
2022/23

MIDLANDS BIOSECURITY GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I would like to thank and commend our Executive Officer, Chris O'Callaghan, the board and our LPMT who have worked hard to ensure we continued to deliver on-ground, real results to the farmers. As a board, we continue to target our work towards the areas and pests that we see as the most needed.



In line with this, there has been further increased activity to support pig control across the region in response to our members needs while also increasing activity to target the rabbit population.



I would like to encourage anyone who would like to know more or to be involved to do so. By becoming an active member or should you wish, a board member, you will make a significant contribution to the direction of the Group. While the current board works hard to stay informed of the needs of the group members, it is also important that our members continue to engage with us and keep us informed of any new or ongoing challenges we can assist with.

Thank you,

Charles Wass

Board Chairperson 2023

As presented at the 2023 Annual General Meeting

MBG BACKGROUND

The decision to form a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) in the Midlands region was made in December 2018 by local farmers and industry due to concerns around increasing numbers of wild dogs and feral pigs.

An interim board was established and had farmer representatives from throughout the region and regular meetings were held to start the RBG process and define the objectives of the group. The MBG was incorporated on the 19th of June, 2019, recognised by the Minister of Agriculture and Food on the 25th of October, 2019 and on the 6th of December 2019, the Midlands Biosecurity Group (MBG) members elected its first official Board of Management at its inaugural Annual General Meeting.

The primary aim of the group is to initiate, promote and foster the control of Declared Pests in the Midlands region. The MBG assists land owners and managers to adopt sound biosecurity practices and provides members with a forum to exchange information, advice and assistance. By ensuring clear communication between all relevant stakeholders, the MBG will raise awareness of issues and ensure a multi-faceted approach to pest control. This will include Landholders, Local Government Authorities, State and Federal agencies, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions and relevant industry bodies.

The Midlands Biosecurity Group covers seven shires in the Midlands region being the Shires of Moora, Dandaragan, Coorow, Carnamah, Three Springs, Mingenew and Irwin. These shires have been chosen due to the geographical features that link all seven shires as well as having similar land-uses across the region.

The Midlands Biosecurity Group was formed with the administrative support of the West Midlands grower group. The West Midlands Group is a well established grower group with a track record of managing project funding and reporting to funding bodies appropriately. This partnership between the two groups allowed for effective financial and project management as well as the ability to utilise already-established communication networks. As a result of this initial support, the Midlands Biosecurity Group is now a stand-alone organisation and fully functional recognised biosecurity group.

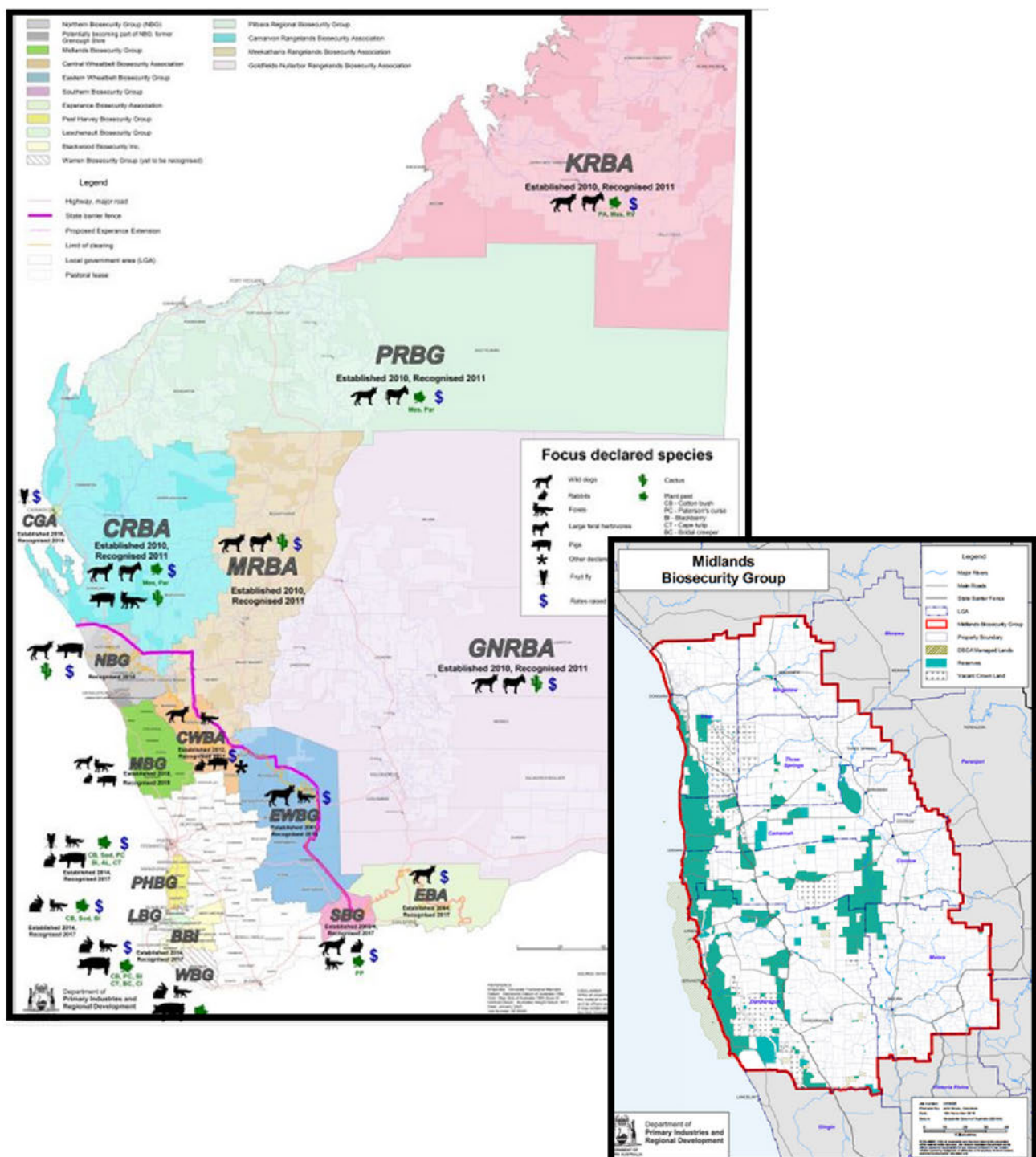
MBG OBJECTIVES

The objects and purposes of the Midlands Biosecurity Group as described in the group's constitution are to:

- initiate, promote and foster the control of Declared Pests under section 165 of the BAM act 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

RECOGNISED BIOSECURITY GROUPS

Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are not-for-profit and locally governed organisations recognised under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act (2007). There are currently 14 RBG's in Western Australia.



