



ANNUAL DPR REPORT  
2022-2023

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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 10 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 (DPIRD), Esperance Shire and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), 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 is the community driver for the 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 Native Title Corporation.

An ILUA with the Ngadju Native Title Corporation is currently being negotiated by DPIRD for the construction of the Fence north of Salmon Gums. The EBA will continue to advocate the construction of the Fence with State Government so that there is no possibility of negotiations lagging and construction being postponed indefinitely until agreement can be reached.

New Restricted Chemical Permits to Bait and Trap in Nature Reserves, Undeclared Crown Land and National Parks were granted to the EBA after a 4 month pause in April 2023 on Esperance/Tjaltjraak land. The pause was primarily due to policy and procedure incompatibilities between DBCA (access authority giver) and DPIRD (permit giver). The EBA has asked the Minister of Agriculture to encourage a review of these policies and procedures to allow for better procedures to be developed.

Permission was sought from the Ngadju Native Title Corporation to allow access for these activities in the areas around Salmon Gums. This has been denied. Currently, baiting and trapping in Salmon Gums can only be carried out in freehold/farmland.

Chairman's report (from AGM )

Welcome all Australians past present and future.

Welcome to our AGM and thanks for coming. I would like to thank our committee our members and our sponsors. And thanks to our executive officer Veronika for continuing to do a great job thanks and to Peter Harkness, Secretary Treasurer, for your input working with the other RBGs. To the Esperance Shire for your ongoing support and to Beth as well for doing our finances. To Darren and the staff at DPIRD and to Danny our Dogger for a job well done and, also to Shelley Payne MLC for your support. In March I attended a wild dog seminar at Mellenbye Station discussing problems and issues with other stakeholders around Australia and WA. During 22/23 the EBA met several times with Minister Jackie Jarvis discussing delays in the construction of the barrier fence and restricted chemical permit issues. We finally got permits from DBCA to work on UCL and reserves in April but not on Ngadju land as this is native title, we have approached them but we're unsuccessful in gaining access. Since then I met with the minister's chief of staff Matt Keogh to outline my concerns and of the groups regarding any issues with the fence going through Ngadju land look at plan B and go on private property if possible.

Fence update the total distance for section 1 and 2 is 189kms of which 140kms has been constructed and the remaining 49kms should be completed this year the grids at Ned's corner are now installed and finished off squawker boxes installed and signs up the guys have done a great job. The next section 4 east of salmon gums to Parmango road clearing will commence later this year or early next year and will be constructed in three sections THANK YOU .

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Outcomes/Achievement	Analysis	Recommendation
Reduce livestock losses to less than 100 animals per year, with an 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 22/23 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>13 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>	943 of 1080 dry meat baits laid	<p>No changes needed LPMT to continue to determine best placement of baits as needed.</p> <p>Bait numbers down due to halt in Baiting from January to April.</p>
	Aerial baiting	Not needed in 22/23		Reassess annually
	Provide support to Landholders to control declared pests (wild dogs, foxes) on their properties	Provided Wild dog and fox baits to landholders to assist with the control of Foxes on their properties. Correct procedures followed with	5 landholders utilized this service	Continue to promote this service to landholders within the Esperance Region

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		DPIRD handling the distribution of baits		
	Risk Assessments on all localities where wild dog control program is implemented	All Restricted Chemical Permits were not renewed by DBCA on 31 Dec 2022. No Baiting, trapping or shooting could be carried out from 1 Jan 2023 – 4 April, 2023 when new permits were issued.	There has been an increase in dog sightings further south into farmland in Esperance.	Permits were renewed for 3 years. No permits can be issued for UCL north of Salmon Gums on Ngadju native title.
Support the construction of the Esperance Extension to the State Barrier Fence	Liaise with 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 with Tjaltjraak and fence construction re-commenced.  Contracts to be issued by DPIRD	Continue to advocate the construction of the fence through Minister's office and DPIRD. ILUA Negotiation with Ngadju will be a priority.
Community Engagement	Community Engagement events	Field Day held Sept 2022	Although not well attended by landholders, the meeting included the committees from IFS (Sheep and Goats) and the Biosecurity Council. These groups have not previously met together and this was a very valuable networking opportunity. Both groups understand the benefits of the RBG model and the work that EBA is doing in Esperance.	Continue to engage stakeholders regularly through field days and at stakeholder events.

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		Open Committee meeting held March 2023		Increase to DPR raised at meeting for 2024/25.
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.
Report to Pesticides Advisory Committee	Report to the Pesticides Advisory Committee on off target deaths, include nil reports	Objective achieved 2022/23 report has been submitted for tabling at the Pesticides Advisory Committee meeting Copy of submitted report has been kept on file	2022/23 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	Talk given at SEPWA harvest update Field Day conducted in Sept 2022 in conjunction with visit from the IFS committee (sheep and goat) and WA Biosecurity Council. Open meeting held at Salmon Gums March 2023 to celebrate 20 years of the Association.	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.

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			Open Committee meeting held March 2023 in Salmon Gums to commemorate 20yrs	
Notifying of neighbours regarding use of 1080 and Strychnine	<p>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</p> <p>2) Annual notice placed in the Local newspaper (Esperance Weekender)</p> <p>3) Existing 1080 Signage at entrances to UCL and baited reserves be maintained. New signs added where needed. Under new permit system, DBCA is responsible for signage, however, LPMT will advise DBCA if any signs need to be replaced.</p> <p>4) Include notifications in EBA newsletters, emails to members, at AGM, EBA Facebook page, webpage</p>	<p>1) milestone achieved</p> <p>2) milestone achieved</p> <p>3) milestone achieved</p> <p>4) milestone achieved. Copies kept on file</p>	<p>1) letters sent</p> <p>2) Social media used (facebook)</p>	Continue with annual notification, it is working well with a nil result on off-target deaths
Work towards safe work environment	<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>	Risk assessments are reviewed at every committee meeting	Continual improvement	Continual improvement

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		Protocol guides available to all members, staff and contractors		

