



Annual Report 2021/2022



NBG Board of Management

The NBG Constitution provides a Board of Management which currently consists of seven members. These members hold voluntary positions who are responsible for overseeing the affairs of the association. The Board has acknowledged local representation is key to NBG success in achieving efficient and effective pest management. To ensure all local government areas have representation, the Board of Management consists of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer and no less than three but no more than eight other members. The Board has acknowledged local representation is key to NBG success in achieving efficient and effective pest management. To ensure all local government areas have representation the Constitution stipulates to have a minimum of two (2) representatives from each Local Government Area.

The September 2021 AGM started with the resignation of inaugural Board Member Fiona Mann. Jason Batten, Scott Bridgeman and Steve Rowe were re-elected and Mike Kerkmans (CGG representative landholder) was elected for a first term. The remaining three Board positions were unchanged.

Name	District	Term
Jason Batten	Shire of Chapman Valley	2024
Jeremy Brooks	Shire of Chapman Valley	2023
Mike Kerkmans	City of Greater Geraldton – Mullewa	2024
Steve Rowe	City of Greater Geraldton – Mullewa	2024
Darren Cobley	City of Greater Geraldton	2023
Scott Bridgeman	Shire of Northampton	2024
Lloyd Cripps	Shire of Northampton	2023
Penny Walker	Secretary/Treasurer	2022*

2021/22 NBG Board Member terms

Our Objects and Purposes

- Initiate, promote and foster the control of Declared Pests in the Designated Area;
- Encourage landholders and other persons to adopt sound biosecurity practices throughout the Designated Area;
- Foster the sustainable development of the Designated Area;
- Encourage the control of pests other than Declared Pests in the Designated Area;
- Identify direct or indirect funding sources that can be made available for the development of the objects and purposes of the Association;
- Provide Members with a forum to exchange information, advice and assistance where appropriate; and
- Undertake any activity that the Board of Management shall from time to time determine to be in furtherance of the objects of the Association

NBG Membership

Full Membership is available to any landholder who owns or occupies at least 100 hectares of land within the NBG designated area (Shires of Northampton, Chapman Valley and City of Greater Geraldton)

Associate Membership is available to persons or representative of a public authority or other corporate bodies that has an interest in Declared Pest Management within the NBG.

Landholders with and without membership receive the same level of support (eg. baiting allocations, LPMT time). It would be reasonable to expect that a person will apply for membership if they want to take a more pro-active role in declared pest management on their properties or have more input into the yearly NBG Operational Budget and Plan.

You can find our Membership Form and Constitution on our website: www.nbg.org



MDFI Field Day

NBG Team

The NBG continue to contract a part-time Executive Officer, Marieke Jansen, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the group including overseeing the implementation of the Operational Plan, on-ground management outcomes, Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMT) coordination and delivery of community engagement activities.

The Association's financial management is overseen by the Board and the Executive Officer who is supported by the services of Penny Walker who also provides executive support to the Board at our General Board meetings.



Executive Officer – Part Time

Marieke Jansen – Non Committee

0427 898 160

nbg_eo@outlook.com

Licensed Pest Management Technicians for Wild Dog control

The NBG contracts a total of four local Licensed Pest Management Technicians to work alongside land managers across our region. Their main duties are baiting and trapping in wild dog hotspots and properties with feral pig damage. LPMTs are available to land managers who have wild dog (suspected) sightings/tracks, report stock attacks or would like some on-ground advice on how to protect their property from wild dog attacks. A number of feral pig traps are available to landholders and our LPTMs will be able to provide best-practice-management advice on location, pre-feeding requirements and type of trap/bait.



LPMT – Wild Dogs/ Feral Pigs/ Foxes/ Rabbits

Josh Gould – JGs Feral Pest Control
0429 904 195
jmgould25@outlook.com



LPMT –Feral Pigs (trapping)

Wayne Heal – Sort ‘m Out Pest Control
0428 641 498
healmob@westnet.com.au



LPMT – Wild Dogs/ Foxes/ Rabbits

Andrew O'Dwyer – Midwest Pest Management
0407 475 812
chookodwyer@hotmail.com



LPMT – Wild Dogs/ Foxes

Ray Hughes – RJ Hughes
0499 194 701
Livewire1@y7mail.com

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AGM AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

2. Meeting Administration

- 2.1 Record of Attendance
- 2.2 Apologies
- 2.3 Proxies
- 2.4 Disclosure of Interest

3. Agenda

- 3.1 Acceptance of Agenda

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Acceptance of Minutes from previous AGM
- 4.2 Business arising from previous minutes

5. Chairperson's Report

- 5.1 Mr Jason Batten to speak to his report.