THE MBG TEAM

The following people made up the board of management of the Midlands Biosecurity Group in 2022/23.

Board Member	Term Expiry	Shire/s Farming
Charles Wass	Expires AGM 2023	Coorow
Maria Griffiths	Expires AGM 2025	Mingenew, Dandaragan
Peter Summers	Expires AGM 2024	Irwin
Christine Brown	Expires AGM 2024	Moora, Dandaragan
Carl Forward	Expires AGM 2024	Irwin, Mingeneu
Chris Patmore	Expires AGM 2024	Irwin, Three Springs
Geoff Hortin	Expires AGM 2023	Three Springs, Carnamah, Coorow

Support Staff		
Chris O'Callaghan	Ex-officio Secretary/Treasurer	Coordinator (Non-Voting)



THE MBG TEAM

The following personnel have been contracted by the MBG to deliver pest management and administration services to the group.

Contractor/ Company	Summary of work completed 2022/23
Paul Pitaro Vertebrate Pest Management Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mingenew/Morawa feral pig program• Irwin pig monitoring• Wild dog monitoring, baiting and trapping work – Coorow, Carnamah, Three Springs, Mingenew, Irwin shires• Rabbit work - 1080 grain mix-ups and Calici release oversight - Coorow and Moora shires
Andy Lockey WA Feral Animal Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Badgingarra feral pig program• Arrowsmith feral pig program• Wild dog monitoring Dandaragan, Moora Shires• Rabbit calici releases Dandaragan & Moora shires
Andy Walker Midwest Professional Shooting and Pest Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wild dog monitoring, baiting, trapping work Coorow, Dandaragan, Gingin shires• Rabbit 1080 grain mix-ups, calici release oversight Dandaragan, Coorow, Moora shires.
Kirra Holley Golden Hour Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications incl. e-newsletter, website, local press
Shayne Wass Harold Park Ag	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bookkeeping/General Administration

2022-2023 DECLARED PEST RATE FUNDING

At the group's 2022 Annual General Meeting, the MBG members endorsed the group's 2022/23 Operational Plan, including a total budget of \$442,700, which included, \$167,000 of landholder rates, \$167,000 of government matching funds, \$46,200 from the Commonwealth camera monitoring project and \$25,000 from the WA Wild Dog Action Plan. It also included a further \$37,500 from the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association for the ongoing Morawa/Mingenew Feral Pig Program.

The MBG Board of Management then moved to request the implementation of a Declared Pest Rate as follows:

The Midlands Biosecurity Group request the Minister of Agriculture to approve an Ad Valorem declared pest rate for 2022/23 of \$167,000, on land in the local government areas of Irwin, Three Springs, Mingenev, Carnamah, Coorow, Moora and Dandaragan that is:

- a) freehold land,
- b) a minimum 100 hectares,
- c) with a minimum \$100 per VEN

The operational plan identified how the funds will be spent. This system provides our communities with guaranteed annual funds and sustainability to address priority declared pests using current best practice management techniques.

The MBG, as part of our consultation process posted letters to all landholders in the region, outlining the groups planned activities and request to implement a declared pest rate in the area.

The Midlands Biosecurity Group Board of Management have been very pleased with the on-going support of landholders within the region for the implementation of the declared pest rate and pest management programs. The declared pest rate allows for long term sustainability of funding to implement effective control programs for declared pests.

2022-2023 PROJECT FUNDING

In the 2022/23 financial year, the Midlands Biosecurity Group has attracted funding from a number of different sources, these are:



WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding

Wild Dog Funding. \$25,000 over 12 months. Funding is a state government contribution to Wild Dog management in the Midlands Region. Funds LPMT time. Finishes June 2022. Has been renewed for 2022/23 financial year.



CWBA Feral Pig Project

Funding for a collaborative feral pig project covering the shires of Mingenew and Morawa. This project support MBG LPMT Paul Pitaro to complete co-ordinated feral pig control in the Morawa shire. \$37,500 per year.



DPIRD Commonwealth Camera Monitoring

Funding for the establishment and maintenance of a camera monitoring network throughout the Midwest. \$77,000 over 2 years, including \$46,200 in 2022/2023.

2022-2023 PEST PROGRAMS

Wild Dogs & Foxes

Vision: Through cooperative management prevent domestic stock losses and conserve biodiversity

The wild dog and fox program is guided by the MBG board's wild dog management plan which aims to encourage strategic, integrated wild dog management across all land tenures. The strategy focuses on monitoring for signs and symptoms of wild dog movement, such as scats, tracks, live sightings and howling as well as investigating all suspicious stock attacks/deaths for signs of wild dog predation. Field cameras are deployed to assist with monitoring which allows for shorter follow-up times on suspicious activity. In 2022/23 a total of 10 stock losses were reported to the MBG.

Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) support landholders by ground baiting in hotspot areas and providing landholders with meat baits, canid pest ejectors and 1080 impregnated oats for distribution throughout the year. Meat baits are made cost-effectively using 1080 concentrate (which can only be handled by LPMTs), injected into cubes of fresh meat and then frozen on farms throughout the Midlands.

2023 Quick Stats

22%

4333 Total Dog Baits
(5558 in 2022)

80%

1 Trap Set (5 in 2022)

70%

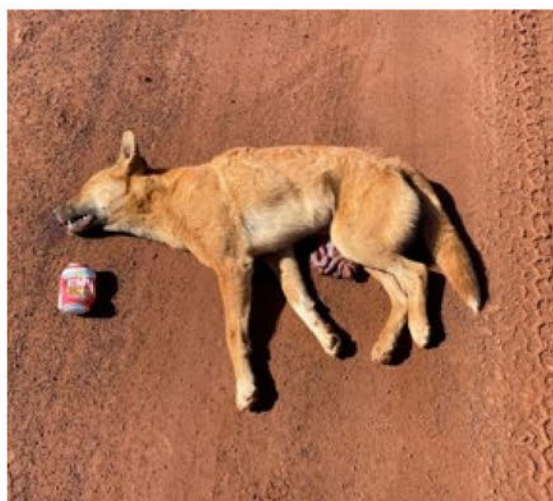
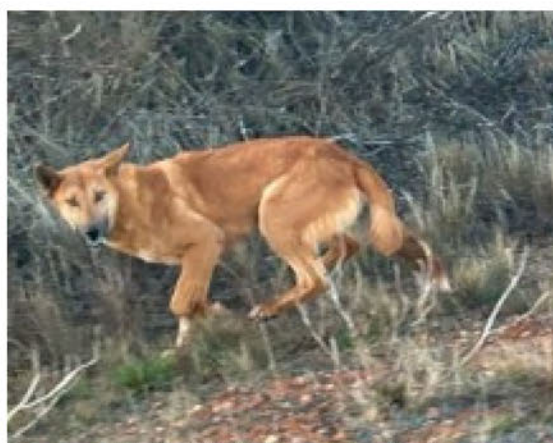
10 Reports of Stock
Damage (33 in 2022)



