

PEEL HARVEY BIOSECURITY GROUP



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



PHBG

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Managing your queries

(we use different email addresses to help our part-time staff manage their multiple roles and to make sure you get the best assistance possible)

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Media, email media@phbg.org

Feral animals, email feralanimals@phbg.org

Weeds, email weeds@phbg.org



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

85%

of rate notices paid for 2019 period.

Strategic blueprint

with a seven year outlook prepared by the PHBG committee. *Open for public input.*

Average of 5 calls per day from landholders

increasing to 13 calls per day after rate notices issued.

40 weed reports

validated with landholder follow-up including managers of the public estate.

Governance health check

signed off for financial controls; authorities and delegations; disclosure and transparency; record keeping and security; induction and performance.

Outreach campaigns

through site visits, locally delivered workshops, info stands at community events, seasonal newsletters, mailouts, media releases and social media posts.

140+

landholders involved in calicivirus release, up from 77 in the previous year.

Capital assets

acquired throughout the year and loaned to landholders (e.g. weed levers, fox traps). Cape tulip weed wiper being trialled, with intention to be on loan in 2020.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2019 has been a great time for the team at the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group (PHBG) achieving many things to help sustain the group into the future and ensure that people in the community are aware of their pest control obligations.

The team have been working very cohesively ensuring the biggest bang for every dollar is achieved. The community as a whole is understanding that the group is not the one to do the work, or be the compliance enforcer, but rather is the educator supplying guidance and resources to landholders. These resources form an asset base that belongs to the community, and it is being expanded on a regular basis.

When reading the *PHBG Annual Report* people will gather a greater understanding of the achievements across both weeds and feral animals during 2019. The initial focus of the PHBG was predominantly around the control of cotton bush. It has become more evident from landholders across the five local government areas that there needs to be a greater focus on a number of other declared plant species and also on feral animals. It has been very refreshing to have the feral animal sub-committee come together, who have particular expertise in the best practice control of "wild pigs". Along with this, is the focus on rabbits and foxes, including the educational and control mechanisms we can now provide to the landholder.

Weeds such as apple of Sodom, Cape tulip, Paterson's curse and blackberry - just to name a few - have gained a great deal of focus, and I am pleased to say we can now assist the community by providing access to a weed wiper and potentially a second in the near future. As we all know we will not eradicate every last declared pest, including cotton bush; however, congratulations go out to the growing number of success stories, where key outbreaks now have a significantly greater control program in place.

We have now gained support and engagement from major landholders in our operational area, including Government Departments and corporate entities, many of which have begun making some excellent inroads to control. Engagement by these groups, the highest to date, has been very pleasing with a future focus on supporting them in achieving the correct timing and control measures to ensure maximum impact from their efforts.

A key to the future success of the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group is long term planning with strategies to support it. I would like to express a personal thank you to the staff and volunteers that have assisted in developing the *PHBG Blueprint* and supporting plans in 2019. The five local governments under our coverage have been supportive and represented in all aspects of our planning, which will ensure a collaborative approach is maintained. As we are all aware, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has been going through a transitional phase creating many challenges; however, we all have a common goal which is to support the community.

In closing I would like to thank the staff and volunteers for their never tiring support. A very special thank you to our community members who have embraced their responsibilities in controlling declared pests, and are reaching out to neighbours and the PHBG to get the most out of control efforts.



Vaughn Byrd
Chairperson, PHBG



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The PHBG accepts keen helpers of all ages. Photo supplied by committee member, Anthony Snell, who kindly volunteered to assemble the weed wiper to be loaned to landholders for cape tulip control.

1. OVERVIEW



ABOUT THE PHBG

Vision and mission

The PHBG exists to see the impacts of priority pests reduced to a minimal or acceptable level.

To make this vision a reality, the PHBG is using the tools at its disposal to get priority pests on the day-to-day agenda of people who live, work or operate in our patch.

Tools can most certainly be physical. However, to achieve lasting change the PHBG has realised that most of our tools need to be instruments that create behaviour change.



Drivers and membership

The Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group is a not for profit organisation run by community representatives from the local government areas of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Murray, Mandurah, Waroona and Harvey.

Landholders within the PHBG operational boundary are eligible to apply for membership. Membership applications are assessed in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* with the main consideration being whether the applicant supports the constitutional objectives of the organisation.

Constitutional purpose

The PHBG was incorporated in 2017. The following items comprise the PHBG's objective, as lodged with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety;

- To provide leadership and direction for biosecurity within the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group (PHBG) operational area.
- To seek opportunities to collaborate on strategies, plans and actions concerned with biosecurity in the PHBG operational area.
- To facilitate the involvement of government departments, businesses, industry groups, community organisations and individuals in biosecurity matters within the PHBG operational area.
- To assist landholders to control declared and non-declared pests identified as a priority in the PHBG operational area by advising them on available treatment options, and encouraging them to coordinate remedial action with their neighbours.
- To build good governance structures and funding mechanisms for the long-term management of biosecurity in the PHBG operational area.



KEY EVENTS SHAPING THE PHBG'S DEVELOPMENT

Formed in 2014 on the initiative of locals, the PHBG set about raising the profile of priority pests in the region to encourage greater investment in control efforts, and to improve communication and coordination between stakeholders. Banners to control cotton bush popped up across the region, and the PHBG became a regular at agricultural shows.

From the outset, the PHBG had support from the local governments operating in its area. To get the PHBG up and running, in-kind and financial contributions were made by the local government authorities of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Mandurah, Murray and Harvey. In recognition of the long standing and strong partnership with local government, each authority maintains an independent vote on the PHBG management committee (see adjacent diagram).

In the early years, short term injections of funds also came from the WA State Government. At the same time, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) provided guidance on a long-term, sustainable funding model available to recognised biosecurity groups operating in WA. Indeed, the PHBG was open to a proposition that is not dependent on political cycles. This often plays out as boom-bust funding or stop-start grants.

The funding model that was proposed is set out under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act* 2007. It works on the basis that funds are collected from landholders (who receive a declared pest rate) which are matched dollar-for-dollar by the WA State. The funding model is place-based: it accommodates the fact that communities and landscapes align in different ways and it provides scope for self-determination. However, it is important to point out that biosecurity groups can only receive funds from the declared pest account to; (i) promote public awareness of the measures being taken, or required to be taken to control *declared pests*; (ii) carry out measures to control *declared pests*; and (iii) purchase capital assets required in connection with the above activities.

Funding from the declared pest account came online for the PHBG in 2019 with \$30 collected from landholders with freehold land one hectare and above. Invoices were sent from the Office of State Revenue, with the collection process beginning in the last quarter of 2018. The collected funds were transferred to the Declared Pest Account, administered by the DPIRD. Landholder rates, and government matching funds were disbursed to the PHBG upon approval of paperwork submitted to DPIRD (page 31).

Another important point is that a declared pest rate is only raised after consultation with key stakeholders and impacted landholders, with due consideration given to various points of view. When the rate was first proposed for the Peel Harvey in 2018, landholders who formally objected comprised 2.6% of the total impacted landholders, representing 149 negative submissions. Formal submissions were again called in 2019. This time the percentage was less than 1%, representing 56 negative submissions (information provided by DPIRD). Whilst it was a risk for the PHBG to adopt the funding model, with the potential for the small number of objectors to air their concerns widely through the likes of social media, the risk was seen to be outweighed by the level of community frustration with the status quo.