6. Financial Report (Treasurer)

- 6.1 To receive and consider the Draft Financial Report, for period 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022
- 6.2 Approve an Auditor to prepare the audit report for the 2022-23 financial year
- 6.3 Membership Fees

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Inwards
- 7.2 Outwards

8 General Business

- 8.1 Membership Application Consideration
- 8.2 Executive Officer's Report

9 Election of Directors of Nominated Persons to Board

- 9.1 One vacancy for Board of Management
- 9.2 No Nominations received
- 9.3 Nominations for Executive Board
- 9.4 Nominate Board Secretary/Treasurer Contractor for a 12 month period

10 Date of Next Meeting

11 Close of meeting

AGM Minutes – 22nd September 2021 Walkaway

Northern Biosecurity Group Inc. (NBG) Chairperson, Jason Batten, opened the meeting at 4.03pm and welcomes all in attendance to NBG's third AGM.

Attendees

Jason Batten
Scott Bridgeman
Darren Cobley
Marieke Jansen

Steve Rowe
Jeremy Brooks
Lloyd Cripps
Penny Walker

Guests

Josh Gould
Russell Coupe
Mike Kerkmans
Johannes Human DBCA
Cliff Harding

Mike Jones
David Liske
Wayne Heal
Dean Levett
Anthony Hollins
Tanya Moffat

Minutes Taken By

Penny Walker

Apologies

Fiona Mann
Mike Raykos DBCA
Shane Love National MP
Chris Patmore CWBA
Jerome Drew

Dick Pasfield KRBA
Tracy Kreplins DPIRD
Michael Brittain DPIRD
Sandra Carr Labour MP
Matt Johnson

Proxys

Fiona Mann held by Steve Rowe
Glen Reynolds held by Scott Bridgeman
Jerome Drew held by Lloyd Cripps
Matt Johnson held by Jeremy Brooks
Shaun Earl held by Jason Batten

No conflict of interest declared

Agenda

Acceptance and confirmation of Agenda as emailed to members, with the slight change that the Board Executive will be elected at the AGM.

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Minutes

Draft Minutes of the meeting dated 16th September 2020 and emailed to all board members prior to the meeting and tabled.

MOTION ONE: Draft minutes of the previous AGM held 16th September 2020 to be accepted as a true and accurate record.

MOVED: Steve Rowe **SECONDED:** Scott Bridgeman

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Nil business arising from previous AGM minutes

Chairman's Report - as tabled and verbally spoken by Jason Batten

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Financial Report - Presented by Penny Walker as tabled

Financial Information currently being audited by AMD Chartered Accountants, to be presented at next General Meeting.

Total Income	\$388,111.67
Total Expenses	\$344,736.67

Closing Bank Balance Accounts \$189,857.25

MOTION TWO: That the draft financial statements presented at the annual general meeting be accepted for the period 1/7/2020 to 30/06/2021.

MOVED: Jeremy Brooks **SECONDED:** Scott Bridgeman

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Recommendation that Financial Accounts for Fiscal Year 2021-22 to be audited by AMD Chartered Accountants.

MOTION THREE: AMD Chartered Accountants to be appointed as the auditor for the Northern Biosecurity Group Inc. for the fiscal year 2021 – 2022.

MOVED: Darren Cobley **SECONDED:** Steve Rowe

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Membership Fees

MOTION FOUR: Member fees to be set at nil for 2021-22 financial year.

MOVED: Lloyd Cripps

SECONDED: Jeremy Brooks

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Correspondence

Inwards – Resignation from Fiona Mann
Nomination for Membership Forms from Mike Kerkmans

MOTION FIVE: Proposed member, Mike Kerkmans to be approved full membership.