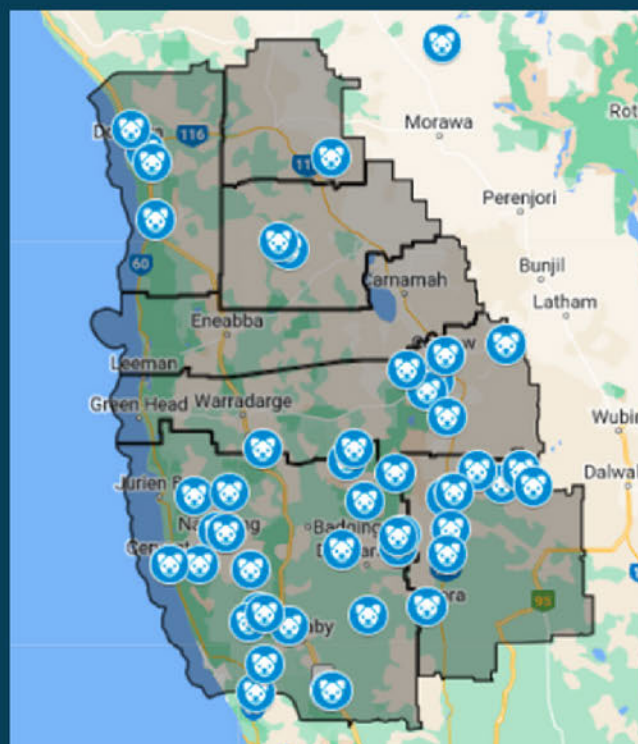
Baits drying on the racks.

MBG Meat Bait Registers

Bait Freezer Location	Host Farmer	No. of baits removed by landholders
Watheroo	Kevin McLean	1075
Warradarge	Will Browne	250*
Three Springs	Adam Thomas	1550
Arrowsmith	Geoff Crabb	350
Irwin	Paul Pitaro	208
Cataby	Rose Glasfurd	100*
Cervantes	Andy Walker	500
Meat Bait Total		4033
Canid Pest Ejector Total		100
Impregnated Oats Total		200
Total Baiting Product		4333



Wild dogs spotted in East Three Springs (Morawa Shire).



Locations of LPMT activity and landholder control/baiting activities in the Midlands region. .

Bait rack stations have been set up at Watheroo, Warradarge, Three Springs, Arrowsmith, Irwin, Cataby and Cervantes. Each station contains a locked freezer that holds around 1600 baits in bags of 25 with safety tags and warning signs made available for farmers. Farmers taking baits are required to have a restricted chemical permit and sign a register.

In 2022/23 a total of 1 wild dog trap was set, however, interference by non-targets (foxes), has made trapping conditions difficult and no wild dogs have been controlled using this method.

Feral Pigs

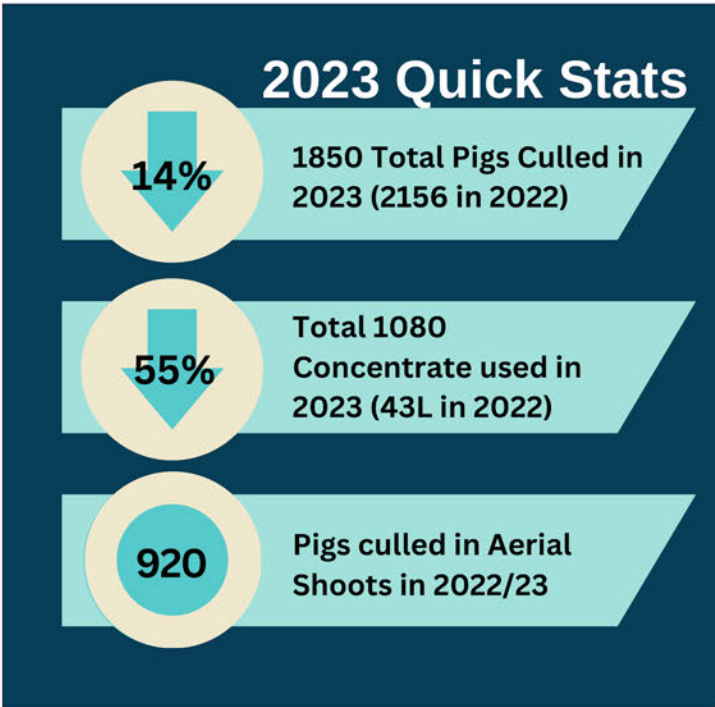
Vision: Sustainable grains and livestock industries in the Mid West where risks to production from feral pigs are reduced and natural and built environments are protected.

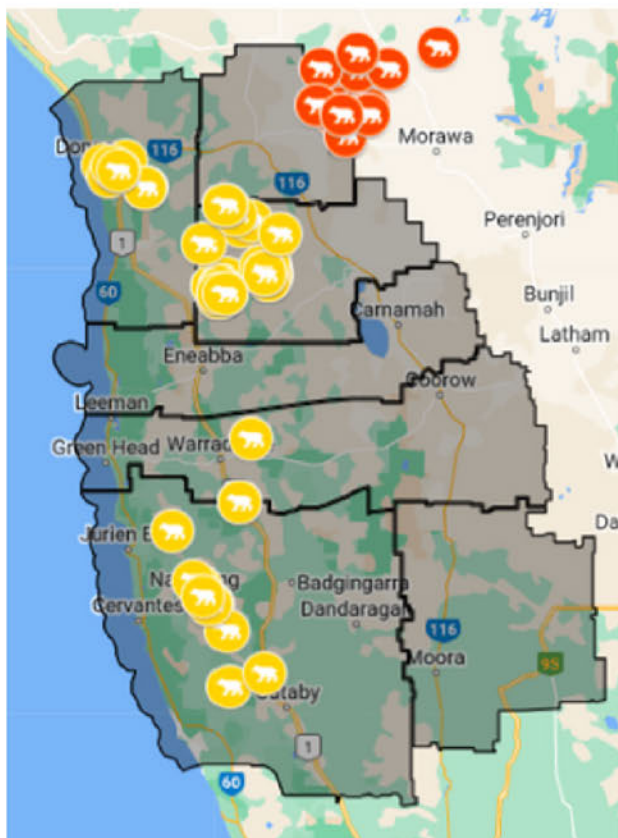
Feral pigs have a destructive impact on landscapes. Pigs impact on soil and water quality, destroy native flora and fauna including threatened species, flatten crops and predate on lambs. The MBG continued its feral pig program in 2022/23. The program is guided by the Midwest Feral Pig Management plan which has been developed by the Midlands, Northern and Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group's.

