



**GOLDFIELDS NULLARBOR RANGELANDS
BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC.**

ANNUAL REPORT

For 2020 – 2021 FINANCIAL YEAR

Prepared by

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GNRBA AGM Chairman's Report 2021

Welcome and thank you all for attending our 10th Annual General Meeting as the GNRBA.

The GNRBA continues to grow and evolve as an association which contributes to the organisation being recognised as a leader in our field of expertise. This is achieved with a small but dedicated team of individuals consisting of the Chief Executive Officer Michelle Donaldson, Executive Assistant Amanda Day, Financial Officer Ross Wood, Project Officer Erin Gorter, S7 and senior Licensed Pest Management Technician Teen Ryan and the GNRBA committee.

Additionally, our continued growth would not be possible without the Partnerships sought and nurtured throughout the year with the likes of Local and State Government Departments, various service providers and numerous consultants. We would not be as successful in our endeavours without the input from these people.

The fundamental challenges for the GNRBA are the area of responsibility (933,000 sq km), land tenure (Pastoral, mining, Native Title & UCL), the very different fundamental objectives of land and lease owners and finally, the limited funding available in which to implement effective pest management programs.

The majority of GNRBA funding is received through the set biosecurity rate which is matched by State Government, this is known as the 'Declared Pest Account'. In addition to this, funding from other sources include, but are not limited to, State and Local Governments, State NRM, Rangelands NRM, Industry and Business and support from other like-minded individuals and groups.

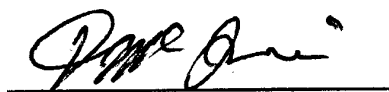
The GNRBA has again had a very busy year with the large majority of our funding going into Wild Dog Control, Large Feral Herbivores and Cactus. I would also like to mention the time and financial contributions that many pastoralists put into the biosecurity efforts in the Rangelands. The GNRBA objective is to support pastoralists in the management of pests on Pastoral lands and it is acknowledged and appreciated the contribution many of our members make to ensuring to the best of our ability, our most notorious pests are kept at manageable levels.

All projects for the 2020-2021 year are on schedule and are at various stages of acquittal. For a comprehensive run down on all projects and activities undertaken by the GNRBA please refer to the Annual Report which will be available in hard copy at the AGM and will be emailed to all members by the end of November.

2021-2022 will bring it's challenges with the impact on the Declared Pest Account as a result of the 2019 land valuations, and in response, objections to Pastoral lease rents. As a result of the 34% budget cut, the GNRBA will focus heavily on maintaining core business operation's, taking advantage of relevant opportunities when available and ensuring that the land valuation process and the impact it has had on the DPA is not repeated in the future.

Again, I would like to thank all those that are present and all those that have assisted the GNRBA this year and in previous years to maintain the high standards that we and others have come to expect from a professional association.

David McQuie



Chair Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association (GNRBA) Inc.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc. (GNRBA) is a non-profit Incorporated Association. It trades as the GNRBA and operates using the Pest Rate, matching Government Funds and allocated Royalties for Regions (R4R) funds. Additionally, it continually attracts and acquits special purpose grants.

The GNRBA formally became operational on 1st July 2011. At this time, it took over the APB Zone 9 operations. Since then, the GNRBA has continued to evolve as an organisation and has learnt the necessity of flexibility to reflect the needs of its members.

The GNRBA is unique in rangeland management across Western Australia. It has a huge area to service and works hard to provide a quality service to ratepayers and is now well recognised as being a leader amongst the Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBG's) in WA. It incorporates the Shires of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Menzies, Sandstone, Leonora, Laverton, Wiluna, Dundas and Ngaanyatjaraku. The Western Australia RBG land tenure map including their priority pests is presented on page five.

The GNRBA is overseen by a Committee of Management (CoM) and operates under the structure of the GNRBA Constitution. Committee meetings are held face to face or via a video conferencing platform quarterly.