MOVED: Fiona Mann by proxy
Rowe

SECONDED: Steve Rowe

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Outwards – Nil

General Business

Executive Officer's Report

Marieke presented Executive Officer report for the past 12 months highlighting activities and results.

Refer to report attached

Board Nominations

Three board members' terms have expired:

Steve Rowe – City of Greater Geraldton – Mullewa District

Scott Bridgeman – Shire of Northampton

Jason Batten – Shire of Chapman Valley

There are five positions available on the Board the Chair called for nominations to Board of Management

Chair, Jason Batten stepped aside and Mike Jones stepped in as returning officer.

Four valid nominations were received by the Secretary including:

Jason Batten Nominated by Shaun Earl **Accepted** Seconded Lloyd Cripps

All in Favour by show of hands

Steve Rowe Nominated by Fiona Mann **Accepted** Seconded Jeremy Brooks All in Favour by show of hands

Mike Kerkmans Nominated by Fiona Mann **Accepted** Seconded Steve Rowe All in Favour by show of hands

Scott Bridgeman Nominated by Jason Batten **Accepted** Seconded Lloyd Cripps All in favour by show of hands

Director Terms

Director – 2 Year Term Remaining

Jeremy Brooks
Darren Cobley
Lloyd Cripps

Director – 3 Year Term Remaining

Jason Batten
Steve Rowe
Scott Bridgeman
Mike Kerkmans

CONFIRMATION OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR 2021-22

Board Member	Representative Shire
Jason Batten	Shire of Chapman Valley
Jeremy Brooks	Shire of Chapman Valley
Mike Kerkmans	City of Greater Geraldton
Steve Rowe	City of Greater Geraldton
Darren Cobley	City of Greater Geraldton
Scott Bridgeman	Shire of Northampton
Lloyd Cripps	Shire of Northampton

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

Nominations for Chairperson

Jeremy Brooks nominated **Jason Batten Accepted** Seconded Steve Rowe All in favour

Nominations for Deputy Chairperson

Lloyd Cripps nominated **Scott Bridgeman Accepted** Seconded Jeremy Brooks All in favour

Jason Batten nominated Darren Cobley Declined

Nominations for Secretary/Treasurer

No nominations received.

Position to be held by a non voting Board member for period of 12 months

MOTION SIX: Penny Walker – Miss Moneypenny Bookkeeping Services WA to be contracted for position of Board Secretary/Treasurer for a 12 month period, to next AGM 2022 in a non-voting role.

MOVED: Jason Batten

SECONDED: Scott Bridgeman

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairperson	Jason Batten
Deputy Chairperson	Scott Bridgeman
Non Board Member Secretary/Treasurer	Penny Walker

MOTION SEVEN: Accounts held at Bendigo Bank include:

Account 162 862 585

Account 162 862 569

Account 162 862 619

Remove Fiona Mann from all abovementioned accounts and add Mike Kerkmans to all three abovementioned accounts.

The abovementioned accounts including 162 862 569 and 162 862 619 to have the following signatories:

Jason Batten

Scott Bridgeman

Steve Rowe

Jeremy Brooks

Darren Cobley

Lloyd Cripps

Mike Kerkmans

With any three Board Members and/or Penny Walker to sign off jointly on all transactions.

The account 162 862 585 to include signatory Marieke Jansen who will sign separately for all transactions on this account only.

MOVED: Jason Batten

SECONDED: Steve Rowe

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Next meeting 21st September 2022 – Nabawa Tavern, Chapman Valley

Meeting Closed 5.24pm

Chairperson

21 / 09 / 2022

❖ Presentation held by Mike Jones (DPIRD) use of Hoggone

Chair Report

2022 has been another effective season for the Northern Biosecurity Region. As always we have had plenty of pests and diseases to deal with but this now seems normal as our region continues to be a very productive grain growing region. I think every chair report I write always focuses on the importance of our board to listen and support our landholders with whatever concerns or pest problems they have. I hope we have achieved this in 2022 and we are always open to any feedback good or bad. Thankyou board members for your continued contribution to Pest Management and Biosecurity concerns within our area.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) have continued their support through the Geraldton office, and the state assistance 'Talking RBG' group has been a great concept. This group of professionals within DPIRD head office has allowed a more approachable and efficient way of sharing information throughout the state and gives us an avenue to voice our concerns easily. We will continue working with DPIRD to make the reporting processes better so they can capture the information and data that proves how well this Declared Pest Rate model can work.