This plan aims to achieve co-ordinated feral pig management in the Midwest region of Western Australia using effective and ethical control techniques. The management of feral pigs in the Midlands focusses on co-ordinating efforts between landholders around known hotspot areas. Licensed Pest Management Technicians Andy Lockey and Paul Pitaro have been working with growers in Irwin, Arrowsmith and Badgingarra to control feral pigs using 1080 grain baiting in conjunction with remote cage trapping.

Location	Timeframe	No. of Pigs Destroyed	Control Method
Mingenew/Morawa	August 2022	297	Aerial Shooting
Bundy Bunna (NBG)	August 2022	77	Aerial Shooting
Three Springs Shire	July 2022-June 2023	531	Baiting/Trapping
Morawa Shire	July 2022-June 2023	155	Baiting
Mingenew/Morawa	February 2023	478	Aerial Shooting
Bundy Bunna (NBG)	February 2023	68	Aerial Shooting
Irwin Shire	July 2022-June 2023	214	Baiting/Trapping
Badgingarra/Warradarge	July 2022-June 2023	30	1080 Baiting
Total		1850*	

**Note a further 216 feral pigs were culled from Morawa/Mingenew in August 2023 through aerial shooting and a further 298 from baiting and trapping (all locations) between July 2023 – October 2023.*





Location of Midlands Biosecurity Group Feral Pig work in 2022/23

Yellow = Midlands Feral Pigs Culled

Orange = Mingenew/Morawa Feral Pig Project

Mingenew-Morawa Pig Project

The Mingenew-Morawa pig project was instigated due to a need to consistently fund and work across RBG and local government boundaries. Continuing in 2022/23, this project aimed to deliver a coordinated and collaborative response to the issues of feral pigs in the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA), Midlands Biosecurity Group (MBG) and Northern Biosecurity Group (NBG) region of Western Australia. The project has involved coordinated baiting, trapping and aerial shooting programs across land tenures.

The project contracts Paul Pitaro of Vertebrate Pest Management Australia for 100 days over an 11-month period, with MBG & CWBA committing to fund 50 days each of work in the area and the NBG contributing to the aerial culls. The LPMT contract is held by the Midlands Biosecurity Group. Local landholders have contributed extra dollars to this project to allow for a second aerial cull to occur.

Rabbits

In 2023 the Midlands Biosecurity Group continued its control program for European Rabbits in the Midlands Region which focuses on landholder engagement and control methods using 1080 and RDHV1-K5 Calicivirus releases.

Farmers are required by law to utilise appropriately trained personnel (Licensed Pest Management Technicians) to mix grain baits for rabbit control. This is a significant benefit of having an RBG in the region. In 2022/23, a total of 24L of 1080 concentrate, . Calicivirus releases were down due to issues with the product available to us in 2022/23. This has now been resolved and an increase number of releases are planned for 2023/24. Landholders are encouraged to utilise an integrated approach to rabbit management that involved more than 1 control technique to achieve meaningful impact on rabbit numbers.



Evidence of a large rabbit warren on a property in Dandaragan.

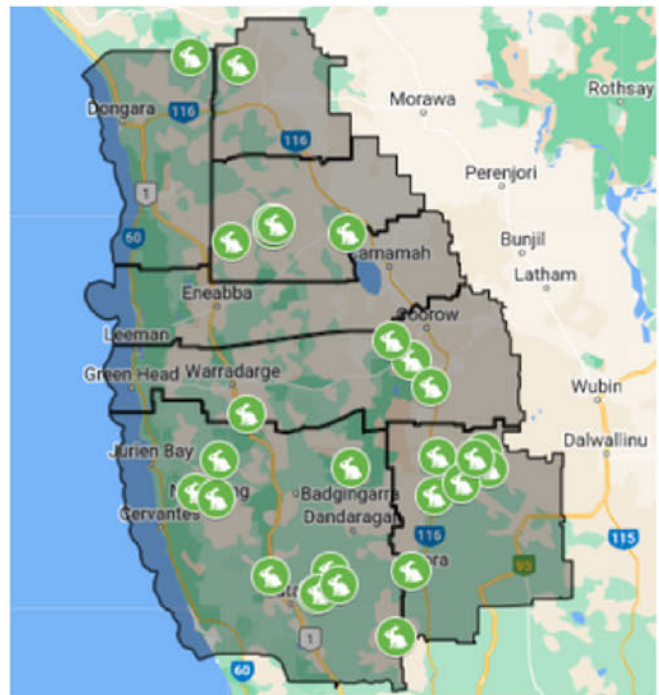
2023 Quick Stats

90%

1 Calicivirus release site in 2023 (11 in 2022)

71%

24L Total 1080 Concentrate used in 2023 (14L in 2022)



Rabbit 1080 baiting and RDHV-K5 release sites and monitoring sites in the Midlands region.

Registered Pesticide Permits

The MBG provides support to landholders to apply for Registered Pesticide Permits (RPPs) for their properties.

The permit process has some complexity around what is required to meet the regulations set by the Department of Health for the use of schedule 7 poisons, (1080 and Strychnine) and the group can support farmers to ensure they comply with the law and are operating safely. The restricted chemical permit form acts as a legal document in which the permit holder is taking full responsibility for the use of restricted products on their farms, which includes all persons using the approved products including MBG LPMT's. Therefore, it is crucial that applications are completed correctly and farmers understand their responsibilities.

The group encourages all farm businesses to put their workers through a 1080 accreditation course which will allow them to use products on their properties. Landholders are also encouraged to add "MBG Approved LPMT" to their permits to allow the MBG's LPMTs to supply and handle products on their properties. LPMTs are licensed by the Department of Health to do this and the MBG contracts practitioners who are experienced and knowledgeable in the use of these products.

