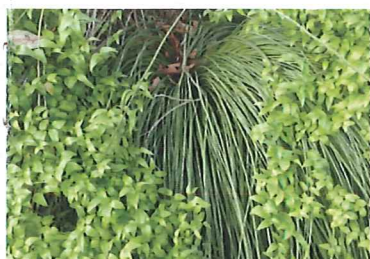




# BLACKWOOD BIOSECURITY

Our Land, Our Lifestyle, Our Livelihood

## BLACKWOOD BIOSECURITY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**PREPARED BY:**

Sheila Howat



## OUR ROLE

To play a key role in assisting landholders and managers across tenure within BBI's Operational Area to meet their responsibility, under the Biosecurity and Agricultural MANAGEMENT ACT (2007), TO CONTROL DECLARED PLANT AND ANIMAL PESTS ON THEIR LAND.

## OUR VISION

Declared pests have little or no economic, environmental or social impact on BBI's Operational Area.

## OUR MISSION

That all landholders and managers across tenure adopt declared pest control as a shared responsibility and integral part of land management.



## CONTACT US



Email: [projects@blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au](mailto:projects@blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au)



Website: [blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au](http://blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au)



Facebook: Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. Facebook



Phone: 0475 774 558

# CHAIR REPORT

It is with immense pride that I reflect on the last 12 months of BBI. We have had our first year of full operation and are having good effect and gaining visibility and respect within the communities in our operational area.

Our staff are working hard in administration and on the ground to provide an effective service and value to our rate payers and residents. We are fortunate to have very capable people in our organisation. I commend them all on their ability to adapt to change and improve outcomes. On an operational level, the year has been very successful.

Our Committee has worked well this year to establish the governance and administration that sits behind the operations. It is a difficult task to build an effective organisation in the space we operate in and I would like to thank the committee for volunteering to be a part of BBI. It is a significant contribution. I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee. They have contributed lots of time and effort to deal with some difficult issues. They have done this with enthusiasm and pragmatism.

We have a busy year ahead to consolidate the Governance, Administration and Operation of BBI and I urge you all to participate and build an organisation that provides value to our operational area.

I would like to finish by thanking Sheila and Andrew. Both of them bring enthusiasm and experience to BBI that has been crucial to our success this year.

Thank You  
Ade South  
Chairperson





# FOCUS DECLARED PESTS

With community and key stakeholder input, Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. has been actively involved with landholders (regardless of property size) in an across-Shire approach, to manage the priority declared pests:



**Narrowleaf cotton bush**



**Cape tulip**



**Rabbits**



**Paterson's curse**



**Bridal creeper**



**Fox**



**Blackberry**



**Cleavers**



**Feral pig**

These pests are all expensive and difficult to control and can have devastating impacts on agriculture, the natural environment and human amenity, health and safety.

While landholders ultimately remain responsible for declared pests on their properties, they can also need to be better resourced and supported, with access to best practice equipment and advice.

Landholders have benefited from coordinated control strategies, up to date research and development, participation in control trials, free training and workshops, subsidised licenses, on-ground resources, returnable deposit hire of weed and animal control equipment, alerts for new biosecurity threats and where appropriate assistance from Licensed Vertebrate Pest Operators for removal of rogue feral animals.



# STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. is a not for profit incorporated association guided by a general and executive committee comprised of volunteer community members representing their shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Boyup Brook, West Arthur and Donnybrook-Balingup South.



**Special thanks to our Office Bearers: from left: Marc Deas (Secretary), Marg Morton (Deputy Chair), Jenny Dewing (Treasurer), Ade South (Chair) and Erlanda Deas (Executive Minutes Secretary).**

## COMMITTEE

Our thanks to the General Committee members elected at our 2018 A.G.M.