DPIRD has engaged consultant company, Synergies, to undertake an external evaluation of the current funding mechanism under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act), related to the Declared Pest Rate (DPR)/ Declared Pest Account (DPA) and Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBG's). The evaluation will provide the evidence base for identifying what's working well, what limitations exist and what may be altered to support the funding for Declared Pest control activities. The evaluation is an informing piece of work to the current BAM Act review process, which includes assessing the role of the DPR as well as RBG's, in supporting WA's Biosecurity system. NBG was one of three RBG's selected to provide feedback and we look forward to Synergies evaluation.

NBG is audited by AMD each year which is a comprehensive external audit. This adds extra workload onto Marieke and Penny, but as a board this gives us confidence that our financial processes are compliant. Thankyou Marieke and Penny for all the work you do to make NBG run as efficiently as possible.

Thank you to all the Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMT's) for all the on ground work you do. I have received lots of positive feedback, we are making a difference and the work you do is noticed and appreciated by Landholders.

NBG continues to work with stakeholders and farming groups within the Northern Ag Region. Research and collaboration with Government Departments and surrounding groups is ongoing. Pest Management is every landholder's responsibility and NBG are always open to new members and ways we can assist.

Thank you,

Jason Batten
NBG Chair



Treasurer's Report

Financial Statement 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022

Financial Summary for this period

Opening Bank Balance

Bendigo Working Account	\$ 19,572.04
Bendigo Savings Account	\$169,035.93
Bendigo Executive Officer Exp Acct	\$ 1,249.28

Total Opening Bank Balance **\$189,857.25**

Income

Operational Income	\$ 23,750.00
NACC Grant Funding	\$ 10,000.00
DPIRD Grant Funding	\$ 68,500.00
Declared Pest Rate Account Funds	\$314,575.00
Interest	\$ 87.96

Total Income Received **\$416,912.96** (excludes Unspent Grant Funding adjustments)

Expenses

Admin/Governance	\$ 64,568.10
Wild Dogs	\$173,887.63
Feral Pigs	\$192,954.92
Other Pest Animals	\$ 41,648.49
Community Engagement	\$ 6,987.42

Total Expenses **\$480,046.56**

Balance of Bendigo Bank Accounts as at 30th June 2022

Working Account	\$126,391.18
Savings Account	\$ 39,114.09
Executive Officer Exp Acct	\$ 669.54

Closing Bank Balance **\$166,174.81**

Outstanding Payables - Nil

Outstanding Receivables - Nil

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Northern Biosecurity Group Inc

P O Box 383

Northampton WA 6535

ABN: 17 934 046 266

Email: missmoneypennybook@bigpond.com

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2021 To June 2022

Income		
Operational Income		\$23,750.00
Grant Income		\$177,021.49
Declared Pest Account Funds		\$404,039.15
Total Income		\$604,810.64
Gross Profit		\$604,810.64
Expenses		
ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE		
Accounting/Bookkeeping Fees	\$4,661.58	
Audit	\$2,300.00	
Advertising & Marketing	\$1,694.55	
Bank Fees	\$38.58	
Board Meeting Expenses	\$185.57	
Board Directors Honorarium	\$2,377.31	
Board Directors Travel	\$2,399.03	
Contractor - EO	\$42,415.37	
Insurance Expenses		
Association Liability Insuranc	\$3,131.20	
Business Insurance	\$38.89	
Worker's Comp	\$1,736.36	
Total Insurance Expenses	\$4,906.45	
Office Expenses	\$2,035.41	
Travel & Accom. Expenses	\$1,554.25	
Total ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE		\$64,568.10
WILD DOGS		
DOGS - Aerial Baiting	\$12,600.00	
DOGS - Baits	\$6,672.73	
DOGS - Chemicals	\$1,781.09	
DOGS - LPMT	\$150,131.08	
DOGS - Plant & Equipment	\$2,702.73	
Total WILD DOGS		\$173,887.63
FERAL PIGS		
PIGS - Aerial Shoot	\$90,405.52	
PIGS - Chemical	\$13,187.48	
PIGS - LPMT	\$87,250.00	
PIGS - Other	\$170.55	
PIGS - Plant & Equipment	\$1,941.37	
Total FERAL PIGS		\$192,954.92
OTHER PEST ANIMALS		
OTHER PESTS - Chemical	\$36,648.49	
OTHER PESTS - LPMT	\$5,000.00	
Total OTHER PEST ANIMALS		\$41,648.49
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT		
Workshops	\$6,987.42	
Total COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT		\$6,987.42
Total Expenses		\$480,046.56
Operating Profit		\$124,764.08
Other Income		
Interest Income		\$87.96