To date, the MBG has completed 217 RPPs with farmers covering approximately 458,000 hectares of farming land in the region.

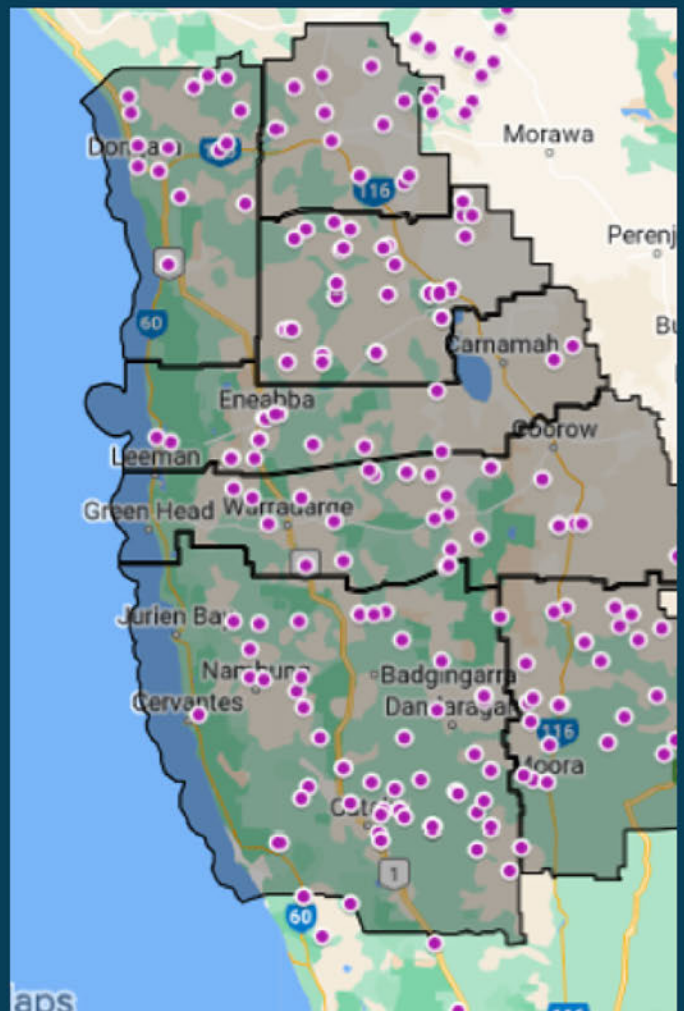
2023 Quick Stats

17%

217 Total Permits in 2023 (185 in 2022)

16.5%

458,000 ha covered in 2023 (393,000 ha in 2022)



Registered Pesticide Permits in the Midlands region.

Environmental Impacts

As a result of consistent best practice efforts in the fight against feral pigs and invasive predators, the improvement in the environment can not be underestimated.

This year, rabbit warrens continue to devastate native vegetation and paddocks. In more positive news, the efforts of our LPMTs to remove dense feral pig populations in our northern Shires have resulted in the rehabilitation of Mallee Fowl habitats with birds returning to breed in the area.

Rabbit Damage



Mallee Fowl Nests



Community Engagement

The community engagement program of the MBG is to ensure information about the group's activities are communicated regularly and landholders have regular opportunities to get involved with the group.

The activities related to this program are outlined below with the communication strategy located in Appendix 2.

In 2022/23, the MBG continued to engage with corporate mining and farming companies that are active in the Midlands region, including Iluka, Tronox, Woodside and Viridis Agriculture, to get them involved in the monitoring and control programs. Staff at these companies have completed 1080 accreditation training and moved to obtain restricted chemical permits for their operations.

The group's Annual General Meeting also acts as the key forum for the year for members and the community to engage with the group and its activities.

The MBG also attends local field days and events including the Mingenew Expo and grower group Spring Field Days. Members and landowners within the MBGs Shires are often in attendance and it is often a great opportunity to engage with these stakeholders.



Iluka employees implementing cameras at their Cataby operation to monitor pest activity...



Paul Pitaro (LPMT), Chris O'Callaghan (MBG EO) and Maria Griffiths (MBG Deputy Chair) at the 2023 Mingenew Expo. The group's stall included a "Pig-Brig": a new design of feral pig soft net trap, designed to allow pigs to enter the trap but not leave.

Every year a mailout is delivered to all landholders in the Midlands region providing information about the group's upcoming activities and opportunities to become a member of the group. The MBG's membership eligibility criteria is as follows:



Full Member

Open to individuals who own or occupy 100 hectares or more in the Midlands region



Associate Member

Open to any legal entity that controls, cares or manages land in the Midlands region, represented by an authorised nominee.

To date the MBG has 97 full members, 5 associate members as well as an additional 229 subscribers to the group's E-Newsletter. There is no charge to being a member of the MBG, with the key advantage of being an MBG member is that it gives people a say in the governance process of the group. Furthermore, the MBG cannot automatically make individuals a member, due to privacy laws preventing the group from accessing to contact details of landholders in the region.

The MBG encourages landholders to become members as it allows them to have a greater level of engagement with the group. This is significant when it comes to declared pest management. Members are able to have their say on priority species, board members and the activities in the group's operational plan.

Community Engagement

Month	Planned Activity	Medium	Purpose
August 2022	Mingenew Expo	Presence, Brochures, Demonstration	Consultation & Inform
		Workshop	Participation & Inform
September 2022	MBG Update	E-news	Participation
		Presence, Brochure, Demonstration	Inform
October 2022	MBG Annual General Meeting	Local Papers, MBG e-news, Social Media, Email	Consultation & Inform
November 2022	MBG Update	E-news	Inform
	Rabbit Control Info and Bait Days DPR Information	Local Papers, E-news	Inform & Participation
December 2022	MBG Update	E-news	Inform
	Working Dog Safety and Welfare when Baiting Information	E-news	Inform
	Community Rabbit Baiting Program	Local Papers, E-news, Social Media	Participation & Inform
March 2023	Wild dogs Update	Local Papers, E-news	Inform
	MBG Update	E-news	Inform
	Feral Pigs Update	Local Papers, E-news	Inform
May 2023	Letter to Midlands Region Ratepayers	Mailout	Inform
	Domestic animals welfare when 1080 baiting information	Mailout	Inform
June 2023	MBG Update	E-news	Inform
	Fairy Tern Protection Information	Local Papers, E-news	Inform

Monitoring & Evaluation

The MBG has established a cloud-based database that acts as a store of all the groups activity in the region. The database is tailored for the MBG and allows the group to keep accurate records of work completed, pests destroyed, permits completed and membership information.