Table 1: 2020/21 Committee of Management

Name	Location	Joined	Term End
Brendan Jones	Mt Monger	2018	2021
Edmund Forrester	Kanandah	2018	2021
Nigel Wessels	DBCA	2018	2021
Justin Stevens	Mt Vetter	2019	2022
Brett Day	Gunnadorah	2019	2022
David McQuie	Bulga Downs	2020	2023
Trevor Schutz	Laverton Downs	2020	2023
Carol Hodshon	Atley	2020	2023

The GNRBA is managed day to day by Michelle Donaldson as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Amanda Day as Executive Assistant, Ross Wood in a part time capacity as Financial Officer, Erin Gorter as Project Officer and Teen Ryan as the S7 licensee and Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMT) and LPMT co-ordinator. Mike Hutson Accountants continues to oversee the Association's finances which, is a complicated process due to the number of grant funding sources.

The employment of Amanda Day as Executive Assistant (EA) has brought welcomed relief, providing the CEO with executive support for the many and varied projects, compliance requirements and on ground operations.

The GNRBA is the formally recognised Biosecurity Group for this region and as such is authorised to set the pest rate applicable to pastoral leases. This rate is matched by State Government monies. This allows the GNRBA to effectively double pastoralist's rates to assist with pest control. It is important to note that the role of the GNRBA is to assist pastoralists to control pests and weeds. It is not able to, nor is it to, replace pastoralists' control efforts.

The GNRBA partners with Shires and other organisations such as Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Rangelands Natural Resource Management (RNRM), to leverage funds and further increase its ability to provide services.

The GNRBA CEO sits on the board of the Industry Funding Scheme (Sheep and Goats) which provides additional insight into Industry and Government funding structures and gives the opportunity to have input into industry on a broader scale and build networks.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), formally DPaW, is an Associate Member of the GNRBA. It is this responsibility of the State Government department to manage Wild Dogs and pests on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and DBCA estate. To achieve this, DBCA engages the GNRBA to undertake Wild Dog control in the region on relevant country.

Importantly, the GNRBA continues to engage with Aboriginal owned Pastoral Lease holders Windidda, Pinjin and Adelong Stations to achieve more integrated pest programs. The GNRBA has also established a good working relationship with Aboriginal native title holders including Spinifex, Birriliburu, Ngadju and Matu people.

During the 2020/21 financial year \$100,000 funding through the Royalties for Regions program was again made available to the group. This funding has been used to support aerial work and LPMT work on the Nullarbor. These funds can only be used for Wild Dog control alongside small stock properties. This funding has again been renewed for one more year, potentially ending, with no current replacement proposed, at the 30th June 2022. The GNRBA continues to correspond and apply for future replacement funding.