Our group have been audited annually since inception by AMD who are a registered company auditor, this is conducted in accordance with ASIC, Corporations Act and other relevant legislative requirements. They undertake the audit process providing independent, information risk management and objective assurance advice designed to add value and improve our operation while understanding the critical nature of our Board for effective governance.

The financial software used is MYOB, where all our financial reports are issued from, for every Board of Management meeting along with copies of the Bank Statements. A transparent process is in place by where all payments are presented to the Executive Officer who approves in line with the current Operational Budget and with recommended coding forwards to Treasurer to record and raise payment to the Bank, all invoices are then forwarded to Board for at least two of the Board to jointly approve with Board Treasurer, this is all conducted online. AMD Accountants Geraldton office oversee the lodgement of the BAS and end of year adjustments.

Audited financials have not been received to date, they are being produced by AMD Chartered Accountants and to be motioned at the next Board of Management meeting if not prior.

Recommendation

That the draft financial reports as presented and subject to appropriate Accountant end of financial year adjustments be adopted and approved by the board, and when the audited financials are received that they are circulated for final motion.

Penny Walker
Contract Board Treasurer/Secretary



Executive Officer Report

In 2021/22 the Northern Biosecurity Group (NBG) continued to focus the majority of its activities towards wild dog and feral pig control. We now have a solid group of professional and knowledgeable local contractors that assist landholders in managing these large declared pests. The Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMT) have to be both strategic and reactive in their work to control these pests, especially for wild dog control. 2021 was a productive year for both crops and pests. Increasing rabbit numbers and large mobs of feral pigs were being reported to the group. Often noticed during harvest or just after seeding. This highlights the importance for landholders to implement pest control work as part of their general broadacre farming program – easier said than done! We all understand that farmers are time poor and on-ground pest control (eg. successful pre-feeding) takes a lot of time!

And in here lies the challenge for our group. Under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act (2007) landholders are responsible for managing declared pests on their properties. The RBG model for our region promotes coordinated control and has made the combined efforts that landholders put in (mainly funded by the DPR) more efficient. Since the NBG was established (2017) we have made great progress towards declared pest control by engaging the larger community and raise the awareness of landholders to the different control options that are available to them. I believe we can still do better in communicating to landholders to participate in coordinated baiting and trapping for events for landholders in our region. It is definitely something I want to improve on over the next two years.

On the other hand, it is still early days for our group and we are still establishing networks and processes to become more effective across all land tenure. With the valued help of DPIRD Biosecurity and Development Officer we have been able to collect some valuable monitoring data to measure the impact our on-ground work has on established pests in our region.

The NBG, together with the support of our landholders, has been able to achieve some great outcomes and is now one of most cost-effective groups in aerial culling work in Australia. Over the past 12 months our LPMTs have visited new properties and engaged new landholders that have been able to use our trapping and baiting services for wild dogs, foxes, rabbits and feral pigs.

Looking forward into the future, I hope we will be able to increase our engagement with all stakeholders to extent the uptake of pest control as part of their ongoing farming systems.

I would particular like to thank our local LPMT's who are both professional and passionate about their work, our volunteer Board Members who are part of their local farming community and are always available to answer my questions or discuss new ideas. And foremost I have to thank Penny Walker for keeping our finances in order and always strives for transparency and good governance in all of our processes and reporting.

Stakeholders and Partnerships

As COVID restrictions were still partially in place during 2020/21 a number of planned events have had to be delayed. However, we have been able to attend Farming Group events to discuss our activities and associated expenditure with local landholders that are the main stakeholders (often members) NBG.