The database has fully integrated workflows, allowing seamless information transfer from LPMT's in the field to the Executive Officer and the MBG Board. This system significantly cuts down administration costs associated with Monitoring and Evaluation of field activities and membership applications.

The MBG also utilise Feral Scan to report into national databases of declared pest management. Feral Scan has limitations to local operations, however can inform decision makers at a national level as to the significance and locations of different pest species.

The group has also utilised facial recognition technology in some of its field cameras to assist with the monitoring of key pest species in the region. The system, called EVORTA, is able to assess images of animals to determine which species is present and send an alert via SMS to LPMT's if a target species is identified.

Governance

The MBG is a not-for-profit association, governed by a Board of Management, elected at the group's Annual General Meeting. The group also contracts experienced and professional people to ensure a high quality of work is completed.

The governance program allows for an Executive Officer and a Bookkeeper to be contracted on a part-time basis to oversee the executive and regulatory requirements of running an association and recognised biosecurity group.

The Executive Officer oversee's the following tasks:

- Board Processes (meeting oversight, information gathering, administrative duties)
- LPMT Co-ordinator (Job planning, resource allocation)
- Bookkeeping (MYOB coding, invoicing, payments, BAS, Board reports, work with Auditor)
- Data Management (Database maintenance and reporting)
- Restricted Chemical Permits (Support and submit applications on behalf of farmers)
- Stakeholder Liaison (DBCA, DPIRD, Mining, Events & Workshops)
- Grant funding management and reporting

The governance program ensures the group has appropriate insurance and subscriptions to allow the group to run professionally and efficiently as well as coverage for administration costs such as printing, meeting room hire and catering where necessary.

SUMMARY & FUTURE CHALLENGES

The MBG has overseen the implementation of its third Operational plan and Declared Pest Rate in the 2022/23 financial year. This has been well supported by the community with consistently high payment rate, good engagement with permits and on-ground activity and a steady increase in membership over the last 12 months.

The continuity of the MBG team and having a stable and engaged board of management as well as an experienced Executive Officer, Communications Officer, Bookkeeper and Licensed Pest Management Technicians has allowed the group to progress and function seamlessly.

The groups LPMTs Paul Pitaro, Andrew Lockey and Andrew Walker are now quite familiar with the landscape and much of the farming community which allows for on-ground work to be completed in a timely manner.

Feral pig populations are under significant pressure from the efforts of the Biosecurity Groups LPMTs. Hotspot areas in Arrowsmith and Irwin have had a strong focus in 2022/23 in order to significantly reduce numbers. The last few pigs are going to be the hardest and most expensive ones to kill but continued pressure must be maintained in order to prevent further build-up.

As the group progresses and is able to more accurately assess pest numbers and control actions required, the relationship with the region's largest land manager – the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction (DBCA) is going to be vitally important. Currently, the group's LPMTs are issued with access permits (Reg 4) which allows them to conduct monitoring activities on government-managed land. In late 2023, Restricted Chemical Permits have been issued to LPMT's to complete baiting activities on selected and high priority parks within the region which is an encouraging step forward and assists the group achieve a 'nil-tenure' approach to pest management. Maintaining these nil-tenure efforts over the longer term remains a challenge.

In 2022, the Minister announced there would be a review into the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management act, which is the legislation that enables the Recognised Biosecurity Groups to access a consistent source of funding that can be focussed locally into pest management. This review is currently in progress and pending the outcome may create challenges for the group going forward.

The MBG, along with other Biosecurity Groups have contributed to this review process as appropriate over the last 12 months. It is anticipated that the review will be completed in early 2024.

The group is a grass-roots organisation and relies on the community driving the activities and getting engaged with the programs. To date this has been very successful and is a testament to the commitment of the landholders who took the risk to establish the group and volunteer their time to achieving the outcomes. The group has much work to do and challenges to overcome, but is well on its way to achieving its goals of co-ordinated, nil tenure declared pest management.

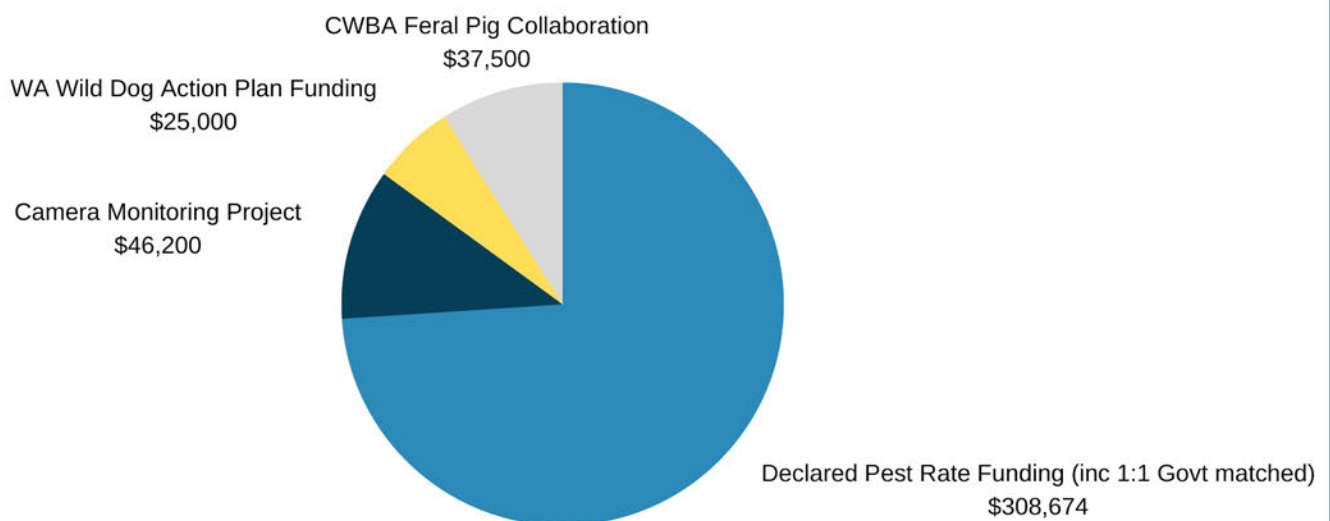
FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23

Financial Breakdown

The Midlands Biosecurity Group operates on a July-June financial year and accesses funding from a range of sources to support the group's on-ground activities.