Governance structure

The PHBG is governed by the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*. Its management committee is responsible for the stewardship of the organisation. The committee sets the strategic direction for the PHBG, which has now been formally set out in its blueprint document. Each committee member has a fiduciary duty to act honestly, in good faith and to the best of their ability in the interest of the organisation.

Two sub-committees report to the PHBG management committee, that being the executive and feral animal. Both assist with day to day operations of the organisation.

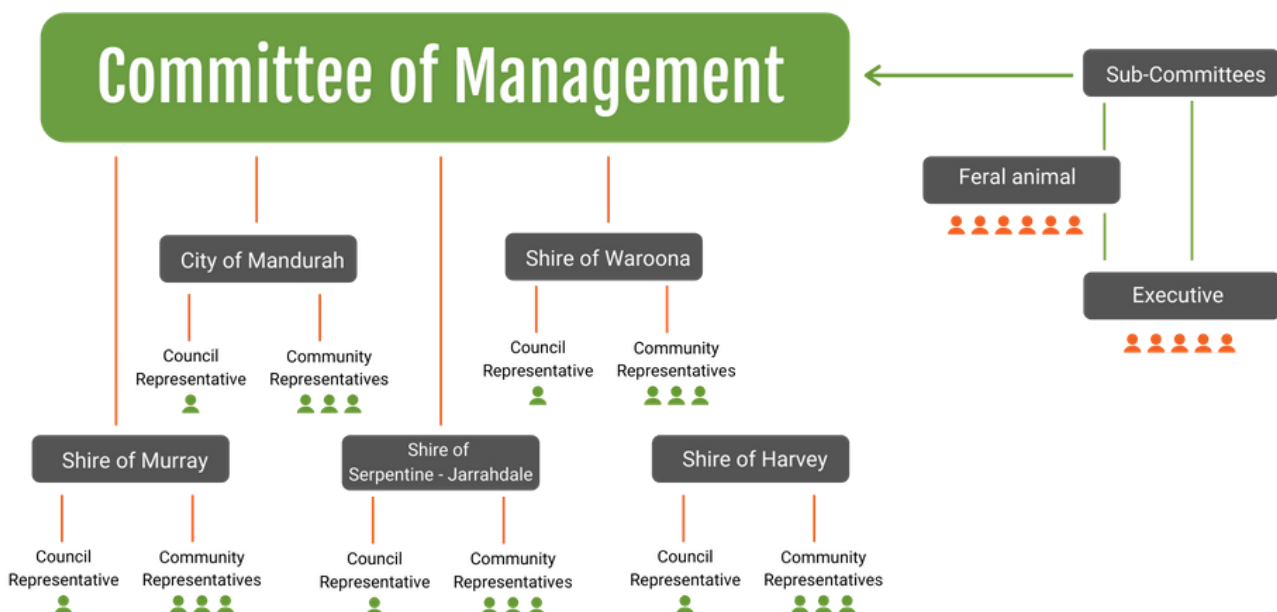
A sub-committee structure has been shown to improve efficiencies in not-for-profit governance, so long as reporting lines and delegations are made clear. The PHBG has set out terms of reference for both its sub-committees. Notably, the executive is comprised of the office bearers of the management committee, with the addition of the executive officer.

Planning and reporting

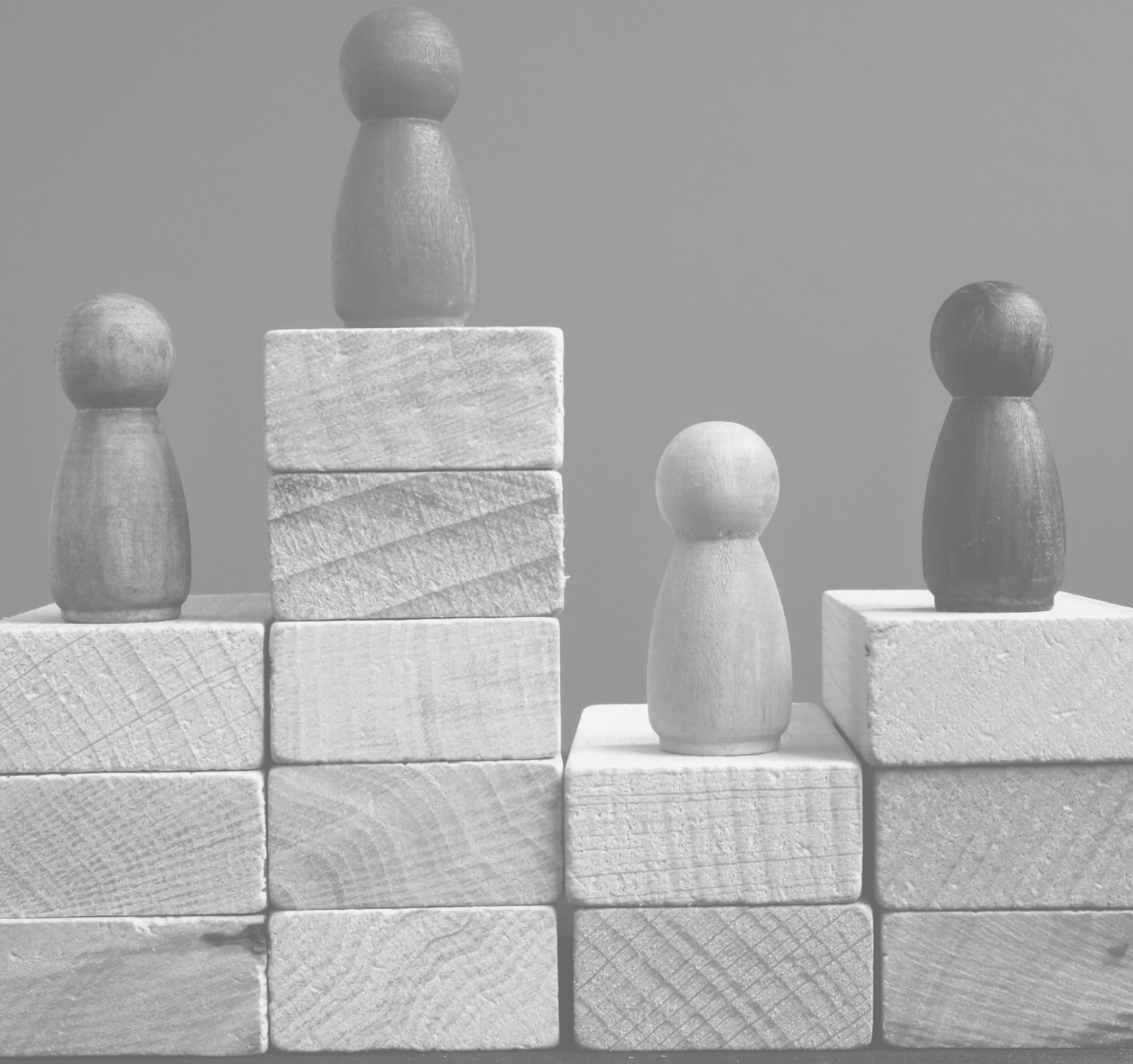
The PHBG is guided by two documents for prioritisation and allocation decisions, the *PHBG Blueprint* and the budgeting rationale (accessed via the PHBG website).