<b>Ade South</b>	<b>Andrew Longbottom</b>
<b>Jenny Dewing</b>	<b>Graham Banks</b>
<b>Marc Deas</b>	<b>Hugh Wheatley</b>
<b>Marg Morton</b>	<b>Graeme Peirce</b>
<b>Erlanda Deas</b>	<b>John Karlsson</b>
<b>Gwen Banks</b>	<b>Julie Webber</b>

West Arthur Shire Representative: **Alan Blencowe**

Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Representative: **Julia Boyle**

Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community Landcare Representative: **Cheryl Hamence**



# STAFF



**Executive Officer**  
Sheila Howat



**Finance/Admin/Maps**  
Jenny Carley



**Biosecurity Officer**  
Jason Littlefair



**Biosecurity Officer**  
Andrew Gorton

**Thanks to the contributions made by  
Julie Chapman and Jesse Anderson.**

# PARTNERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND SUPPORTERS

**Thankyou to the many landholders who have welcomed the offer  
of assistance and invited us onto their properties.**

Department Primary Industries and  
Regional Development. DPIRD  
(Dr. Susan Campbell, Dr. Peter Adams,  
Jason Dearle, James Sheehan, Victoria  
Aitken, Simon Meriwether and Tim  
Thompson)

Department Biodiversity Conservation  
and Attractions (DBCA)

Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

Shire of West Arthur

Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

Shire of Boyup Brook

Main Roads W.A.

Forest Products Commission (FPC)

Bunbury Tree Farm Project

South West Catchment Council (SWCC)

Talison Lithium

The Cidery

Rylington Park

Bridgetown Football Club

Bridgetown Cricket Club

Darkan Rifle Club

Steelos Guns and Outdoor

Blackwood Shooting Supplies

Richfeeds Rural Supplies

Mitre 10, Bridgetown

Bridgetown-Greenbushes Community

Landcare

Blackwood Environment Society

South West Biosecurity Group Alliance

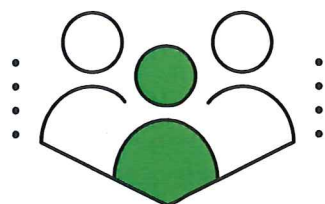
Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group

Leschenault Biosecurity Group

Warren Biosecurity Group

## SOUTH WEST BIOSECURITY GROUP ALLIANCE

Comprised of Blackwood Biosecurity Ince. Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group,  
Leschenault Biosecurity Group and Warren Biosecurity Group in order to establish:



1. A shared platform for communicating important messages beyond administrative boundaries.
2. A set of shared priorities for attracting expertise and co-investment.
1. A shared voice for influencing policy development and political decisions.

The Alliance has lobbied the Minister for Agriculture to increase DPIRD compliance activities.



# DECLARED PEST RATE COLLECTION

The Commissioner of State Revenue through the Office of State Revenue (OSR) is responsible for issuing and collecting Declared Pest Rates. This is done in September/October each year.

## SHIRE COUNCILS ARE NOT INVOLVED IN DECLARED PEST RATES.

### Postponement for pensioners

Eligible pensioners can apply to the OSR to have their rate payments postponed, provided they meet the requirements under section 136 of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007.

For more information on how to apply, please contact the OSR.

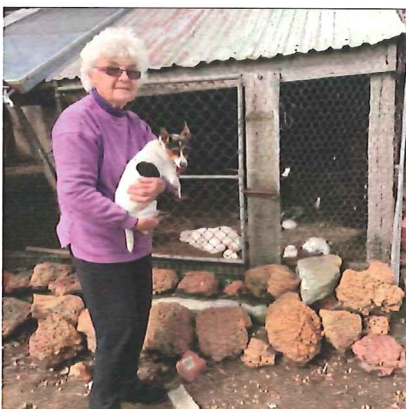
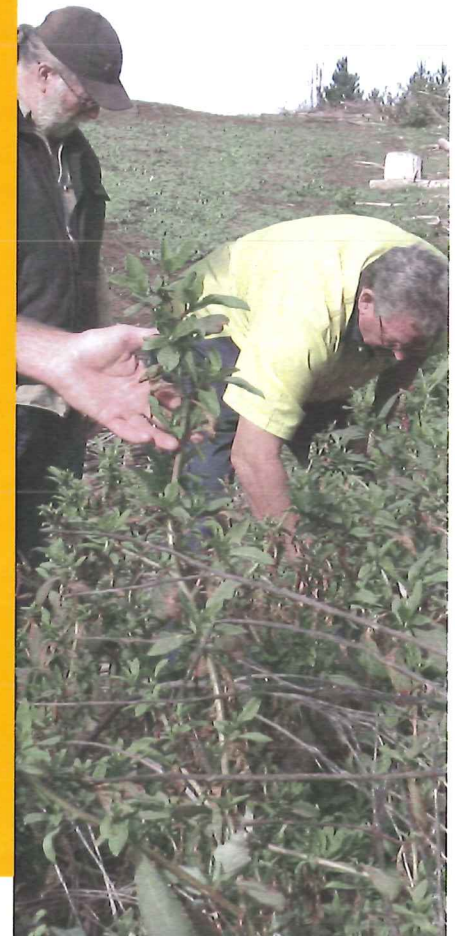
### Contact details