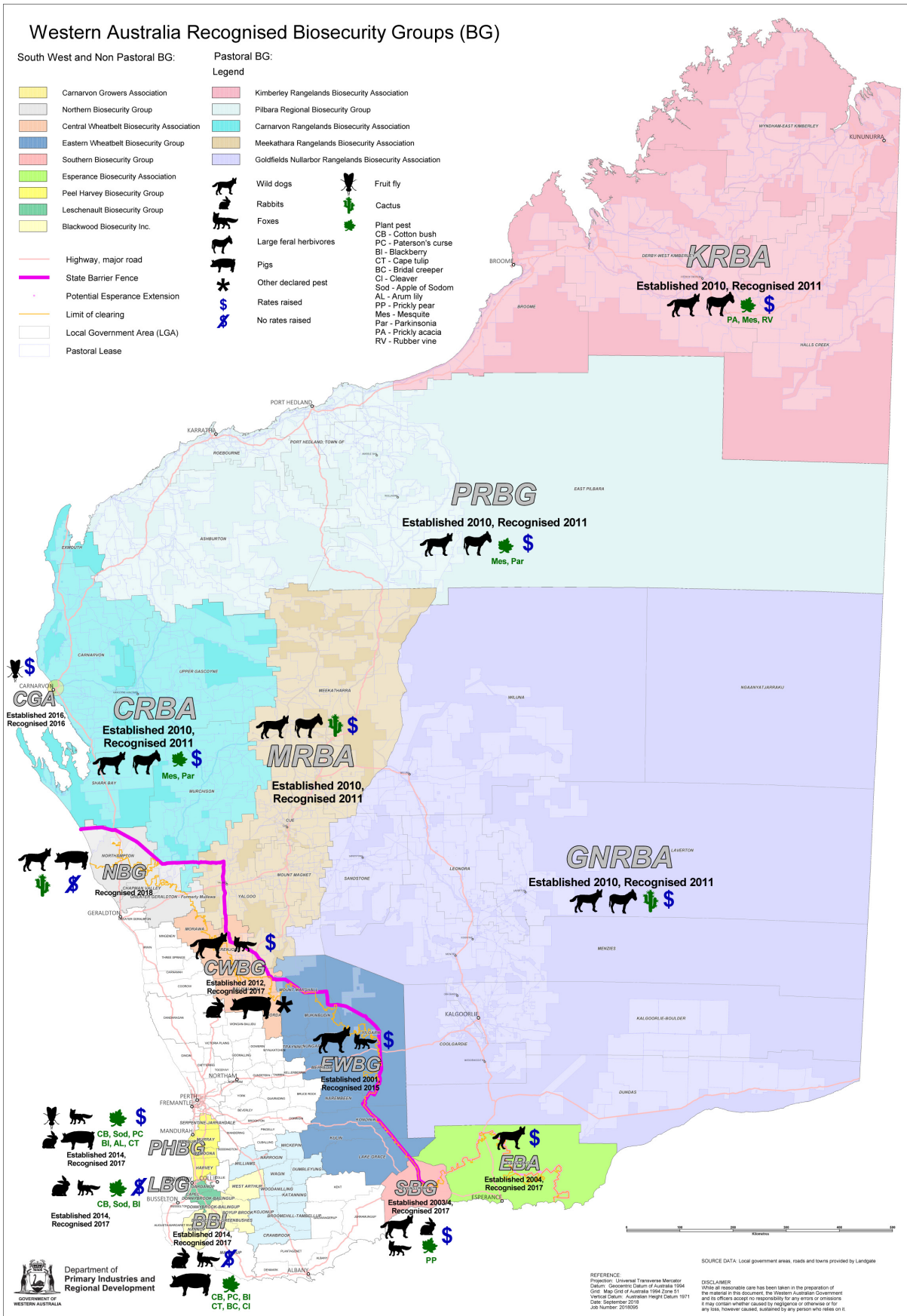
The CEO has been working closely with the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) and the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC), receiving much support with the development of a long term Camel Management Strategy.

Additionally, the partnerships with local shires such as Menzies, Leonora, Coolgardie, Dundas, Laverton, City of Kalgoorlie/Boulder and Wiluna has continued this year with their ongoing support for cactus control work and LFH program planning.

The GNRBA works closely with and alongside the DPIRD Invasive Species team and acknowledges the considerable help and advice provided by the Department in all facets of our operation. This has been of great mutual benefit to both organisations.

The GNRBA CEO continues to engage and support other RBG's and works to better understand the complexities of Native Title possession and engage with Traditional Owners (TO's) on issues such as camel control, weeds and baiting.

2. Recognised Biosecurity Group Land Tenure



3 GNRBA AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Initiate, promote and foster the control of declared animal and plant pests
- Encourage all persons to adopt sound biosecurity practices
- Prevent land and biodiversity degradation to protect our resources
- Foster sustainable development & production
- Act as the “Voice” for landholders (pastoralists and others) in the region

4 CORE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2020 – 2021

A. Baiting Operations

GNRBA purchased some 370,000 pre prepared wild dog baits from two suppliers at a cost of \$284,000. These were delivered to our Kalgoorlie freezer and/or direct to properties. A total of 3,160kg of prepared fresh meat was supplied by a third supplier, giving qualified pastoralists the option to inject their own baits. The GNRBA organised 3 sponsored ground baiting's across the Goldfields Nullarbor but due to a chiller breakdown in April, one of these consignments was lost, resulting in the delivery of only 2 on ground programs for 2020/21. A remote temperature monitoring system has been installed on both chillers to ensure this event is not repeated. Very importantly, the GNRBA recognises the difficulties around making baits and delivering to stations. The Committee is mindful of its responsibilities and the limitations whilst facilitating the distribution of 1080 baits.

The GNRBA continues to encourage Pastoralists to become more strategic in their bait laying, baiting either known dog areas or where evidence is present. The aim of this is to be more targeted with the use of baits, saving money on bait production and freeing these funds up to invest into more LPMT's on the ground.



The CEO visited the Eastern District Pet Food facility during October 2020, the predominant GNRBA bait supplier, to find an absolutely A1 operation. It is important for members to appreciate how fortunate they are to have a service such as this made available to them. Replacing the old bait rack system, this efficient operation not only produces a clean, consistent, compliant and quality product, it also frees members up, for days at a time, to undertake other station duties.