The PHBG prepares an annual budget which is reviewed and ratified by the management committee. Budgeted expenditure is executed in accordance with the PHBG's financial policies and procedures. Monthly financials are signed off by the management committee.

As a tier 2 incorporated association, the PHBG must have an independent review of its yearly financials. With receipt of funds from the Declared Pest Account, an additional level of financial reporting is now required. As such, the PHBG submitted its 2019 financials to be independently audited (see section 3). The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development also requires a yearly operational plan, 12 months in advance, for the use of funds from the Declared Pest Account.



Governance structure as at December 31, 2019. Whilst there are three community representative positions available, per local government area, not all will necessarily be filled. Ideally, there should be at least one representative per local government area, which was the case for 2019.



2. PERFORMANCE

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

"Will you come and do my pest control work now I have paid the \$30 pest rate?"

No.

The PHBG cannot assume the legal responsibility that lies with individual landholders to control declared pests on their property.

If the PHBG were to control declared pests on everyone's property, the rate would need be around 100 times more to cover the average expense (factoring in government matching funds).

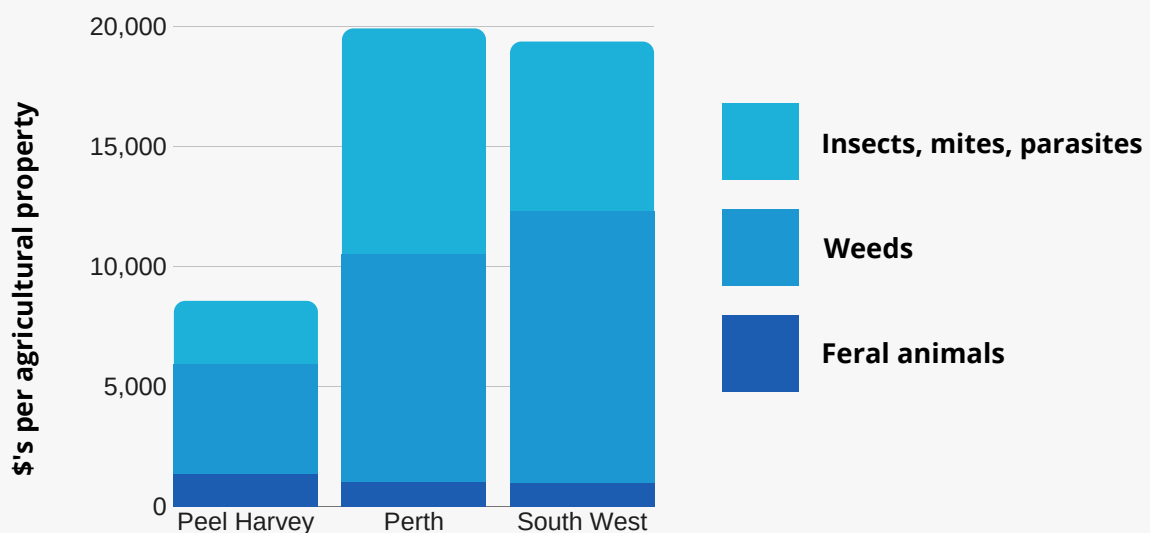
We arrived at this conclusion using evidence from an ABARES landholder survey. From the graph below it can be seen that the average annual spend in the Peel Harvey, per agricultural property, is \$1 370 for feral animals and \$4 540 for weeds.

"I don't expect to see any pests now – or if I do, you guys aren't doing your job."

No.

Eradication is the elimination of every single individual of a species from an area. Eradication can only be achieved with suitable levels of technology, finances and a willingness to accept any side-effects (e.g. non-target impacts). Having eradication as the goal of commonly found pests, particularly in heterogeneous landscapes such as the Peel Harvey, will create false expectations.

It has been found that education and area-wide suppression fits more comfortably into a sustainable paradigm for pest control (Myers et al. 1998). Suppression - to what point - is something that needs to be negotiated with the community. Consensus on this point would clarify expectations and help to unite efforts.



ABARES pest animal and weed survey results 2016, data accessed via [public portal](#). Expenditure includes costs of traps, baits, pesticides/insecticides, fuel, fencing materials and labour including costs of contractors in the last 12 months.

ALIGNMENT WITH NEEDS

Again, the PHBG drew on an ABARES landholder survey to determine what pest management services landholders generally wanted to see initiated, expanded or improved. These are captured in the graphic below.

From the increasing number of conversations with landholders, it is our feeling that the proportions assigned to each service are likely to be close to the mark for the the Peel Harvey operational area. For example, there are many landholders, particularly those new to the region that are seeking information and looking for

opportunities to increase their individual capacity to undertake control programs. Longer term residents and those with commercial interests appear to have a higher motivation (or frustration) to get pest control activities undertaken by other land managers, particularly on the public estate.

One service not captured, but often raised by landholders is the advocacy role of the PHBG. To date the focus of landholders has been for the PHBG to get government to utilise their legislated powers and take action on non-cooperative and non-compliant landholders.



Stenekes, N, Kancans, R & Binks, B, 2017, *Pest animal and weed management survey: National landholder survey results*, ABARES research report, page 38.

DELIVERING ON THE STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT

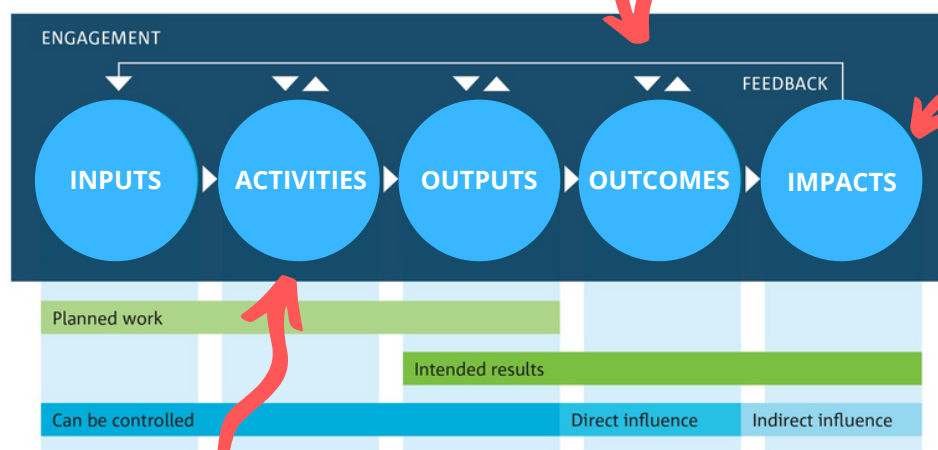
With a secure funding source the PHBG could look and plan ahead. In 2019, this saw the PHBG develop and adopt a strategic blueprint (accessible on the PHBG website).

A 'pathways to impact' approach is used in the *PHBG Blueprint*, modelled on CSIRO's guide to program development and evaluation. Importantly, the PHBG is aiming to successfully achieve seven outcomes that will give the system a big nudge toward the vision of reducing the impact of pests to a minimal or acceptable level.

