



ANNUAL DPR REPORT
2021-2022

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INTRODUCTION

The Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc. (EBA) was originally formed as the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group Inc. (NMDSG) in 2003, following a community meeting called by concerned farmers, due to the increased livestock attacks by wild dogs within the Esperance Region. The EBA changed to become a Recognised Biosecurity Group in 2017.

The EBA is managed by an active and dedicated voluntary committee comprising of 11 farmers, who engage one Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMTs) who are procured by the Esperance Shire and an Administrator. The EBA Committee meet regularly to ensure efficient management of the group.

EBA work closely with Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Esperance Shire and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, consulting with them regularly and inviting them to attend committee meetings to assist with the management of the group.

The EBA has gained significant experience managing wild dog populations using a variety of best-practice methods throughout the region. It is the responsibility of landholders to control wild dogs on their property, however, EBA were specifically set up to assist with controlling wild dogs within the region. The group's LPMT target his efforts at the interface of agricultural land and the vast areas of woodlands, which provide the source of new wild dogs entering the agricultural land.

The continuing risk that wild dogs pose for livestock farmers, particularly sheep, in the region deters many farmers from investing or re-investing in livestock as wild dog attacks are a continuing concern.

The EBA was the community driver of the proposal to construct an extension to the State Barrier Fence, to extend around the Esperance Agricultural area. This is the long-term answer to controlling the wild dog problem. Construction was set to recommence in late 2022 upon completion of ILUA agreement with the Tjaltjraak People.

An ILUA with the Ngadju People is currently being negotiated for the Fence north of Salmon Gums

Chairman's report (from AGM 22/9/2022)

Welcome to our AGM and thanks for coming. I would like to thank our committee our members and our sponsors thanks to our executive officer Veronica for continuing to do great job and to Peter Harkness secretary treasurer. And for your input with the other RBGS .to the Esperance shire for your ongoing support and to Beth as well doing our finances. A big thank you to basil Parker for your work on the committee and your work on the on our behalf on the shire and on behalf of the committee a big thank you.to Darren Dixon and DPIRD and to Danny for a job well done. And to Shelley pane for her help and input to our group and ongoing support thank you. Well, 12 months on we are still trying to sort out the permit issues with DBCA which has not yet been resolved. We held a field day in September at cascade which included the national wild dog committee the industry funding scheme committee, and the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia which was great exposure to our group. With about 60 people attending we are still waiting for clarification with DPIRD when the fence will resume. Hopefully we will find out soon. Thank you

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Outcomes/Achievement	Analysis	Recommendation
Reduce livestock losses to less than 100 animals per year, with an ultimate aim of zero losses	<p>Continue to engage fully qualified LPMTs to implement an integrated tracking, trapping and baiting wild dog control program for the Esperance Region. In accordance with best pest control practices</p> <p><i>The Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of Strychnine in Western Australia</i> must be adhered to at all times.</p> <p><i>The Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of 1080 in Western Australia</i> must be adhered to at all times</p>	<p>One qualified LPMT were engaged during 21/22 implementing the control program</p> <p>Specific objective of reducing stock losses to less than 100 was achieved.</p> <p>The code of practice for the safe use and management of 1080 and Strychnine in WA were adhered too</p>	<p>28 Wild dogs taken</p> <p>Less than 100 livestock losses were reported to EBA</p>	Continue to engage fully qualified LPMT to implement the wild dog control program
	<p>Hand baiting – this is to be incorporated in the LPMTs integrated control program, abiding by the <i>Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of 1080 in Western Australia</i></p>	<p>All positions of baits distributed were logged using data loggers, the data being converted into maps showing the locations.</p> <p>The code of practice for the safe use and management of 1080 in WA was adhered to</p>	2744 -1080 dry meat baits laid	No changes needed LPMT to continue to determine best placement of baits as needed.
	Aerial baiting	Not needed in 21/22		Reassess annually
	Provide support to Landholders to control declared pests (wild dogs, foxes) on their properties	Provided Fox baits to landholders to assist with the control of Foxes on their properties. Correct procedures followed with DPIRD handling the distribution of baits	7 landholders utilized this service	Continue to promote this service to landholders within the Esperance Region

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	Risk Assessments on all localities where wild dog control program is implemented	Permits to bait on DBCA managed UCL land rolled over from previous year	Permit system is still under review.	Permit system and Code of Practice for the safe use and management of 1080 is under review by DPIRD, DBCA and DoH with plans of having new system in place.
Support the construction of the Esperance Extension to the State Barrier Fence	Liaise with Tim Thompson- DPIRD for regular updates on the project and assist where possible	Meetings and correspondence with appropriate Ministers and DPIRD staff to get ILUA negotiation and construction back on track	ILUA agreement reached. Contracts to be issued by DPIRD	Continue to advocate the construction of the fence
Community Engagement	Community Engagement events	Field Day planned in conjunction with IFS (sheep and goat) committee visit to Esperance in March. Postponed due to Covid. Field day to be held 1 Sept, 2022. Presentation at the SEPWA harvest debrief to remind stakeholders of work EBA performs	Notice of Annual General Meeting	Continue to engage stakeholders regularly through field days and at stakeholder events.
Efficient Reporting	Report to funding bodies as required in funding agreements	Reporting to funding bodies have been predominantly successful with only some delays due to new Administrator.		
Off Target Deaths – Aim for nil off target deaths	Monitor and record off target deaths	Objective achieved Records kept in minutes of committee meetings	Nil off-target deaths reported	Continue to employ best practice protocols.

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Report to Pesticides Advisory Committee	Report to the Pesticides Advisory Committee on off target deaths, include nil reports	Objective achieved 2020/21 report has been submitted for tabling at the Pesticides Advisory Committee meeting Copy of submitted report has been kept on file	2021/22 report submitted	Continue with reporting process
Inform stakeholders and landholders about the value of the wild dog control program	Give regular updates of the group's activities via; EBA Newsletters Emails to members EBA Facebook Page Annual General Meeting Farmers meeting e.g. SEPWA updates Radio Interviews EBA Committee Meetings	Due to Covid restrictions updates were provided mostly via email, multimedia platforms and radio interviews Talk given at SEPWA harvest update Field Day planned in 2022 in conjunction with visit from the IFS committee (sheep and goat).	ABC Radio Emails to members EBA Facebook page AGM, EBA Committee Meetings Field day held 1 Sept 2022 with IFS, biosecurity council, AWI, national wild dog action plan members.	Continue to express the value of the wild dog control program.
Notifying of neighbours regarding use of 1080 and Strychnine	1) landholders with properties at the interface of the UCL and baited DBAC reserves in the Shire of Esperance will be written to annually – Notifying Neighbours 2) Annual notice placed in the Local newspaper (Esperance Weekender) 3) Existing 1080 Signage at entrances to UCL and baited	1) milestone achieved 2) milestone achieved 3) milestone achieved	1) letters sent 2) Social media used (facebook)	Continue with annual notification, it is working really well with a nil result on off-target deaths

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	<p>reserves be maintained. New signs added where needed</p> <p>4) Include notifications in EBA newsletters, emails to members, at AGM, EBA Facebook page, webpage</p>	<p>4) milestone achieved. Copies kept on file</p>		
<p>Work towards safe work environment</p>	<p>1) Continuing assessing risks throughout the year. Permanent item on meeting agenda</p> <p>2) regularly assess safety protocols and edit as required.</p>	<p>Risk assessments are reviewed at every committee meeting</p> <p>Protocol guides available to all members, staff and contractors</p>	<p>Continual improvement</p>	<p>Continual improvement</p>