More and more members are moving towards the cryovac bait product. The quality is consistent, the packaging and storage options are convenient and the product fresher. This then supplies the convenience of access to pre prepared baits all year round. Time and labour increases significantly with the production of cryovac baits, and due to scarce meat supplies and a wet winter during 2021, cryovac baits have been in limited supply. GNRBA's aim is to have these back in full production for 2022. Online training for the safe handling of 1080 is available through DPIRD's website.

The GNRBA also supplies shelf ready 1080 baits to use during summer where bungarra activity seems to diminish the effectiveness of fresh meat baiting.

The GNRBA is acutely aware that any failure to adhere to protocols may lead to the loss of 1080 as a management tool. As such, the GNRBA is maintaining a public awareness campaign through media and public notices and encourages pastoralists to

be vigilant regarding advising neighbours of baiting activities and adhering to the rules of 1080 usage, including appropriate signage.

B. Wild Dog Operations

Wild Dogs continued to impact on pastoral activities across the Goldfields Nullarbor region throughout 2020/2021. During this period, reported stock deaths from Wild Dog attacks have continued to effect confidence in the GNRBA effort and pastoralist enterprises. Reported Wild Dog activity in 2020/21 occurred across the entire GNRBA area.

There has been no re-entry into small stock production by Pastoralists due to a lack of confidence in the ability for the region to consistently control Wild Dogs and eagles. Except for some parts of the Nullarbor with appropriate Wild Dog fencing, Pastoralists maintain cattle enterprises in response to the Wild Dog impact. Clearly exclusion fencing is essential for the survival of small stock in the region.

Known dog kills by either trapping or shooting is simple to report (a quantitative measurement) as there is evidence by means of a carcass. Dog kills as a result of baiting is not as clear to report on as there is no carcass. It is a qualitative measurement, the only reliable indicator currently available to pastoralists to reflect the success of a co-ordinated baiting program is the lack of evidence of on ground activity such as wild dog tracks, scratching's, scats and a reduction in known stock attacks. An increase in dog numbers was reported by members following the loss of the April bait consignment. A decrease in wild dog activity/evidence was also reported directly following the two baiting programs.

The GNRBA request dog kill numbers quarterly from all pastoral members. Not all members respond to this request and therefore the figure in Table 2 is not reflective of the entire GNRBA region. The Association continues to highlight the importance of this information and the number of pastoralists reporting in continues to grow.

Table 2: Known Dog Kills 2020-2021

Known Dog Kills	Method
152	Trapped/Shot

During the month of August 2020, the GNRBA again organised a Trap Training Day for members, this time at Black Hill Station. Teen Ryan ran the participants (Black Hill, Youno Downs, Atley Station and Yeelirrie Station) through the process of trap setting and recognising the signs of wild dog activity. Trap boxes were distributed to each of the participating stations at the completion of the day.

Members who have adopted the trap box and increased their active trapping activities alongside more strategic ground bait placement, have supplied encouraging feedback with positive results in wild dog kills. This training and the trap boxes are an ongoing service available to members at the once off sacrifice of 5 bags of baits. Online training for the safe handling of strychnine is available through DPIRD's website.



Ongoing issues with the inconsistent supply and efficacy of strychnine throughout the year has encouraged the GNRBA to research into the importation of the product directly from India. The GNRBA S7 retailer, Teen Ryan, is midway through this process which, if it proves a viable and practical option, will bring ease of mind to both members and the organisation. It is hoped, this product will be available before the end of the 2021 calendar year.

Teen Ryan has been instrumental in the ongoing management and mentoring of the 4 LPMT trainees for the region. All four LPMT's are now fully qualified and operating in varying capacity across the Goldfields.

DPIRD continues to trial Canid Pest Ejectors and the GNRBA has shared these finding but further demand by members regarding the product has not been received.

Several non-target deaths have been reported this year. Procedures have been introduced by the GNRBA in response to these reports in an attempt to ensure the incidents are not repeated. Where necessary, incidents are investigated by DPIRD, DBCA and Dept of Health to ensure protocols have been adhered to. It is essential that 1080 handling and the GNRBA wishes to ensure that 1080 protocols are followed. It is a requirement that all public entrances to properties are adequately signed. The GNRBA have stencils and signs available and are available upon request.