Seven success outcomes have been detailed in the PHBG Blueprint

*Our vision
i.e. see the impact of
priority pests reduced to
a minimal or acceptable
level.*

CSIRO's Impact Framework



50+

activities have been detailed in the PHBG Blueprint that will deliver on **7 success outcomes**.

Pages 14 - 29 of this report are dedicated to showcasing achievements within the framework of the PHBG Blueprint.

The PHBG will continue to invest in the development and execution of timely, consistent and robust evaluations over the coming years.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 1

People know where to go to report pests and are motivated to do so.

Targeted Output:

Magnet provided to landholders as a handy reference.

Barriers overcome

"I don't know what declared weeds are found in my area."

"Can you tell me what weeds your biosecurity group is focusing on?"

"I'm a bit unsure what this plant is, but I think it is one of those bad weeds".

"I'm having a problem with an infestation next door to my property, who do I report it to?"

"I've already contacted the Shire, but they said to call my local biosecurity group."

"Do you have a phone number I can call you on?"

The PHBG listened to feedback from landholders which indicated that there was a degree of frustration on who was the best contact for commonly found declared pests. For weeds, people wanted help with identification and control options, whilst others wanted to report infestations in their local area.

PHBG staff developed a visually appealing and informative magnet. After testing landholder reactions, the magnet was produced in a large print run so the cost per magnet was very small (i.e. less than 40 cents). The magnet was mailed to all landholders that had received a declared pest rate. Extras were printed to be made available to government officers and new landholders.

SEEN THESE DECLARED WEEDS?

 APPLE OF SODOM	 CAPE TULIP
 ARUM LILY	 COTTON BUSH
 BLACKBERRY	 PATERSON'S CURSE

CHECKLIST FOR REPORTING DECLARED WEEDS

- ✓ Include GPS or property address.
- ✓ Estimate the size and density of the infestation.
- ✓ Note impacts on surrounding area.
- ✓ Send to Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group

✉ weeds@phbg.org ☎ 0474 242 223

SEEN FERAL ANIMALS?

**FERALSCAN**
.ORG.AU

Record sightings, damage & control with FeralScan.

Want to be shown how? ☎ 0438 741 875 ✉ feralanimals@phbg.org

"I saw your magnet and rang to get help with weed identification."

"I didn't realise that I had cotton bush until I saw this magnet. How do I control it going forward?"

"Got your number from the magnet in the mail. Can you help me with feral animal baiting?"

Value add:

Saving time for busy landholders who can now contact PHBG staff to report declared weeds or seek assistance with weed identification and control options.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 1

People know where to go to report pests and are motivated to do so.

Targeted Output: FeralScan workshops delivered at various locations.

It was surprising to discover that the uptake of FeralScan is low in Western Australia, compared to other states. In the Peel Harvey landholders hadn't been exposed to the reporting resource; didn't know how to get started; or weren't sure how their data would be used.

PHBG staff liaised with federal and state government departments to get the FeralScan coordinator over to Western Australia. Making the most of the opportunity and understanding that people have different schedules, PHBG staff ran consecutive workshops (morning, midday and evening) at three different locations.

"The PHBG gave us an opportunity to connect face to face with landholders in the Peel-Harvey region and demonstrate how useful the FeralScan app can be in recording feral animal data. In response, use of the app in that area has increased."

Peter West
NSW Department of
Primary Industries

"Very well
organised and
run, great work."

"Great set up, very
good presentation.
excellent networking
opportunity."

"Will use it whenever
I go out hunting."

"Very
informative,
will use
when ever I
see pests."

3

WORKSHOP
LOCATIONS



Barriers overcome

"What can I
use to record
my feral animal
control efforts?"

"What is FeralScan?"

"I heard about the
reporting app, but I
don't really get how it
works."

"I'm sure how secure
FeralScan is, so haven't
started using it."

"As a local government,
can we record our
control activities in a
private group?"

"Is it only for over east
landholders?"

"Can pig trappers record
locations of without it
being public, we don't
want our gear damaged
or stolen."

Value add:

Attracting interstate expertise to deliver FeralScan workshops, with local capacity built to deliver further training opportunities.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 2

Best practices for pest control are endorsed, readily accessible and widely promoted.

Targeted Output: Trade stands designed, piloted and fabricated.

Barriers overcome

"There's too much information out there to know where to start."

"One person swears by one thing, another person says something completely different. I just want to do what is best."

"Can I get what I need locally?"

"I feel like I've tried everything and it's not working."

"What's the latest technology available?"

"I'm a new landholder and I want to learn how to control pests properly."

Landholders in the Peel Harvey have a wide range of experiences in pest control. It is becoming increasingly clear that, in many cases, landholders use outdated methods; are frustrated with the results of their current control program; or are overwhelmed by the multitude of sources and streams of information. A set of accessible and reputable control options would go a long way to alleviating these problems.



PHBG staff got creative and designed a novel and cost-effective trade stand system. The pest panel is interchangeable (i.e. whilst a fox is shown here, there are other panels such as rabbits). This means that the PHBG can change the focus of the stand depending on the season, as well as planned campaigns or events in the local area.

A surprising response from one rural trader was that he would love to have the stand in store AND was prepared to pay for it. The PHBG won't be charging any business, because getting the word out is a service that they are providing free of charge.

Value add:

Promoting best practice at the point of purchase of rural and hardware supplies to increase investment in pest control activities and local businesses.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 2

Best practices for pest control are endorsed, readily accessible and widely promoted.

Targeted Output: Safe use of 1080 products encouraged and demonstrated.

There is now an online training component and fee associated with obtaining a restricted chemical permit for 1080 products. The PHBG suspects that this may be acting as a deterrent for people to get accredited. In order to overcome this barrier, particularly to ensure people are using restricted products legally, the PHBG is offering one on one support for permit applications. If landholders take up this option, the fee will be fully covered by the PHBG.

With the assistance of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, during the year the PHBG also offered hands-on demonstrations for the use of 1080 products.

2019
Permits

312 x 1080 oats
420 x 1080 baits
12kg x ready to lay 1080 rabbit baits



DPIRD Officer James Sheehan explaining the safety requirements needed for 1080 baiting at the Fox Control Workshop, Oakford 2019

Barriers overcome

"Do I need a permit?"

"I was going to apply but it just seemed so complicated."

"I would like to know more about 1080 products."

"It would be handy to have another control option in the toolbox."

Targeted Output: Easy access to qualified professionals, including shooters.

A contractor listing is provided on the PHBG website and to landholders on upon request. Relationships are being built with local shooting groups, so prior arrangements can be made to support trapping efforts where no gun licence is held by the landholder.

"The Rockingham CWM is available to help landholders euthanise trapped foxes. Landholders can organise with the Group before trapping takes place and we can have a member ready in case one is caught. We are also on hand to do site visits and provide additional tips and hints for landholders to increase their chances of trapping a fox."

"I'm comfortable with giving trapping a go, but I have no means of shooting the fox."

"I'm FIFO, so I would prefer to pay someone to come spray my weeds."

Value add:

Increasing local training opportunities and building local capacity to control pests using safe and humane practices.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 2

Best practices for pest control are endorsed, readily accessible and widely promoted.