At end of 2021 the Midwest was recognised in its efforts in feral pig management and was invited to be part of one of six national demonstration sites to share our learnings to a wider audience. This initiative was funded under the National Feral Pig Action plan to facilitate the delivery of feral pig management on a national, regional and local scale, to drive effective investment and raise awareness of feral pig issues. Our group also has a representative on the WA Feral Pig Advisory Committee to provide guidance to all stakeholder on a strategic approach to the management of feral pigs in WA.

Dr. Peter Adams and his team are continuing to invest great amount of time and resources in our region to help our group understand the population size, abundance and movements of feral pigs and wild dogs. They have been the key partner in the delivery of our State NRM funded Feral Pig GPS tracking collars project as well as the servicing of the monitoring cameras and implementation of the Evorta camera network. The NBG does receive a fee-for-service for checking and installing (new) cameras in suitable locations. DPIRD also came back to our region for their Thermal Survey project and significantly increased survey area that is now one of our main monitoring datasets for measuring the feral pig population and will help DPIRD to estimate effectiveness of control efforts with the data collected as part of our aerial culling programs.

NACC NRM has again been a valuable partner in providing funds to continue our community fox and rabbit baiting program for landholders with Malleefowl habitat areas.

Other partnerships that were established in 2021/22 include funding from AWI for recognising landholder training opportunities for wild dog and feral pig control and input in the Midwest Drought Resilience Plan funded and administered by the Midwest Development Commission.

The WA RBG network is now a regular online forum and has had their first face-to-face meeting with representatives from RBGs across WA and the “Talking RBG” team (DPIRD). These meetings are important to look for options to work together to improve governance and reporting requirements to ensure the RBG outcomes are being communicated from landholders to high-level decision makers.

The BAM Act (2007) is currently under review and the NBG has provided feedback as part of a submission in support of the RBG Model.

Declared Pest Rate

As in the previous year, the NBG Declared Pest Rate was collected through an ad-valorem rate for properties (VENs) >100ha in the NBG region with a minimum payment of \$80.00 per property. This meant that landholders are contributing 0.0262% in the dollar of the unimproved land value of their property.

An estimated that \$180,450 would be raised by landholders paying the Declared Pest Rate. This was very a very similar rate set by our Board from 2020/21 (\$181,234). These funds were matched dollar for dollar by the Western Australian State Government to an estimated total value of \$360,900. The money (collected through the DPR) must only be used to implement the NBG's Operational Plan in the prescribed local government district/s of Northampton, Chapman Valley and City of Greater Geraldton. At the end of June 95% of landholders had paid their DPR, this shows that landholders are supporting

LGA	% contr
Chapman Valley	25%
Greater-Geraldton	47%
Northampton	28%
Total	100%

Table 1: Contribution per share

Wild Dog Program

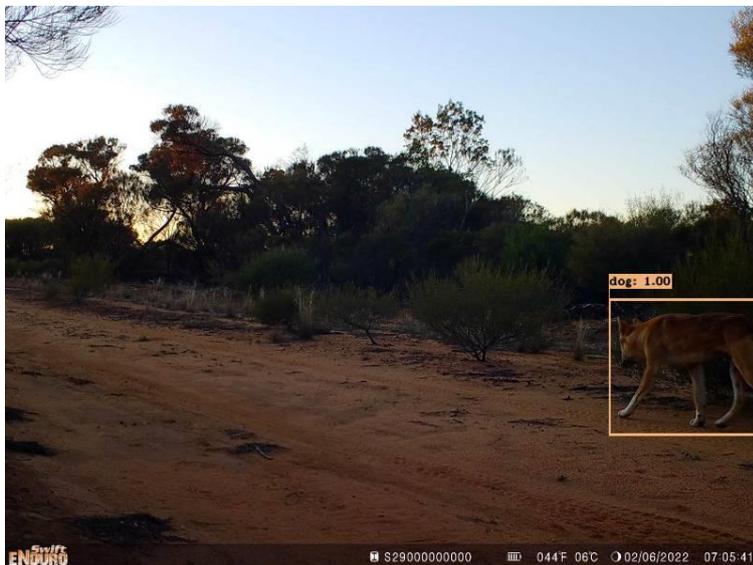
After an increase in wild dog sightings in the previous year the NBG LPMT's got on top of wild dog numbers in the northern parts of our region. A new contract was put in place with increased trapping and monitoring efforts.