It must be realised that there are many in the community that simply do not care or acknowledge that we need 1080. It is one of the few remaining tools to deal with Wild Dogs and must be used wisely and within guidelines.

C. Aerial Baiting

An aerial baiting program was conducted across the Goldfields and Nullarbor during July 2020. The aerial program is currently under review to ensure all governance requirements are met and the program is run in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Aerial baiting is an integral part of the GNRBA baiting process and an important tool that is to be used to target areas specifically that are inaccessible to ground based staff but is well suited to harbouring wild dogs. The GNRBA will continue to plan and budget for aerial baiting operations throughout the affected landscape. Increasingly, these aerial baiting's require more and more effort to ensure compliance and to obtain effective results.

D. West Australian Wild Dog Action Plan and R4R Funding

Although the review of WA Wild Dog Action Plan (2021-2024) is complete, a long term, equitable funding structure to replace R4R funding has not been decided upon by DPIRD. It is anticipated a decision regarding this very important funding will be made by early 2022.

A variation has been obtained to allow the GNRBA to utilise the R4R funding for aerial baiting operations in addition to the traditional LPMT operations. The replacement of data loggers by Feral Scan continues to be problematic due to the vast area covered by our LPMT's but the organisation continues to work towards an agreeable result.

E. Large Feral Herbivore (LFH) Control

The GNRBA completed an LFH aerial cull in the Northern Goldfields in March 2021 in partnership with the Wiluna Shire, Desert Support Services (DSS), Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation (TMPAC), DBCA and pastoralists. The CEO co-ordinated the activities from Matuwa (Old Lorna Glen Pastoral lease) and the program ran smoothly with no incidents or breaches to report. A full post activity report was delivered to all stakeholders and is available from the GNRBA.

A ground shoot with aerial support was co-ordinated between 3 pastoral stations on the Nullarbor in August 2020. In-kind contributions of food, accommodation, labour, avgas and a fixed wing aircraft ensured an effective and efficient operation.

The GNRBA request LFH kill numbers quarterly from all pastoral members. Not all members respond to this request and therefore the figures (Table 3) are not reflective of the entire GNRBA region. The Association continues to highlight the importance of this information and pastoralists reporting in continues to grow.



Table 3. LFH 2020/2021 Shoot Summary and Breakdown

Month	Method	Location	Number	Numbers/hr	Cost/head
March 2021	Aerial	Northern Goldfields	1289 LFH	25	\$40/LFH
August 2020	Ground	Nullarbor	1019 LFH	N/A	\$23.84
July 2020- June 2021	Pastoralist reporting	Entire GNRBA area	1235 LFH	N/A	Unknown

This brings the total of known LFH kills for 2020-2021 to 3,543.

The GNRBA continues to work collaboratively with Shires, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (DBCA), Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) and Pastoralist's to design strategies to support a viable long term LFH Management Plan.

An Ammunition Allowance of up to \$500/per property is available for those properties on UCL interface facing extreme hardship. For more information contact the GNRBA CEO.

F. Weed Control



The GNRBA continues to manage a number of cactus projects across the landscape, attracting partnerships with Shires, DBCA and pastoralists across various tenure. The biological control work undertaken on several cactus species and co-ordinated by the GNRBA has gained the organisation significant credibility and exposure within the community.

Making pastoralists and the community aware of this devastating weed and the impact it has on the landscape is a priority for the GNRBA and cannot be underestimated. More information regarding GNRBA cactus work will be found in the 'Grants & Project' section.

Further biological control work on Bathurst Burr is currently stalled due to the appropriate control agent not currently available in Australia.

The GNRBA manages a weed chemical subsidy process that reimburses pastoralists up to \$500/property for dealing with declared weeds such as Bathurst Burr. To apply for this assistance please contact the CEO.

A literature review has been completed with promising findings regarding biological control of onion weed and these will be explored during 2021-2022.

The GNRBA continues to gather information regarding weeds in an effort to develop a workable weed management plan. This is essential when applying for funding and assistance. It is anticipated a new weed plan will become available during 2022-2023.