Targeted Output:

Fit for purpose equipment purchased - provided to landholders on a loan basis.



Hand pulling cotton bush can be hard going, particularly for established plants. Tree poppers use a leverage system to pull out cotton bush with roots attached, preventing reshooting.

21

**Tree Poppers
purchased for
landholders**



PHBG staff have become proficient at assembling fox traps and demonstrating their use. 15 were loaned to landholders over the last quarter of 2019.

15

**Fox cage traps
purchased for
landholders**



The PHBG reviewed equipment options for the safe and easy control of Cape tulip. The weed wiper is rated highly because it doesn't damage pastures.

A trailer is being manufactured so the weed wiper can be easily moved between properties.

8

**Expressions of interests
collected for loaning the
weed wiper.**

SUCCESS OUTCOME 3

Pest control activities are coordinated and sustained across property and management boundaries.

Targeted Output:

PHBG initiative to get private landholders involved in feral animal control on reserves managed by local government.

A number of landholder complaints of foxes in the Marlee Reserve area led to a general discussion regarding ways the PHBG could support the City of Mandurah's fox control program in the Reserve. The PHBG engaged surrounding neighbours, with the assistance of delivered fox traps, so that control efforts were conducted at the same time. The experience was very positive. Going forward, the PHBG will extend this support to all local governments working to protect environmental assets.

"Marlee is one of the most important conservation reserves in Mandurah and prized by our community. Coordination between the City of Mandurah, the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group and landholders, enabled a broader reach and a greater outcome; it's something we hope to replicate in other key areas."

**Deputy Mayor, Caroline Knight
City of Mandurah**

Targeted Output:

PHBG initiated conversations and negotiations with managers of the public estate to support control efforts being undertaken by private landholders.

How do I get in touch with my neighbour if its public land?

"I don't know who is doing what and when."

"Who is controlling cotton bush around the Harvey Dam?"

The PHBG has started getting the right people to the table, and is having productive meetings with managers of the public estate which are leading to action on the ground.

"Great that this stakeholder meeting was championed by the PHBG. I found the discussion fruitful and can see a way forward. I look forward to the next stage which is building traction with other stakeholders."

Tim Stevens, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, speaking at the conclusion of a recent meeting regarding landholder concerns about cotton bush around the Harvey and Beela dams.

Value add:

Bringing in skilled communicators, who represent the interest of different parties fairly, who are able to find common ground and help people solve problems together.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 4

Local champions, organisations and businesses are recognised for doing the right thing.

WA Poultry Equipment & Coast To Coast Vermin Traps

For providing great service, equipment and advice to landholders.



Cheidys Aquaponics

For support in the development of fruit fly traps.



Conservation and Wildlife Management, Rockingham Branch

For supporting the FeralScan workshops and making themselves available to help landholder's euthanise trapped foxes.



DPIRD Biosecurity Officer, James Sheehan.

For supporting landholders and the PHBG.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 4

Local champions, organisations and businesses are recognised for doing the right thing.

City of Rockingham

For meeting community expectations outside of their legal responsibility in cotton bush control.



Cotton bush is not a declared weed in metropolitan areas. This means that landholders within the bordering localities of Rockingham, Kwinana and Armadale are not legally bound to control cotton bush. This is of particular concern along pathways of spread, such as road verges, that promote spread into the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

The PHBG started a dialogue with the City of Rockingham, concerning a number of cotton bush hotspots. Understanding has been built and the City of Rockingham has made a commitment to the control of cotton bush on its lands.

"The City is focused on the control of cotton bush to reduce impacts on environmentally sensitive areas. We are targeting City-managed reserves and verges and will be working with private landholders to reduce occurrences of this invasive plant."

Mayor Barry Sammels
City of Rockingham.



"Not only did the City of Rockingham respond very quickly to reports of cotton bush in their area, they followed best practice by removing any mature pods before spraying and removal commenced. This action prevents seed spill and further spread of the weed. The City has also surveyed rural areas in Baldivis and Karnup, with the population of cotton bush along Mundijong Road and other verges mapped. This will be very helpful for the City to monitor the effectiveness of treatments, and will give them a head start on any new germination."

Teele Hooper-Worrell,
Weed education officer, PHBG

SUCCESS OUTCOME 5

Compliance is forthcoming where engagement is not successful.

Targeted Output:

Weed reports made by community members validated (i.e. checked with a field inspection) - landholder issued an initial letter offering assistance to get them started on a control program.

Barriers overcome

"I'm doing something but my neighbours aren't. It's so frustrating."

"You used to have the APB come round and tell you off if you had weeds, now what happens?"

"Will the PHBG fine or prosecute offending landholders?"

"Who do I report an infestation to, and what will be done?"

"Will the PHBG come in and do the control work?"

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) prioritises its limited resources toward preventing and rapidly responding to new incursions of declared pests, with early intervention having the most favourable cost-benefit ratio.

Landholder confusion regarding the government's present commitment to compliance comes about from previous policy positions that saw strict enforcement for all declared pests. Over the past 20 plus years, compliance for commonly found declared pests has waned to negligible levels. However, landholders are still reporting weeds to government with the expectation that swift action will be taken under the provisions of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.

To the PHBG's knowledge, the only compliance program for declared pests on its priority listing is for cotton bush. This represents a misalignment between what is being delivered and what some sectors of the community expect in terms of enforcement.

Recognised Biosecurity Groups do not have any enforcement powers. Biosecurity groups aim to create community stewardship, with appeals to landholders to do the right thing by their neighbours. The PHBG can assist landholders to fulfil their legal responsibilities by making pest control easier (i.e. working with others and providing access to information, training and resources).

The PHBG follows a set procedure when a community member reports one of its priority declared weeds. It (i) validates the report; (ii) clarifies land tenure and contact details, with the assistance of local government officers; (iii) contacts the landholder alerting them to the infestation, and (iv) offers assistance to help get them started on a control program. This applies equally to private and public landholders. If no contact is made with the PHBG or action is taken, the PHBG argues that this is a sufficient precursor for DPIRD to pursue compliance.

Value add:

Surveillance and reporting carried out by the community, not only presents a valuable dataset, it can offer a cost-saving for government if they re-initiate a compliance program to support the efforts of biosecurity groups.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 5

Compliance is forthcoming where engagement is not successful..

Targeted Output:

Ministerial briefing seeking clarity on compliance for declared pests with recommendations for moving forward.

Detailed submission to the Auditor General on pest management in Western Australia, highlighting current issues around compliance.

During the early promotion of the biosecurity group model in the South West, there was an understanding that if a biosecurity group worked hard to engage landholders, the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (now the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) would provide compliance support for those landholders who remained outside the reach of the group (e.g. absentee owners, inter-state and overseas investors) or who had no intention of fulfilling their legal duties to control declared pests.

Behavioural economics shows that in any setting coercion will only go so far, and there will always be a percentage of non-compliant individuals. Under a pest scenario, these non-compliant individuals can significantly undermine the efforts of the vast majority. The incentive to free-ride becomes higher if there is a perception that you can get away with not contributing your share (for the overall benefit of the community). This is why pest management is a public policy issue.