The figure below breaks down the income sources for the MBG for the 2022/23 financial year, highlighting roughly a third of the group's activities are funded by grant funding and the majority is funded through the declared pest rate. The declared pest rate funding is made up of 1:1 landholder rates and government-matched funding. MBG expenditure is focussed on on-ground support to land managers to monitor and control declared pests.

Midlands Biosecurity Group income breakdown FY2022/23



FUNDING SOURCES BREAKDOWN

Declared Pest Rate Funding

The declared pest rate funding is provided through landholder rates and matching funds. The amount collected is determined by the MBG Operational Plan. The BAM Act legislation requires funds to be spent within the 12 month timeframe indicated in the operational plan ie July-June. This timeframe can be problematic from a cash flow perspective as DPIRD does not approve the operational plan until July, and first payments are not made until September/October. Essentially this means operations can not start at the planned time. As a result of this, in FY2022/23 the MBG carried over an amount of \$25,325 to allow for continuity of operations into FY2023/24. This amount was subsequently deducted from the group's second payment in April 2023.

Declared Pest Rate Funding		
Opening Balance		25,325.00
Income	Declared Pest Rate Income	308,674.00
Total		333,999.00
Expenditure	MBG Bookeeping	316.78
	MBG Admin Costs	245.91
	MBG Community Consultation	2,794.26
	MBG Insurances	9,244.55
	MBG LPMT Contractor	211,800
	MBG Baiting & Poison Supplies	7,548.00
	MBG Registered Pesticide Permits	759.10
	MBG Consumables	3,633.78
	MBG Executive Officer Contractor	40,250.00
	MBG Communications Contractor	4131.85
	MBG Rabbit Baiting Product	4,900.00
	MBG Aerial Shoot	10,846.96
	MBG Baiting Meat	3,120.00
	MBG Audit Expense	3,300.00
	MBG Camera Equipment	845.45
	Total	303,737.64
DPR Balance as at 30 June 2023*		4,936.40

Note: This amount will be deducted from the MBG's Second DPR transfer for FY2023

Central Wheatbelt Mingenew/Morawa Pig Project

This project supports feral pig work across LGA and RBG boundaries, funding MBG LPMT Paul Pitaro to complete feral pig co-ordination, monitoring and control in the Morawa shire.

Central Wheatbelt Mingenew/Morawa Pig Project		
Opening Balance		600.00
Income	Project Income	37,500.00
Total		48,100.00
Expenditure	MBG - LPMT Contractor	37,500.00
Total		37,500.00
Project Balance as at 30 June 2023		600.00

WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding

This project is funded by the WA government, through the WA wild dog action plan and supports the work of an LPMT in the Midlands region and surrounding areas not covered by an RBG. This project is funded on an annual basis. The program has been continued in FY2022 at the same funding level.

WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding		
Opening Balance		350.000
Income	Project Income	25,000.00
Total		25,350.00
Expenditure	MBG - LPMT Contractor	25,100.00
Total		25,100.00
Project Balance as at 30 June 2023		250.00

DPIRD Camera Monitoring Project

This project is funded by the federal government, led by DPIRD and has initiated a camera monitoring network throughout the Midwest working with 3 local RBG's. The MBG provides LPMT services to DPIRD to install and maintain these camera in the Midlands region. This project will run through to June 2023 and will provide \$77,000 to the MBG over 2 years.

Camera Monitoring Project		
Opening Balance		27,390.91
Income	Project Income	46,200.00
Total		73,590.91
Expenditure	MBG - LPMT Contractor	44,400.00
Total		44,400.00
Project Balance as at 30 June 2023		29,190.91

APPENDIX 1 – Operational Plan Details

Program 1 Wild Dogs & Foxes				
<i>Actions</i>	<i>Input</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Bait Rack & Monitoring Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LPMT Time - Dried Meat Baits - RCP's - 1080 - Strychnine - Signage - Traps - Cameras 	<p>At least 10,000 wild dog strength baiting products deployed (baits, CPEs, Traps)</p> <p>At least 10 cameras deployed to monitor the region for declared pests.</p>		<p>March-April</p> <p>September-October</p>
LPMT Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LPMT Contract 	LPMT/s Contracted. (Total includes Camera monitoring project)		July-June
TOTAL			\$147,200	

Program 2 Feral Pigs				
<i>Action</i>	<i>Input</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Co-ordinated Integrated Feral Pig Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grain - Poison - LPMT - Cameras - Signs - RCPs - Aerial Shoot - Traps 	<p>At least 40 baiting sites implemented in hotspot areas.</p> <p>Camera Monitoring implemented across MBG area.</p>		<p>Baiting: Jan-April</p> <p>Oct-Dec</p> <p>Aerial Shoot: February and/or July</p>
Morawa-Mingenew Pig Program Co-ordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LPMT Time 	100 day LPMT Contracted (includes CWBA Morawa Pig Project Contribution)		July-June (Ongoing monitoring)
TOTAL			\$149,500	

Program 3 Rabbits				
<i>Action</i>	<i>Input</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Community Rabbit Baiting Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LPMT Time - Grain - Poison - RHDV - Baiting Trailer - RCP's - LPMT time 	<p>At least 20 landholders engaged in co-ordinated baiting program.</p> <p>At least 8 RHDV release sites.</p>		February - March
TOTAL			\$13,000	

Program 4 Community Engagement				
<i>Action</i>	<i>Input</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Budget</i>	

Community Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting and Field Day attendance - Brochure - Workshops - Social Media - Print Media - Website - Newspapers - Mail Out - E-newsletter - Communications contractor 	<p>DPR is supported across all shires.</p> <p>Annual General Meeting held annually.</p> <p>At least 6 E-newsletters produced.</p> <p>Website maintained</p>		<p>Field days and workshops: August-September</p> <p>AGM: October</p> <p>Letter to landholders: March</p> <p>See consultation timeline for more detail.</p>
TOTAL			\$15,000	

Program 5 Governance & Administration				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Input</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Executive Officer 	Executive Officer services contracted		July-June
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IT - Insurance - Travel - Office Space - Bookkeeper - Data Management - Reporting & Auditing Costs - Admin/Comms - Meeting costs - Staff Professional Development 			
Contingency	Contingency for non payment of rates.			
TOTAL			\$93,000	