Teen Ryan, the GNRBA's senior LPMT, is qualified to spray weeds such as cactus when out in the field. Due to the scale of the GNRBA area of operations and compliance with funding requirements, most of Teen's spray work is undertaken on the Nullarbor where the majority of her wild dog control work is undertaken.

G. Newsletters & Website

The GNRBA continues to keep all members up to date regarding all current activities with quarterly newsletters which are distributed both electronically and via Australia Post as hardcopies.

Additionally, the GNRBA website has received a major overhaul this year and carries all current information, forms and acquitted project information.

H. Committee of Management (CoM)

The GNRBA Committee of Management meet quarterly to maintain CEO direction, ensure governance compliance and to discuss any issues that may be relevant at a board level.

I. Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBG's)

Relationships between the GNRBA and the other Pastoral RBG's is strong and the sharing of information and ideas continues to support and assist Pastoral RBG's to evolve and improve their overall efficiencies. GNRBA is an active participant in meetings and ongoing correspondence between all groups in the Rangelands region.

J. Restricted Chemical Product Permits (RCP Permits)

The GNRBA continues to assist pastoralists with their Restricted Chemical Product (RCP) Permit applications and amendments. This is done through financial support (payment for the permits and amendments) and assisting in the lodging process. This is an enormous task undertaken by the GNRBA but greatly assists members to maintain compliance. The renewal of all GNRBA members RCP permits is underway and will be complete by the end of 2021, the compliance process is undertaken every 5 years and takes a number of months to complete.

K. Policies and Procedures

The development of GNRBA policies and procedures has been a steady process over the last 2 years. The employment of a new Executive Assistant in February has significantly assisted in the fast tracking of this process, ensuring a safe working environment and governance compliance.

5 GRANTS AND PROJECTS 2020-2021

Ensure future capacity for the skilled management of Wild Dogs in W.A. Regions (Funding: Industry Funding Scheme (IFS) Sheep and Goats)

An independently sourced 3 year grant funded through the IFS, commenced on 1st July 2019. Four LPMT's were formally trained by Ben Maslen, Carnarvon TAFE. Additional to LPMT training, these individuals have been guided and supported through the process of small business development as independent contractors, all of which are currently supplying their services to the region.

Due to the participants enthusiasm and Teen Ryan's mentoring the project has been acquitted well ahead of schedule and surplus funds, as a result of early acquittal, have been returned to the IFS.

Acquitted: 31/12/2020

Baiting on the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (DBCA) lands (Funding: DBCA)

The GNRBA has entered into an agreement with DBCA Kalgoorlie to undertake all current baiting runs on DBCA lands in the Kalgoorlie area of responsibility. This is a direct result of the GNRBA's financial efficiencies, on ground expertise and the results obtained from the above grant ('Ensuring future capacity for the skilled management of Wild Dogs in WA Regions'), ensuring the availability of skilled LPMT's.

Improving the animal welfare outcomes of Wild Dog management (Funding: DPIRD)

A 15-month grant that commenced 1st March 2019. The GNRBA requested funding to trial 4 Ezy2c 'foot hold' trap alert/monitoring units. DPIRD was impressed with the proposal and doubled the funding allowing the GNRBA to double the number of units to trial to 8.

The animal ethics component of this grant increased the workload and the necessary reporting significantly. The GNRBA is therefore now aware of such commitment and will be mindful of this (both time and cost) when applying for future grants which requires the involvement of the Animal Ethics Committee (AEC).

Acquitted: 31/03/2021

Dry conditions 2 LFH management (Funding: DPIRD)

Due to ongoing LFH pressure throughout the regions, the State Government again responded with financial support in the form of a second 'Dry Conditions Grant' in December 2019 to complement the funds distributed in April 2019. A contract variation was sort so these funds could be used more effectively over a greater period of time. The grant supported an on ground program on the Nullarbor during August 2020 and an aerial program in the Northern Goldfields during March 2021. Dry Conditions Grant 2 is now complete.

Acquitted: 20/04/2021

Biological Control of Brown Spined Hudson Pear in Coolgardie (Funding: Coolgardie Shire)

Coolgardie Shire provided funding to the GNRBA to research and develop a plan to manage the Brown Spined Hudson Pear in Coolgardie in late 2019. This work consisted of implementing a host specific cochineal program, training Shire workers on the management and spread of the insect and ongoing monitoring by the GNRBA. Results have exceeded expectations and the project is now complete. The Coolgardie Shire will continue with the ongoing management of the cochineal from now and into the future.