Biosecurity groups have sought clarification from DPIRD on the respective roles and responsibilities of all parties. Specific and formal requests have been made to clarify DPIRD's policy position on compliance for declared pests falling in the C3 and unassigned management categories. Clarification has been sought on what a biosecurity group exactly has to do to have compliance initiated (i.e. what checkboxes need to be ticked in terms of a reasonable level of engagement).

In 2019, the South West Biosecurity Group Alliance issued a briefing paper to the Minister on compliance matters. The raised items were deferred back to DPIRD. Due to ongoing departmental restructuring, no clarity has been provided to date. The matter was raised with the Auditor General at the end of 2019, when biosecurity groups were invited to make submissions.

Sustained Barriers

"I don't see the government committing to compliance."

"What is the Dept of Ag doing now?"

"Why isn't compliance getting done?"

"I've reported the same property for five years and it is still the same."

"The worst properties aren't being policed. What is the point if you can't make the worst ones comply?"

Value add:

Consolidated and rational voice, capturing community sentiment, to feed into political and policy deliberations.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 6

People know that the PHBG is focused on implementing behaviour change at both a community and institutional level..

Targeted Output:

A range of communication channels built and strengthened to capture diverse preferences for receiving information from the PHBG (see following pages for details on website, newsletter, face-to-face contact and social media).



PHBG staff member, Teele Hooper-Worrell demonstrates how the information trailer can be easily set up for community events.

Barriers overcome

"How do I find out about the PHBG?"

"Do you have a website?"

"I want to know the history of the PHBG."

"Where can I chat to you?"

"Do you have a newsletter?"

"How do I know what events are on?"

"Do you do training sessions for ops teams?"

"How do I register for an event?"

"Are you a legit organisation?"

"Can we borrow any of your communication resources?"

"What would we need to do to get you to come and speak to our community group?"

SUCCESS OUTCOME 6

People know that the PHBG is focused on implementing behaviour change at both a community and institutional level..

Targeted Output: PHBG website designed, piloted and functional.

"We decided to develop the website in house. This would give us the chance to trial the layout and content, without a big outlay on a website developer. It means that, in response to landholder feedback, we can easily add any information they think is missing. It also allows the PHBG to keep content up to date, with upcoming events and recent activities highlighted in a timely fashion.

We tried to keep the website simple and clear, but with all the information our landholders would want at their finger tips."

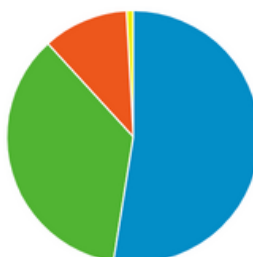
Teele Hooper-Worrell,
Communications officer, PHBG



Online from July 2019



1,621 page views



Website traffic

■ Social
■ Direct
■ Organic Search
■ Referral

Targeted Output: PHBG e-newsletter designed and issued on a seasonal basis.

182
Subscribers



Value add:

Local capacity built to maintain PHBG website and e-newsletter into the future. PHBG can share experiences with adopting low-cost/user-friendly tech options with other community organisations.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 6

People know that the PHBG is focused on implementing behaviour change at both a community and institutional level..

Targeted Output: Multiple points for face-to-face contact offered across the PHBG operational area.

During 2019 the PHBG continued to give its information trailer a workout, setting up at community events throughout the region. It attended the Brunswick show for the first time, invited by the Brunswick River Restoration Action Group to share a stall space.

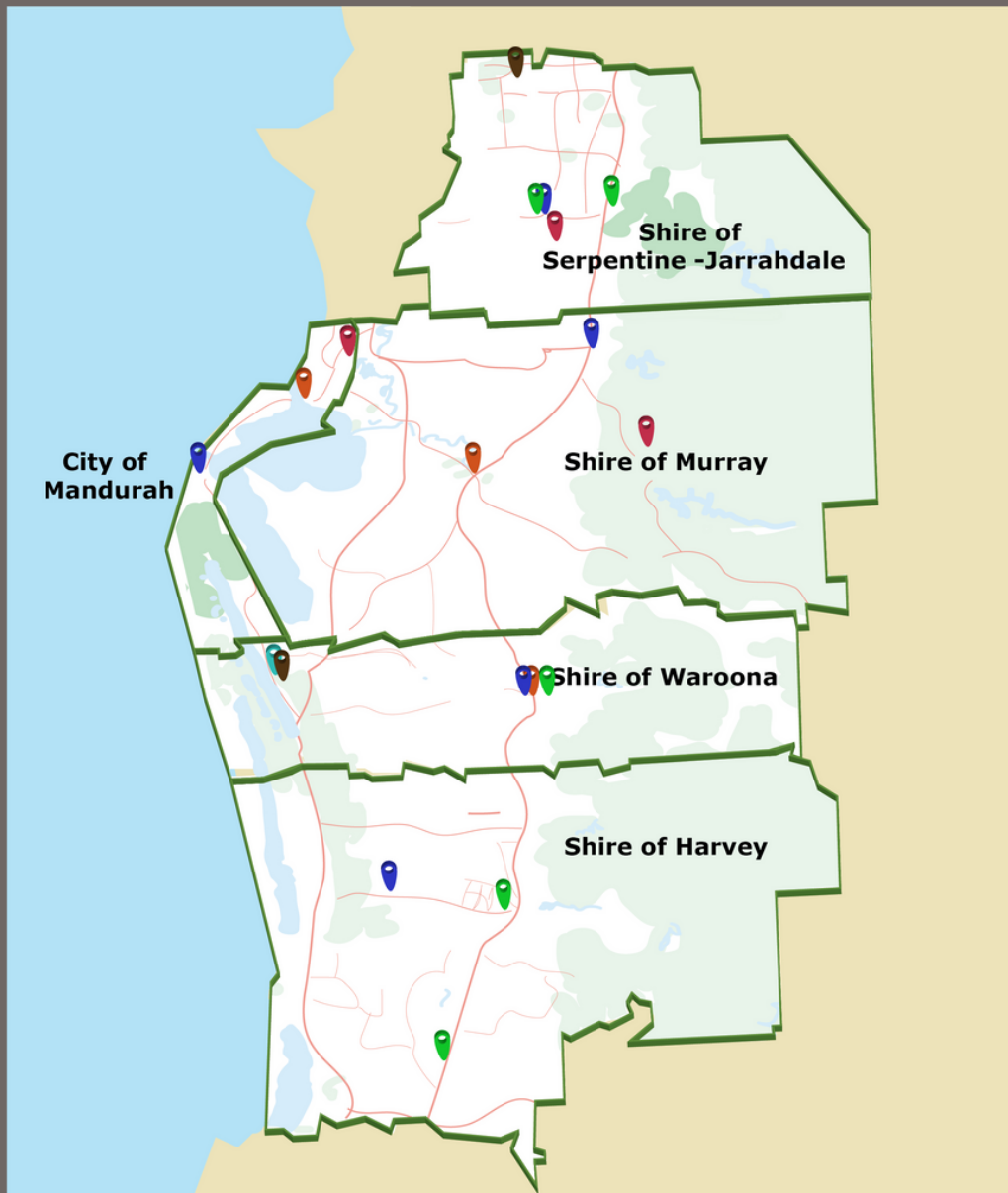
The PHBG also responded to calls from local communities when they indicated that they don't know enough about what the PHBG does. This saw information sessions delivered at the Dwellingup and Mardella halls. Being hosted by a local community group, such as a Lions Club, guarantees the attendance of landholders. The PHBG has found that without this endorsement, it can be left delivering to a near empty venue. This happens despite a call for more information seemingly having traction on a local social media feed, and marketing of the event.