Declared pest rate process and calculation of rates -  
Department of Primary Industries and  
Regional Development  
[dpr@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:dpr@dpird.wa.gov.au), 1300 374 731

Issue of rate notice and payment options - Office of State Revenue

Web enquiry at: [osr.wa.gov.au/bama](http://osr.wa.gov.au/bama)  
(08) 9262 1199

Country callers: 1300 368 364 (local call charges)



Bronwyn Mitchell called on Blackwood Biosecurity for help after having foxes work their way into her very sturdy enclosures killing 19 of her cherished rare birds. Vertebrate Field Officer, Clinton Best, whistled up and dispatched five foxes for her the next night, and has gone on to remove many more.

Bronwyne said: "I was a bit cross when I received my pest rate....but I'm not cross anymore. More people should be using this service".





## SINCE OUR LAST A.G.M.

Blackwood Biosecurity Inc was one of 12 Western Australian regional groups to have a declared pest rate determined by the Minister for Agriculture and Food on the 30 th July 2018.

In Blackwood Biosecurity's Operational Area, the Minister declared a rate in the three Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Donnybrook-Balingup South and West Arthur of \$40 on land within a town-site(residential) or \$50 on freehold land rural. The Western Australian Government matched those rates, up front, to strengthen local efforts to control feral animal and plant pests.

In 2019 the Minister has again declared a pest rate of \$40 on land within a town-site(residential) or \$50 on Freehold land rural, this time in the four Shires of Boyup Brook, West Arthur, Donnybrook-Balingup South and Bridgetown-Greenbushes.



# PEOPLE



BLACKWOOD  
BIOSECURITY

## E-newsletters



## Information stalls



## Radio interviews



## Guest appearance on ABC Radio

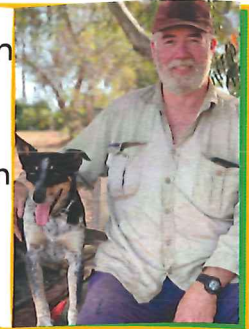


### Regular articles:

Mailbag  
The Bleat  
Boyup Brook Gazette  
Greenbushes-Balingup  
Newsletter  
Preston Press

### Officer Profile:

Profile story on  
Biosecurity  
Officer  
Andrew Gorton  
in local and  
Fairfax press.



### Landholder inquiries on pest incursions:

Rainbow lorikeet  
Tomato potato psyllid  
House sparrow  
European wasp  
Citrus gall wasp  
Pokeweed



### Work Experience:

Hosted a four day experience  
for a high school student  
considering a career in pest  
animal control and weed  
management.



## Community events

You will often find the Blackwood Biosecurity team at local field days and community events.

Visit us again at this year's Upper Blackwood Agricultural Show at Dinninup. The Bridgetown Agricultural Show, Balingup Small Farm Field Day and "Storm in aTeacup" at Rylington Park.



## Workshops

Options for Rabbit  
Control Workshop

**Balingup**

**Bridgetown**

**Boyup Brook**

Shooters Workshop,  
lead up to Fox Shoots

**Boyup Brook**

1080 Bait Training & Fox  
Control Workshop

**Boyup Brook**

Bridal Creeper Rust  
Spreading Workshop

**Bridgetown and Balingup**





# FERAL ANIMALS



- Removed 340 rogue foxes from townsites and rural properties where requested.
- Set traps for inexperienced landholders and euthanised trapped animals.
- Provided Monitoring cameras for landholder use.
- Shooter and fox control workshops.