LPMT's collectively trapped a total of 56 dogs inside the State Barrier Fence. This was mainly out in the pastoral areas of our region but 4 dogs were trapped inside broadacre cropping paddocks. The NBG received additional wild dog management funding through the Wild Dog Action Plan (WDAP). This fund allows the LPMT's to work on DBCA managed lands and pastoral leases.

Year	Stock attacks reported	Baits laid	LPMT days worked
2018/19	29	15360	157
2019/20	35	11730	223
2020/21	38	8600	154
2021/22	6	10400	306

Table 2: NBG wild dog data

In August 2021 the NBG conducted its very first aerial baiting program. The program followed on from the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (EWBA) and Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Associations (CWBA) annual baiting programs along the State Barrier Fence. The local LPMTs were able to go up in the air with the pilot and aerial baiting contractor that gave them a chance to view the landscape from above and direct the flight path for the bait run. A total of 2500 baits were strategically placed in breakaway and other inaccessible areas across five pastoral properties. The NBG purchased bulk meat packs from the Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group to be stored at the local Geraldton Pet Meat Supplies. This was used throughout the year by our contracted LPMT's for their on-ground baiting programs. During 2021/22 DPIRD received funding to monitor wild dog and other pest species populations. The NBG received 30 cameras that are currently being deployed in the region using real-time automated image analysis of camera footage. The images will send instant alerts users about wild dog incursions. This will give inform LPMT's to implement control measures in that area. The images will also help to understand if the changes in population size are a result of targeted control or seasonal conditions.



Wild dog captured on Evorta camera

Feral Pig Program

The NBG's feral pig program continued similar as in previous years. Landholders were encouraged to attend community baiting days. The feral pig LPMT contract was extended outside the State NRM Project to include a broader area of control. The NBG purchased another trapping system; the PigBrig. This system uses a round net that gets lowered to train the feral pigs to enter the trap but eventually will not be able to get out. The group is trialling different techniques, such as aeriels and different solar systems to improve the Matlock trapping system. This trap is still the preferred system to use by our LPMT but 3G signal continues to be a problem in some parts of our region.

A new pilot/shooter team were able to use the data collected over the past 4 years and were very efficient in finding the pigs in our aerial shoot areas (see table 3). The NBG had the opportunity to organise another aerial feral pig cull in June 2022 as the

DPIRD aerial shoot team were in the area for a Thermal Aerial Assisted Shooting Course.

Date	# pigs	hours	properties	cost total	\$/pig
Feb-18	512	12	7	\$ 16,772	32.76
Mar-19	1145	34	23	\$ 53,114	46.39
Mar-20	1261	50	73	\$ 53,800	42.66
Mar-21	1304	38	71	\$ 45,665	35.02
Mar-22	2281	42	65	\$ 61,219	26.84
Jun-22	1544	25	26	\$ 33,865	21.93
TOTAL	8047	201	265	\$ 264,435	\$ 32.86

Table 3: Aerial culling data per event

The GPS tracking collar project will come to an end in December 2022. A total of 43 collars have been deployed till date. Collars have stayed on pigs for variable amount of time. Preliminary data is showing that the majority of NBG pigs have a small home range.

The NBG has also purchased four Hoggone Boxes for landholders who don't want or are not allowed to use 1080 on their properties. Mixed findings have been reported and more trials and use is needed to determine if Hoggone is a useful tool in feral pig control in our region.



NBG PigBrig trapping effort

***Opuntioide* Cacti (Prickly Pear)**

Our cactus program was monitored as part of ongoing DPIRD surveys and landholder updates to the NBG. No expenses occurred in 2021/22 but there will be a small budget allowance for chemical treatment if new sites are being recorded.

Other Pests

NACC NRM funds was used to distribute 650 fox baits and contributed to 750+ kilometres of OneShot rabbit bait to be mixed at 4 different community baiting days in February/March 2021. Landholders were also offered to use the services from the contract NBG LPMT to be laying the baits using their bait layer.

The NBG contributed in-kind towards the DPIRD TAAS Course (Thermal Aerial Assisted Shooting) 31 deer were removed from the Northampton area and aerial shooters from all over Australia participated.

