable ongoing, profitable livestock operations across the region.

Management of Wild Dogs is in alignment with the Western Australian Wild Dog Action Plan 2016-2021. This is an 'industry led and driven plan that considers the economic, environmental and social impacts of Wild Dogs and identifies the key issues for managing them across Western Australia. The plan is designed to protect the livestock and tourism industries and public safety, and recognises the ecological and cultural values of the dingo.'

2. Foxes
Foxes are an ongoing problem causing livestock losses in certain areas of the Central Wheatbelt. A flow-on benefit of Wild Dog management is in Foxes eating and being killed by dog baits. The CWBA is looking at a range of options, based the community coordinated biosecurity group model, which places private landholders at the centre of controlling declared pests on their land. This means practical management requires landholders working together to coordinate their control efforts.

3. Feral Pigs
Feral Pigs are an emerging problem within the boundary of the Shire of Morowa. They're causing substantial damage to farmland and native vegetation as well as attacking new-born lambs.

4. Rabbits
Rabbits compete with livestock and native animals for pasture and food, damage crops and native vegetation, and cause erosion.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

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OBJECTIVE 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.

Strategy 1: Reduce wild dog and fox numbers to reduce stock losses.	Strategy 2: Reduce pasture, crop and remnant vegetation damage caused by rabbits.	Strategy 3: Reduce livestock, pasture, crop and remnant vegetation damage caused by feral pigs.

ACTIONS

• Ongoing engagement and resourcing of LPMTs and Coordinators. • Community bait days in autumn and spring.	• Resource and coordinate annual community baiting programs. • Community rabbit bait days in autumn and spring.	• Assist identification of high density areas and resource control on a pilot basis. • Support community baiting for affected landholder group.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

• Increased productivity within member's businesses (e.g. increased lambing percentages; decreased stock losses; reduced dog numbers) attributed to wild dog and fox management.	• Pasture, crop and remnant vegetation damage caused by rabbits is reduced.	• Grower feedback from affected areas; Baseline of numbers and dispersion.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

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OBJECTIVE B: Increase stakeholder participation and encourage landholders and the broader community to adopt sound biosecurity practices.

Strategy 1: Undertake targeted stakeholder consultation re the DPR.	**Strategy 2:** Encourage a 'best practice' approach to management and control.

ACTIONS

- Produce and promote communication products outlining the DPR process and benefits to all key stakeholders across the four shires.

- Develop a more detailed information kit, including online video and FAQs to be available via email and download from the CWBA website. Promote via the CWBA Facebook page and Twitter.

- Address stakeholder meetings (e.g. Shires, NRM and grower groups) and workshops re the DPR.

- Promote a consistent approach to the planning process for the management of Wild Dogs, Foxes, Feral Pigs and Rabbits.

- Promote the development of plans that minimise control impacts on non-target species.

- Develop a strategic species management plan for the region with the community.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- DPR is supported across the four shires.

- Target species are controlled humanely.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

04

OBJECTIVE C: Provide members with a mechanism to exchange information, advice, and assistance where appropriate.

Strategy 1: Tailor information to different needs of stakeholders.

Strategy 2: Use rack days and workshops to promote value of involvement in feral pest management.

ACTIONS

- Identify key stakeholders that CWBA needs to keep informed and level of engagement needed.

- Tailor information provided to the needs/concerns identified.

- Produce quarterly newsletter includes summary of data re Wild Dog activities and impacts from LPMTs and Coordinator.

- Map showing LPMT activity updated each year.

- Use multi-media promotion of permit days and rack days.

- Use neighbours and EO to enlist non-active growers.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Communications strategy produced and utilised.

- Increased participation in rack days.
- Landholders control pests on own land.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

04

OBJECTIVE D: Encourage and support collaboration for declared pest management in adjacent shires and regions.

Strategy 1: Target key groups to leverage good pest management outcomes.

Strategy 2: Maintain strong working relationship with DPIRD.

ACTIONS

- Work with other Regcognised Biosecurity Groups such as NBG, Meekatharra, MBG and EWBG re boundary issues, contributions and management plans.

- Work with DBCA to verify MOU.

- Work with NRM and Grower groups and agencies to leverage resources.

- Utilise DPIRD resources (e.g. biosecurity officers, financial planning and mapping).

- Maintain reporting and meet DPR requirements.

- Provide an avenue for feedback to community and DPIRD on key feral management issues.

- Identify the resources (e.g. data base) that would be of benefit to DPIRD.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Agreement on responsibilities for feral pest control across group boundaries

- Successful partnership with and support from DPIRD maintained.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

04

OBJECTIVE E: Observe, assess, and report on the progress concerning the reduction of negative impacts of declared pests.

Strategy 1: Wild Dogs, Feral Pigs and Foxes - collect usable data.

Strategy 2: Rabbits – establish baseline of control impacts.

ACTIONS

- Data collection from LPMTs is consistent and current across areas they cover.
- Landholder data collection occurs through LPMT Coordinator.
- Sheep losses via quarterly data collection from core group of growers across four shires.
- Use data in reporting impact to stakeholders.
- Information reporting used in proof of value.
- Data gathered used in future planning and resource allocation.
- Identify what other groups (e.g. NACC, Wheatbelt NRM, Bush Heritage, Mt Gibson) are doing re data collection and how CWBA can access or utilise it.
- Encourage growers to utilise Feralscan.

- Use data from growers participating in baiting programs.

- Focus on growers that are Restricted Chemical Product Permit-holders via surveys and calls.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Consistent and accurate data is gathered and used for decision making.

- Successful partnership with and support from DPIRD maintained.