- Released K5 calicivirus, and in recent weeks distributed dead rabbits infected with new virus throughout operational area.
- On-site appraisals for rabbit control options.
- Hand held spotlights provided to landholders for monitoring.
- Smoke machine hire for landholders to identify warren openings.
- Provided rabbit traps for landholders and euthanize trapped animals where requested.
- Shot 340 rabbits and continue to manually remove virus resistant populations from burrows.



- Removed more than 180 feral pigs (mostly in West Arthur & Boyup Brook) at landholder request.
- Provided monitoring cameras, pre-feed.
- Established permanent feral pig traps with landholders.
- Negotiated MOU with DBCA to pursue and dispatch feral pigs on the public estate, when impacting on neighbouring farms.
- Stakeholder W.A. Feral Pig Strategy Review.



- Removed 19 feral cats.
- Traps available for landholders use.

## EQUIPMENT HIRE TO LANDHOLDERS ON A REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT BASIS

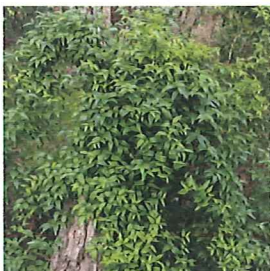




# DECLARED WEEDS



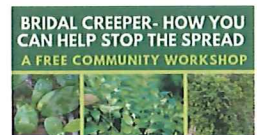
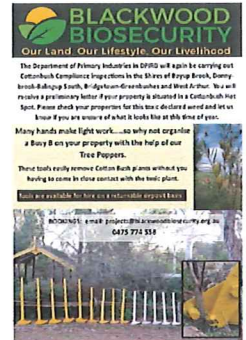
- Provided support for the 2018 Cotton Bush Compliance Program and gearing up for the 2019 with mandatory training complete.
- Tree leavers available for hire by landholders for easy removal of mature cotton bush plants.



- Two bridal creeper workshops.
- Supplied rust, a bridal creeper, biocontrol to landholders



- Offered Blackberry Control Trials using very low dose chemical. Trials were well subscribed in Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Donnybrook-Balingup South.
- Trials to be offered again in Summer 2019.



Forest Product Commission Forester Trevor Radford showing Blackwood Biosecurity Officers, Jason Littlefair and Andrew Gorton ,Poke Weed and Inkweed growing together.

Community groups, or landholders, can hire weed leavers to assist in weed control activities. They are great for pulling out mature cotton bush plants.