Value add:

Investment in local fairs and shows through space hire, entry fees and purchases on the day. Building of information exchange networks to improve accesses to community services.

2019 PHBG Events



FeralScan Workshops



Calicivirus Information Sessions



Community Fairs and Agricultural Shows



PHBG Informations Sessions



PHCC Community Event



Fox Control Workshops

SUCCESS OUTCOME 6

People know that the PHBG is focused on implementing behaviour change at both a community and institutional level..

Targeted Output:

Facebook content regularly updated with information on PHBG contact information and activities.

Landholders contacted the PHBG 68 times via messenger during 2019



Followers

592

Likes

570

#1 Post

Reach
5,714
people



Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group

May 3rd 2019

Last year at the Harvey Show a local landholder popped by and asked for control information on cotton bush. How fantastic to see him again this year with the news that he has successfully removed the declared weed from his property.

At the Food and Farm Fest this Sunday the PHBG stall will have control information on our six priority declared weeds as well as pest animals like foxes and feral rabbits and pigs. You can also sign up for our upcoming events and programs including fox control workshops and the Rabbit Control Program.

Open from 10am to 4pm in Whitby.

5,714 People reached 845 Engagements Boost Post 13 comments 11 shares



#2 Post

Reach
4,924
people



Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group

November 14th 2019

The PHBG are receiving reports of calicivirus. Rabbits that succumb to this virus are found in the characteristic 'reindeer pose'. The PHBG can take a sample from these rabbits to test which strain is active in certain areas. Rabbit carcasses can be relocated to help spread the virus. If you find a rabbit carcass exhibiting the 'reindeer pose' get in touch with the PHBG to move it or take a sample, alternatively relocate it to an area you know has active rabbits.

Rabbits that have died in this pose could have succumbed to the calicivirus.

The PHBG can test rabbits and moved them to spread the virus.

Report rabbits to
feralanimals@phbg.org



4,924 People reached



550 Engagements

Boost Post

4 comments 13 shares

Value add:

On-line community engaging in constructive conversations about biosecurity, in a general sense and within a local context.

SUCCESS OUTCOME 7

Children are given the opportunity to learn about pest impacts and management options.

Targeted Output: Marketing of school resources initiated.

During 2019 the PHBG steadily progressed its school program, with seed funding from a successful State NRM grant providing the initial stimulus. Teachers have come forward to trial the pest curriculum and supporting resources in their classroom, with highly beneficial feedback provided. At this point in time, the PHBG does not have the resources for staff to go into schools to run class sessions, so it must recruit educators to engage with, and deliver the program. COVID-19 has been enlightening as to how educational materials can be packaged, and the PHBG will take this learning forward.



PHBG staff designed a postcard (left, showing front and back of postcard) that was given to children after they completed biosecurity challenges, run at agricultural shows across the region.

It was hoped that the postcard would make its way back to their teacher.



The Poo Champion sticker (above) was developed to attract children (and their parents) to PHBG stalls. The children use a set of scat boards (made by the SJ Men's Shed) to identify feral, native and pet animal poo. Scat identification is a handy skill to use around the home, in the paddock and in local bushland.

Value add:
STEM resources freely available to local educators.



3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Declared Pest Rate accounting and reporting timeline



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Calendar Year Timeline

The Operational Plan Period is highlighted in Green

- Funds disbursed to Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) as follows
 - January - 50% of the Operational Plan Required Amount
 - February – 25% of the Operational Plan Required Amount adjusted for any surplus from the prior calendar year
 - April-June - 25% of the Operational Plan Required Amount adjusted for any rate payments not received in the billing year + any prior year rates paid in the current billing year



2019 Treasurer's Report

AGM 3/6/2020

I would like to present the review of the financials for the six months to December 31, 2018 and the audited financials for the 12 months to December 31, 2019. These reports have been completed by Ward and Ilsley Partners, Business Accountants, Mandurah.

Background Information

The Declared Pest Rate (DPR) is set at \$30 per rate notice for properties 1ha and above in the Peel Harvey operational area which includes the local government authorities of Serpentine Jarrahdale, Murray, Waroona, Harvey and Mandurah. Prior to the DPR, the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group was dependent on short term funding from State and Local government.

The rate is collected by the Office of State Revenue (OSR) and is matched dollar for dollar by the State Government. The funds are held by the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD) in a Declared Pest Account.

The first Peel Harvey rate notices were sent out by OSR in September 2018. As the payments are received over several months, the bulk of the funds are not available from DPIRD until after January.

To better suit this funding timeline PHBG decided to change their financial period to a calendar year. This was done at our last AGM held in February 2019.

Our first DPR Budget was \$401,050. The first instalment for \$178,866 was received from DPIRD on the 22/11/2018

As of the 1/1/2019 we started a new financial period. A review was done for the six months 1/7/2018 to 31/12/2018.

As of the 31/12/2018 we had \$196,701 in unspent funds.

\$40,000 was journaled to Reserves Non DPR. These funds were received from other sources and are not part of the DPR.

\$156,701 was journaled to Unspent Grants State.

These funds were carried through to the new financial year.

We received the remainder of the DPR funds (total \$401,050) at the following times;

8/5/19 \$150,000

9/10/19 \$ 72,184

As of the 31/12/2019 we had unspent funds of \$98,517.

Note 3: 2-1240 Grants in Advance

The organisation receives grant funding from the Department of Primary Industries. Any unspent funding is able to be carried forward to be used in following years. The below table provides a summary:

	31-Dec-19	31-Dec-18	30-Jun-18
Brought Forward Balance	156,701	31,045	0
Grant Received during Period	222,184	209,966	31,045
Grant Expended During Period	(280,368)	(84,310)	0
Carry Forward Balance	98,517	156,701	31,045

Break Down of Funds Carried over to 2020

DPR Funds	\$79,167
Prof Pest State NRM	<u>\$19,350</u>
	\$98,517

General funds \$18,701 was added to Reserves Non DPR (Total \$58,701)

Additional Notes

The main areas of underspend were the Fruit Fly Program, Travel, and Research.

PHBG have 2.4 FTE employees committed to the main focus areas of education, community support and the provision of equipment to assist landholders to control declared pests and weeds.

On the advice of Gavin Shearing, Management Accountant for DPIRD, the funds held by DPIRD in the Declared Pest Account are to be listed in the Balance Sheet of the PHBG. As of December 31, 2019 this amount was \$385,947.

Assets

Major purchases through 2019

- Portable PA System
- Samsung Galaxy A50 Black Phone
- Fox Traps x 15
- Pig Traps x 4
- Rubber jaw traps x 6
- Jensan Rabbit Smoker
- Tree Poppers x 20
- A Frame Stands x 2
- Weed Wiper
- Motion Cameras x 7
- Display Counters x 6
- Books - Southern Weeds x 300

Previous purchases include the display trailer, gazebo, knapsack sprayers, projector and screen.