APPENDIX 2 – Communications Strategy

Goal	Timing	Detail
Regular column in local papers/e-news	July, September, October, February, March, June	Papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badgingarra Sandpaper • Dandaragan Redgum • Coorow Squawk • Northern Valleys News • On the Mat Carnamah and Eneabba • Craytales Jurien Bay • Leeman/Greenhead Snag Island News • Three Springs Yakabout • Moora Herald • Mingenew Matters • Dongara-Denison Local Rag • Watheroo Wag Tails
Regular E-News Update	July, September, October, February, March, June	Local paper content to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Baiting Day information • Activities updates • Restricted Chemical Permits • Latest Information/Research • Declared Pest Rate
Mail Out	March	Operational Plan & Group update.
MBG card (digital + printed)		What and where to report sightings. For WMG staff and MBG Board to distribute as needed.
Twitter Handle	Regular Posts with latest information & activities	See @midlands_group
Facebook Page	Regular Posts with latest information & activities	Search Midlands Biosecurity Group

Presentations to Local Government as required/requested	Ongoing	Provision of updates and progress of the group.
Community Baiting Day(s)	February, March, April September	Conducted at known feral pest hotspots.
MBG Website/Webpage update	July	Content added as received. DPR information, operational plans, contact details etc.
Board Members Communication	Ongoing	Board member are key communicators in the designated area. Inform the community of group activities
Landholder Training	As requested	Training to complete RCPs, improve control strategies, governance, provide feedback to researchers.
Brochure	August	Update MBG brochure annually to ensure information stays relevant and catchy
Flyer	September	Flyer developed for community notice boards.
Identification of Key Stakeholders	On going	Identify and inform key stakeholders of group activities. Collaborate where appropriate with other groups including Mingenew-Irwin group, Liebe Group, NACC, DBCA, WA Police.

Midlands Biosecurity Group

MBG AGM 2023

Prepared on October 04 2023

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Profit and Loss Review

Cash mode

01 Jul 2022 - 30 Jun 2023

	Total	
	Actual	Last Year
Income		
Project Income	\$108,700.00	\$149,300.00
Declared Pest Rate Income	\$308,674.04	\$248,418.00
Total Income	\$417,374.04	\$397,718.00
Cost Of Sales		
MBG - Audit expenses	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00
MBG - Feral Pig Trapping Equipment and Supplies	\$0.00	\$12,431.73
MBG - Camera Equipment	(\$1,490.19)	\$5,839.09
MBG- Bookeeping (MYOB Subscription)	\$316.78	\$312.70
MBG - Admin Costs	\$245.90	\$2,220.01
MBG - Community Consultation	\$2,794.26	\$2,649.19
MBG - Insurances	\$9,244.55	\$5,940.00
MBG - LPMT Contractor	\$293,436.36	\$313,500.00
MBG - Baiting/Poison Supplies	\$9,406.64	\$9,791.09
MBG- Permits	\$759.10	\$1,897.75
MBG - Consumables	\$3,633.78	\$5,088.82
MBG - Executive Officer Contractor	\$40,250.00	\$59,000.00
MBG - Communications Contractor	\$4,131.85	\$6,020.00
MBG - Workshops & Events	\$0.00	\$286.36
MBG - Rabbit Baiting Product	\$4,900.00	\$6,966.66
MBG - Aerial Shoot	\$10,847.96	\$21,318.00
MBG - Baiting Meat	\$3,120.00	\$7,140.00
Total Cost Of Sales	\$384,896.99	\$463,701.40
Gross Profit	\$32,477.05	(\$65,983.40)
Expenses		
Other Payroll Expenses	\$136.50	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$136.50	\$0.00
Operating Profit	\$32,340.55	(\$65,983.40)
Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Profit	\$32,340.55	(\$65,983.40)

Balance Sheet Review

Cash mode

30 Jun 2023

	Total	
	Actual	Last Year
Assets		
MBG Bank Account	\$103,341.72	\$71,301.70
Total Assets	\$103,341.72	\$71,301.70
Liabilities		
GST Balance	(\$8,062.94)	(\$7,762.41)
Total Liabilities	(\$8,062.94)	(\$7,762.41)
Net Assets	\$111,404.66	\$79,064.11
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$79,064.11	\$145,047.51
Current Year Earnings	\$32,340.55	(\$65,983.40)
Total Equity	\$111,404.66	\$79,064.11

MIDLANDS BIOSECURITY GROUP
ABN: 11 513 539 345
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity. The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (WA) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112	Income Taxes
AASB 110	Events after the Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an cash basis.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a) Income Tax

The Association is a non-profit organisation and thus exempted from income tax liability by virtue of section 23(3) of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

b) Goods & Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

NOTE 2: PROJECT INCOME

WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding

1 year grant totalling \$25,000.

Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group Feral Pig Collaboration

In July 2020 a collaborative feral pig program was launched by the Midlands Biosecurity Group and Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association to manage a feral pig population in the shires of Mingenew and Morawa. The Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association contributed \$37,500 towards this project in FY2023, with the Midlands Biosecurity Group taking on the administration role. This money was used to contract a Licensed Pest Management Technician to co-ordinate the control program.

Camera Monitoring Project

A commonwealth funded, DPIRD led Camera monitoring project began in FY2022. This project contributed income of \$46,200 in FY23. This project finished April 2023.

NOTE 3. DECLARED PEST RATE INCOME

\$308,674 was drawn from the state government Declared Pest Account.

NOTE 4.

The included balance sheet also acts as a statement of equity as no assets or liabilities, have a market value different from the book values.

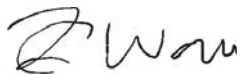
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Midlands Biosecurity Group as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Midlands Biosecurity Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Charles Wass
Chairperson



Chris O'Callaghan
Treasurer

Dated this 4th October, 2023

Independent Accountants Review Report

To the members of Midlands Biosecurity Group Inc

Report on the Midlands Biosecurity Group Inc Financial Reports

We have reviewed the accompanying 2023 financial reports of **Midlands Biosecurity Group Inc** (the association) dated 4 October 2023, which comprises of :-

- Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023
- Profit and Loss for period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
- Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023
- Statement by Members of the Committee

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*. The committee determines that the internal control is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We have conducted our review in accordance with auditing standard on review engagements, ASRE 2400, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report is not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*. As the reviewer of the association, ASRE2400 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the annual financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report of the association is not in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards as referred to in Note 1 of the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Midlands Biosecurity Group Inc to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*. As a result the report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Steven A. Windsor FMAAT, FCCA
Pascoe Partners Accountants
Level 2, 100 Havelock Street, West Perth WA 6872

5 October 2023