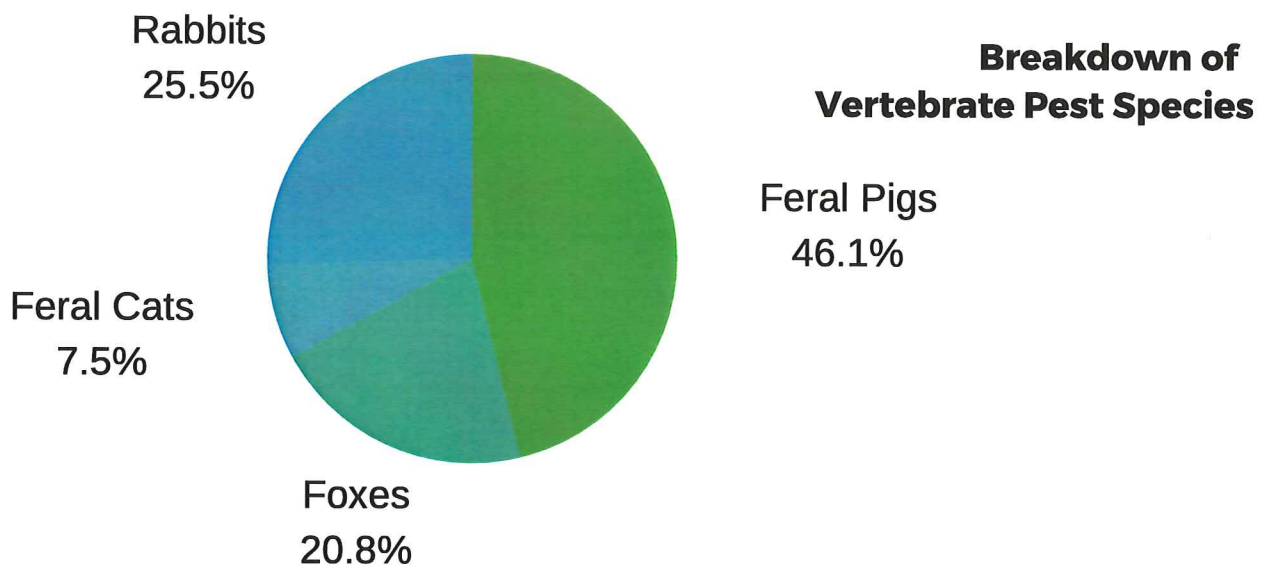
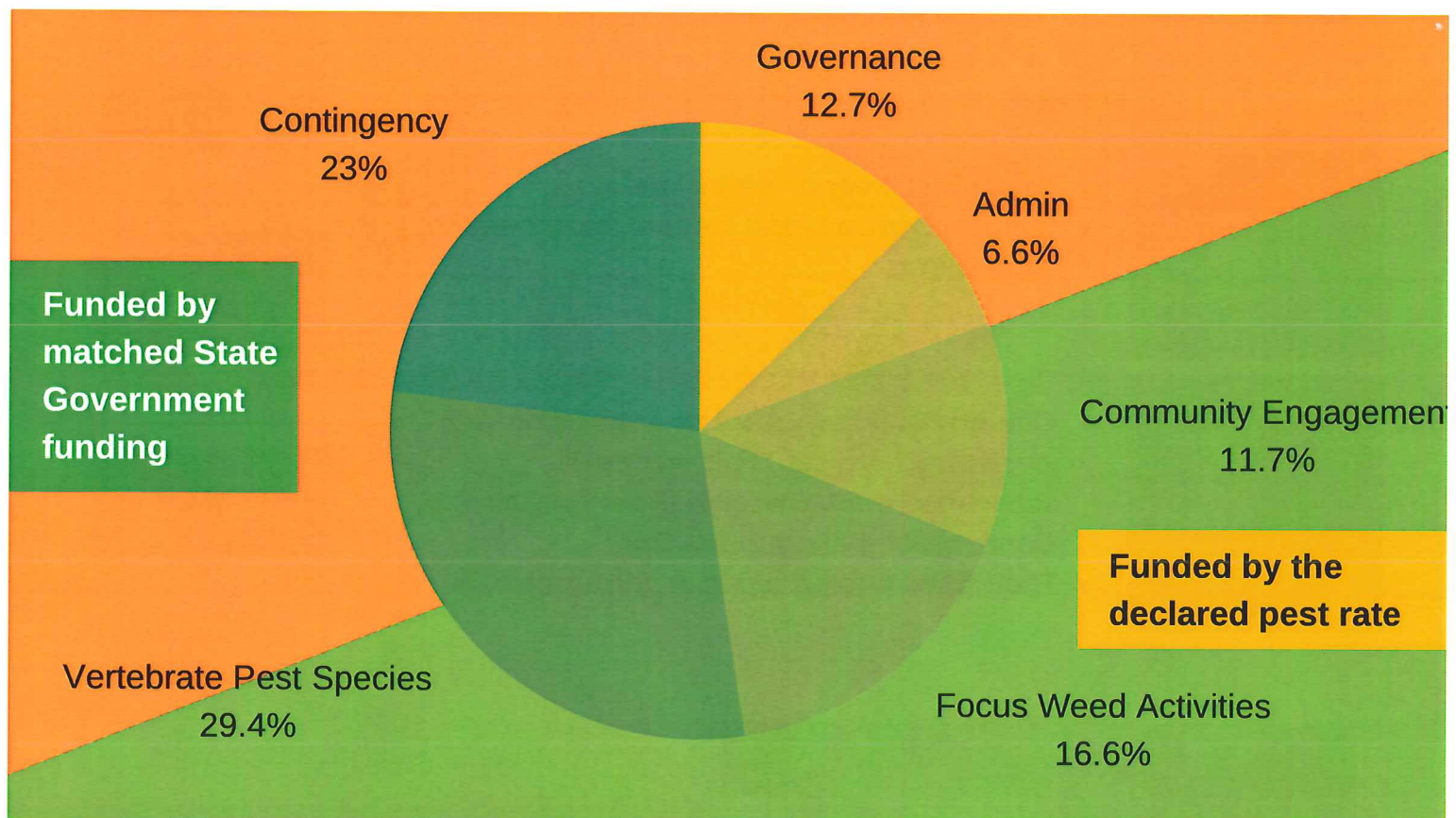