Acquitted: 30/06/2021

Researching Biological Options for managing Onion Weed on the Nullarbor (Funding: Rangelands NRM WA & Nullarbor Eyre Highway Land Conservation District Committee (NEHLCDC))

Initial research was undertaken to determine if a literature review for the biological control of onion weed was justified. It proved worthy and a literature review was undertaken and the GNRBA has received a number of recommendations from this report which will be researched further in the coming year.

Negotiations are currently underway with RNRM to ensure continued support for weed management and provide valuable funding for GNRBA through additional activities such as the AGM and Annual Field Days.

Acquittal: 30/06/2022

Self-Mustering Trap Yard Pilot (Funding: DPIRD)

The GNRBA received funding in April 2021 to trial trap yards to manage camel numbers throughout the Goldfields/Nullarbor region. Eight pastoral stations along the desert interface are taking part in the project, some yards are designed to trap camels and others designed to exclude camels. The monitoring period will take place from 1st October 2021 to 31st January 2022. All project milestones to date have been met.

Acquittal: 30/04/2022

Wild dog and vertebrate pest training project (Funding: AWI)

AWI has supplied funding for the ongoing trial work of the Ezy2c units. Initial trial work is now complete and highlighted a number of issues with the units. It is the hope of the GNRBA that with this continued funding support these issues will be sorted and the use of these units will become commercially available to members.

Acquittal: 30/06/2022

DPIRD Western Australia Wild Dog trials

There are a number of projects on-going in WA regarding wild dogs. The GNRBA is taking part in much of this and continues to contribute significant time to the maintenance of cameras to detect bait take up by species, bait take up of different baits, bait matrices, bait laying rate (i.e. 40 baits/km) and non target interference and samples for genetic analysis to investigate

dingo purity and gene flow. DPIRD will be trialling CERES tags on cattle early into the 2021-2022 financial year to monitor how cattle cope in the presence of wild dogs and the GNRBA will also be taking part in this project. For detailed information regarding this work please contact Tracey Kreplins at DPIRD.

6. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Employment of an Executive Assistant

Amanda Day commenced employment as the GNRBA's Executive Assistant in February 2021. Amanda comes with a wealth of knowledge of the Pastoral Industry and fills the essential role supporting the CEO in the day to day operations of the GNRBA.

DPIRD accredited machinery wash down facility

The GNRBA's ongoing lobbying to encourage DPIRD to reinstate the accredited machinery wash down facility in Kalgoorlie is now in its second year. Currently, when a piece of machinery receives a direction notice that requires further inspection this can be done in Kalgoorlie. If after inspection the piece of machinery is required to be cleaned, which needs to be done at a DPIRD accredited wash down facility, they are now directed to either Esperance or Perth. This not only poses a significant biosecurity risk to the farming and agricultural regions between Kalgoorlie, Esperance and Perth, but it also adds significant time and cost to the owners of this machinery and the contracted cartage providers. Although the solution is a simple one, the bureaucratic process itself continues to inhibit a result.

Mining company support

The GNRBA has been garnering support from Mining companies in the area with their increased willingness to become involved in pest control and weed management programs. Not only does their involvement greatly assist the GNRBA in providing a more comprehensive service, it also supports their OH&S protocols and provides a safer recreational space for their employees.

Kalgoorlie Pastoral Alliance – Cell Fence

The Kalgoorlie Pastoral Alliance Pty Ltd Project to build a Biosecurity fence around the Kalgoorlie Pastoral stations is quietly progressing.

Ross Wood is the coordinator of the project and the GNRBA continues to support and participate in discussions regarding the fence.

Some 193kms of the 900 kms required has been constructed and funding for materials of Phase 2 of the project has been secured. This includes some funding to construct 50kms on Pinjin Station.

This section of 200kms from the North East (Edjudina Station) to the South (Trans Line) will when built, provide a significant barrier and a line in the sand for dogs and camels on the Eastern side of the Kalgoorlie pastoral stations.

CEO Travels

The Committee of Management encourages the CEO to travel throughout the region to observe the landscape and engage with members. Two tours were undertaken during 2020-2021.