Total Asset value is approximately \$32,000

I would like to move that the Financial Reports for 2018 and 2019 be accepted by the PHBG Members.

Colleen Archibald
Hon. Treasurer

PEEL HARVEY BIOSECURITY GROUP INCORPORATED

STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE

In The opinion of the Committee: -

1. The accompanying Income & Expenditure Statements of the organisation are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the organisation for the year ending 31 December 2019.
2. The accompanying Balance Sheet of the organisation is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Organisation as at the end of that period.
3. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the organisation will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
4. The accompanying financial statements have not necessarily been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Applicable Approved Accounting Standards, but do comply with the Organisation's constitution.

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

Name Vaughn W Byrd

Position: Chair Person

CH Archibald

Name Colleen Archibald

Position: Treasurer

Dated: 3rd May 2020

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
Assets		
Current Assets		
1-1110 PHBG Chq Acc	188,052	234,930
1-1120 PHBG Debit Card	1,990	978
Accounts Receivable (A/R) - DPR Grant	385,947	-
Total Current Assets	<u>575,989</u>	<u>235,908</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>575,989</u></u>	<u><u>235,908</u></u>
 Liabilities and shareholder's equity		
Current liabilities:		
2-1170 Employee Provisions		
2-1171 Annual Leave Provision	7,363	5,460
2-1172 Long Serve Provisions	6,613	3,678
Total 2-1170 Employee Provisions	<u>13,976</u>	<u>9,138</u>
2-1190 Superannuation payable	5,610	3,599
2-1240 Grants in Advance	98,517	156,701
2-1250 Grants in Advance DPA	385,947	-
ATO Clearing Account	13,218	26,449
Total current liabilities	<u>517,268</u>	<u>195,888</u>
 Shareholders' equity:		
Net Income	0	-
3-0500 Opening balance equity	20	20
3-4000 Reserves Non DPR	58,701	40,000
3-4002 Contingency Reserves DPR	-	-
Total shareholders' equity	<u>58,721</u>	<u>40,020</u>
Total liabilities and equity	<u><u>575,989</u></u>	<u><u>235,908</u></u>

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
Income & Expenditure Statement
As of 31 December 2019

	2019	2018
Income		
4-1050 Grants State	378,885	209,966
4-1051 State Grants DPA	385,947	-
4-1061 Unspent Grant State	(98,517)	(125,656)
4-1062 Unspent Grant State DPA	(385,947)	-
4-1080 Grants Local	-	40,000
4-1081 Unspent Grant Local	-	(40,000)
4-1100 Grants Other	1,500	-
4-4010 Sales of Goods Income	-	55
4-5020 Interest Income	981	213
4-5035 Recoupments	-	-
Project Costs Recouped	21	-
Total 4-5035 Recoupments	21	-
4-5050 Sundry Income	214	-
Services	630	-
Total Income	283,713	84,578
Gross Profit	283,713	84,578

These are special purpose financial statements

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
Income & Expenditure Statement
As of 31 December 2019

	2019	2018
Expenses		
6-0010 Accounting and bookkeeping	1,060	245
6-0020 Advertising and marketing	803	20
6-0040 Asset Purchased	23,902	963
6-0050 Audit Fees	800	900
6-0070 Bank charges and fees	117	18
6-0100 Cleaning	400	-
6-0110 Client or Event Support		
6-0111 Catering	940	365
6-0112 Workshops	1,310	105
Total 6-0110 Client or Event Support	2,250	470
6-0210 Client or Event Consumables	4,795	1,512
6-0220 Computer and IT	7,998	35
6-0230 Consultancy Expenses	14,505	3,000
6-0300 Gifts and donations	388	34
6-0330 Fees and Permits	172	47
6-0400 Insurance	4,182	-
6-0480 Meeting Expenses	1,464	257
6-0490 Membership Fees paid	189	-
6-0500 Vehicle Expenses	77	-
6-0510 Postage & shipping	9,382	46
6-0520 Printing, stationery & supplies	1,971	730
6-0540 Publications and Resources	9,003	-
6-0590 Repair and maintenance	227	304
6-0600 Salary and wages - staff	144,050	58,244
6-0607 Superannuation Expense	14,881	5,450
6-0608 Annual Leave Provision	1,903	5,460
6-0609 LSL Provision	2,935	3,678
6-0612 Honorarium and fees	2,750	-
6-0660 Staff Amenities	206	-
6-0670 Sundry Expenses	21	-
6-0680 Telephone & internet	1,659	218
6-0700 Training and Development (Staff)	5,206	793
6-0710 Travel expenses	6,104	1,512
6-0730 Volunteer Costs	-	485
6-0731 Travel	319	156
6-0732 Volunteer Training	1,292	-
Total 6-0730 Volunteer Costs	1,611	641
Reserves Non DPR	18,701	-
Total Expenses	283,711	84,578

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
Income & Expenditure Statement
As of 31 December 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Other Expenses		
BAS Roundoff Gain or Loss	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Other Expenses	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Surplus \ (Deficit)	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

Note 1: Accounting Policies

These financial statements are a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the requirements of the organisation to prepare financial accounts. The Committee has determined that the organisation is not a reporting entity.

- (a) The financial report was prepared on a cash basis of accounting, including the historical cost convention.
- (b) The requirements of accounting standards and other professional reporting requirements in Australia do not have mandatory applicability to Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated because it is not a 'reporting entity'. Therefore, the organisation has not prepared the financial report in accordance with any Australian accounting standards.

Note 2: Presentation of Comparative Information

The comparative information within the income and expenditure statement represents audited figures for the 6-months ended 31 December 2018, it is therefore, difficult to compare the year ended 31 December 2019 to the 6-months ended 31 December 2018.

Note 3: 2-1240 Grants in Advance

The organisation receives grant funding from the Department of Primary Industries. Any unspent funding is able to be carried forward to be used in following years. The below table provides a summary:

	31-Dec-19	31-Dec-18	30-Jun-18
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Carry Forward Balance	98,517	156,701	31,045

AUDITORS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
PEEL HARVEY BIOSECURITY GROUP INCORPORATED

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated (the Organisation) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019, statement of comprehensive income, notes to and forming part of the accounts and statement by the committee of management.

In our opinion, the financial report of Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated, presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position as at 31 December 2019 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Basis of 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 Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated 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

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report which describes the revenue recognition policy of Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated, including the limitations that exist in relation to the recording of cash receipts from various revenue sources. As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable to maintain an effective control over income and expenses prior to their initial entry into the accounting records, and therefore, no opinion is expressed on the accuracy of these amounts. However, all amounts recorded as deposits and payments have been properly reflected in the financial report. Accordingly, our audit procedures were limited to the amounts recorded in the books of accounts. We have not verified the existence or value of the fixed assets and the closing stock figures as shown on the balance sheet but have relied upon information provided to us by the finance officer. Our opinion is unmodified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

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 the 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 this 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.

WARD & ILSLEY PARTNERS PTY LTD
Certified Practising Accountants
55C Mandurah Terrace, Mandurah, WA



I J A ILSLEY CPA
On 18th April 2020

**PEEL HARVEY
BIOSECURITY GROUP**