# 2019/2020 DRAFT BUDGET

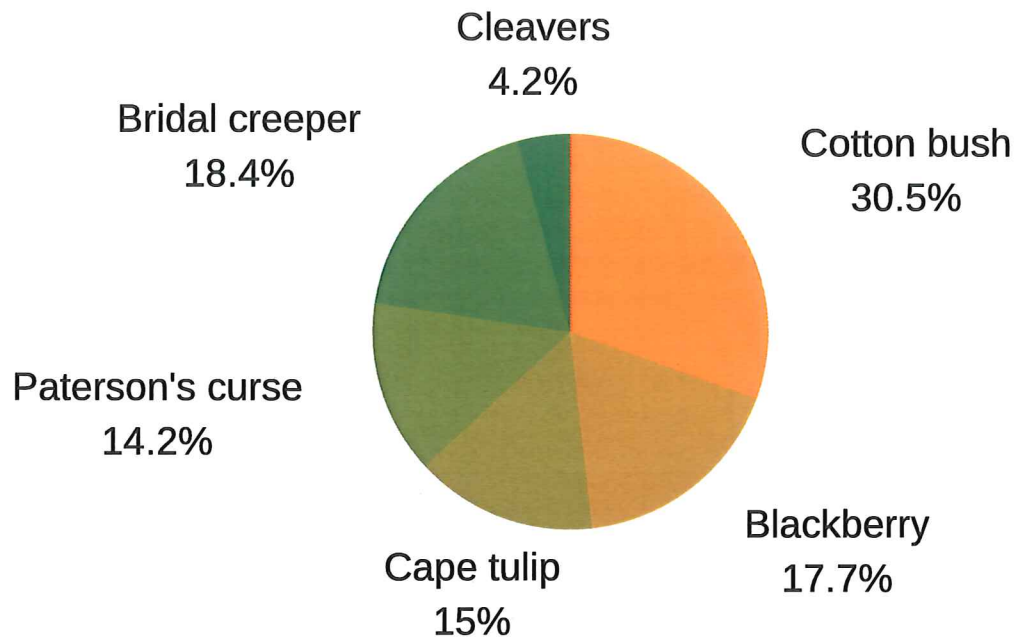
This is a working document as planned actions will be governed by landholder uptake and percentage of rate monies collected each year determines final amount available to deliver activities.

The draft 2020 21 Operational Plan has an estimated budget of \$373,830 plus a contingency for unpaid/postponed rates of \$111,591.





### Breakdown of Focus Weed Activities



## PROPOSED CHANGE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING PERIOD

### Notice of motion for AGM Special resolution to alter accounting period.

Currently Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. operates on a financial accounting period, that is, July 1st to June 30th. Notice of a special resolution has been given to propose that Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. instead operates on a calendar accounting period. That is, January 1st to December 31st. The special resolution will allow Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. to better align its budgeting processes and operations with DPIRD'S funding schedule and reporting requirements.



### Travel in the future

Kilometres travelled by our Biosecurity Staff in the last twelve months have exceeded our expectations. In the financial year 30 th June 2018 to 1 st July 2019 staff travelled 16,000 kilometres to visit landholders' properties and have clocked up a further 7,546 kilometres since then.

We initially baulked at the cost of either purchasing or leasing a work vehicle and all staff generously offered to use their own vehicles, but now realise that kilometres are such that they are wearing their own vehicles out.

So, we will be re-examining the vehicle purchase or lease options (including external funding) again in the New Year.



# CERTIFICATE 111 IN PEST MANAGEMENT

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FOUR SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES COMPLETING THE  
NATIONALLY ACCREDITED CERTIFICATE 111 IN PEST MANAGEMENT TAFE  
COURSE, GRAEME PEIRCE, CLINTON BEST, ANDREW GORTON AND MARC DEAS.**



From left: Jason Littlefair, Graeme Peirce, Clinton Best, Chair Ade South, Andrew Gorton and Marc Deas.

“ Everyone in Blackwood Biosecurity’s Operational Area is very fortunate to receive assistance from these dedicated and highly skilled operators. ”

-Executive Officer Sheila Howat