In July 2020 The CEO spent several days on the Nullarbor working with LPMT Teen Ryan, obtaining some great insight into the activities and challenges faced by our LPMT's in the field. It was also a great opportunity to catch up and have some in depth discussions with members on varied topics of relevance.

During October 2020 the CEO completed a 5 day tour of the Northern Goldfields incorporating seven pastoral stations, meeting members at home and giving them the opportunity to discuss topics of choice relevant to the GNRBA.

7. FINANCES

Finance arrangements are managed day to day by the Finance Officer, Ross Wood and overseen by the Treasurer, Justin Stevens. The GNRBA uses Mike Hutson Accounting to manage accounting and cross check banking, and W.F. Dawson and Associates for Auditing purposes.

The GNRBA has managed funding and expenditure of \$1,164,740 this financial year using its traditional rate base and matched funding to leverage R4R funding, grants and Shire contributions.

The 2020/21 Financial statements have been audited and will, as usual, be used to acquit GNRBA funding.

It is to be advised that the GNRBA has received a significant budget reduction (approximately 34%) for the 2021-2022 budget due to pastoral land valuations and the legislation attached to this process. This will bring specific challenges to not only some on ground operations but to regaining the level of funding that the GNRBA requires to operate effectively over the long term.

The GNRBA continues to press for a Biosecurity Levy on all Shire rates to better fund its work into the future. This way Pastoralists will not be the only ones paying for everyone's use of the rangelands. Grants are administratively costly and not always financially beneficial but they continue to be a tool to assist the GNRBA to achieve credibility and runs on the board. The GNRBA will continue to focus on being an effective service provider to ensure the available funding delivers what pastoralists need.

8. CONCLUSION

The 2020-2021 year has seen the group continue to evolve and maintain its financial and operational independence. The GNRBA Committee of Management adopts a proactive approach to securing funding to assist pastoralists and land managers in the region. This has resulted in securing additional funding through the R4R project, Rangelands NRM WA and various other State Government Grants.

Staffing structure has changed significantly as a result of governance requirements but has also benefitted the organisation. For the first time, the GNRBA is in a strong position regarding operating support. The GNRBA is no longer reliant on one individual and will continue to operate smoothly into the future as individuals transition in and out of the organisation.

The GNRBA is very conscious of the administrative costs involved in operating an organisation such as this and works hard to use funds available as efficiently as possible. There are still, and will continue to be, processes regarding the provision of Operational Plans, Budgets, Annual Reports, a successful external audit and much governance for GNRBA to comply with to be able to access the matched government funds.

Wild Dog activity over the region continues to be managed utilising all tools currently available (baiting, trapping and shooting). The GNRBA continues to work hard to bring more resources to the table to help maintain Wild Dog numbers at a manageable level in the Association's area of operations.

Native Title determinations continue to have a significant impact on the GNRBA's abilities to operate in UCL. It is essential the GNRBA continues to engage and develop relationships with Native Title holders in all areas. This is a timely and expensive process, however it is important for continued effective Biosecurity management in this region.

The GNRBA continues to deliver quality results to the livestock industry within the Goldfields Nullarbor and does so through the:

- Continual development of the following GNRBA Plans:
 1. 5 year Management Plan.
 2. Wild Dog Management Plan
 3. Large Feral Herbivore Management Plan
- Encouragement of members to participate on the CoM and to use their abilities and networks to build the GNRBA effectiveness.

In partnership with relevant Shires very good results continue to be realised using biological control methods on various cactus species in the Shires of Leonora, Menzies, Laverton and Coolgardie.

In conjunction with the annual LFH aerial shoot program, the GNRBA is working with relevant stakeholders to develop a long-term camel management strategy.

The GNRBA recognises the benefits resulting from actively engaging with the Department of Biosecurity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and having Nigel Wessels (DBCA Regional manager) on the CoM is essential to maximise these benefits.

I would like to thank the Committee of Management for their support and leadership over the year and I would like to recognise the value and time they provide this organisation on behalf of all members.

The GNRBA continues to evolve and proves to be a strong leader in the RBG space. It will be the focus of the Association to increase resources, build on relationships and the continued development of clear management and business plans moving into the 2021-2022 financial and operating year.

Michelle Donaldson



Chief Executive Officer

12th October 2021

