

DPRFS Final Report Purpose

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The purpose of this Final Report is to summarise the Recognised Biosecurity Group's (RBG) achievements during 2023-24, including the activities undertaken and funding expended for purposes as detailed in the RBG's Funding Agreement.

Reporting submitted to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), pursuant to section 170 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, must be published on DPIRD's electronic website. For enquiries regarding this report, please contact the Funding Schemes Team on talkingrbg@dpiird.wa.gov.au.

Consent Privacy

Privacy Statement

Information provided by Recipients or collected by DPIRD in relation to the project, may be used in the administration of this Funding Scheme and in the acceptance of this report.

Any information provided (personal, financial or otherwise) will be solely used for this purpose of this Funding Scheme.

DPIRD will adhere to the legislative requirements of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, and the *Privacy Act 1988* (cth) when storing information provided by Recipients or collected by DPIRD in relation to this Final Report.

DPIRD is also subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* and documents in our possession are subject to these provisions.

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Statement and I consent to and authorise such uses and disclosures *

☒ Yes

Recipient Details

*** indicates a required field**

RBG Name

Southern Biosecurity Group

This question is read only.

Contact Name *

Mrs Michelle Grobler

Position *

Executive Officer

Phone Number *

0484 932 447

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email *

sbg.execofficer@gmail.com

Must be an email address.

Funded Activities Budget

* indicates a required field

Funded Activities

The table below details the activities outlined in your DPRFS Application Form and/or Funding Agreement.

Please provide an Activity Update and include any additional activities undertaken, which were not detailed in your DPRFS Application Form or Funding Agreement.

If you have undertaken additional activities or had a variation approved for revised funded activities, please add rows as required.

Activity	Activity Measure	Final Activity Update
Name of program, e.g. Wild Dog Program. What activities will be undertaken, e.g. trapping, baiting, aerial culls.	How will success of the activity be measured, e.g. an increased survival rate of calves.	e.g. how many baiting days were completed, how many baits or traps laid, number of dogs destroyed.

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<p>Communications & Community Engagement</p>	<p>Activities including the distribution of annual survey and newsletter, Rain e-newsletter updates, community updates via local communication methods.</p>	<p>Throughout the reporting period, we have undertaken various activities to ensure effective communication and community engagement within our target areas. The following outlines key initiatives and outcomes:</p> <p>Social Media Engagement We shared 16 social media posts on our Facebook page, aimed at keeping our community informed on key developments and initiatives. These posts were also distributed through the local Shire's Facebook page to ensure optimal community reach and engagement.</p> <p>RAIN e-Newsletter Unfortunately, due to publication issues, the RAIN e-newsletter experienced delays and was not issued during the applicable financial year. However, we successfully resumed its publication in August 2024, which is outside the reporting period but demonstrates our commitment to ongoing communication with stakeholders.</p> <p>Annual Newsletter and Survey In late August 2023, we distributed our annual newsletter and survey to all landholders. The response rate was encouraging, particularly via the electronic survey option. The feedback gathered has provided valuable insights into community needs and concerns.</p> <p>Community Engagement Events We held several community engagement events:</p> <p>Annual Fox Shoot (8 March 2024): This event allowed</p>
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	<p>us to directly engage with participants on pest control strategies and landholder involvement.</p> <p>Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show (11-23 September 2024): We maintained a stall throughout the event, offering information on pest management and engaging with the broader community on issues of concern. This platform proved highly effective for raising awareness and fostering conversations.</p> <p>Local Newspaper and Community Boards</p> <p>We published an article in the local community newspaper discussing fox baiting projects. While the newspaper has transitioned to an electronic format, which some landholders are not fully comfortable with, we ensured that important project updates were also shared via local community boards in both Ravensthorpe and the Hopetoun Community Resource Centre. This approach allowed us to maximize the visibility of our efforts.</p> <p>In conclusion, despite some challenges, we have worked diligently to maintain strong communication channels with our community, using a variety of methods to reach diverse audiences. We are committed to improving these efforts and will continue to adapt to the changing needs of our stakeholders.</p>
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Management of Declared Animal Pests	<p>Animal pests including wild dogs, foxes, rabbits, and feral cats.</p> <p>Using Surveillance and monitoring, risk assessment and prioritization, prevention and early intervention, control and eradication, collaboration and stakeholder engagement, data management and reporting accordingly to project needs</p>	<p>The following outlines our efforts and achievements in managing animal pests within the reporting period, with a focus on foxes, rabbits, and wild dogs. We applied integrated strategies including surveillance, monitoring, risk assessment, prevention, control, and collaboration with stakeholders to address pest challenges across the region.</p> <p>Fox Control Projects</p> <p>We implemented both autumn and spring fox control projects, conducting active baiting over 5 days during each season. A total of 410 baits (6 mg combination dried meat and composite baits) were released across the operational area. Our surveillance and monitoring efforts indicated that fox populations were less dense, with a noticeable decline in activity during the four baiting projects conducted. This suggests that our baiting strategies are having a positive impact on reducing the fox population.</p> <p>Rabbit Control Project</p> <p>In August 2023, we conducted a rabbit control project focusing on the release of RD-HV (Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus) in known problematic areas. The project ran over a 5-day period with the use of 10 vials of RD-HV, which was the maximum quantity available to our group at the time. The results varied:</p> <p>Townsite Areas: Rabbit population densities were recorded as low to medium, with no active warrens identified.</p> <p>Outlying Areas: These areas posed a higher rabbit population density with active war-</p>
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rens, necessitating follow-up control efforts, which have been planned accordingly. During this period, we also engaged with landholders, providing education on how they can contribute to long-term rabbit management on their properties.

Wild Dog Control

Our wild dog control efforts spanned 54 days of active baiting, during which 2,449 dried meat baits were laid, and 91 traps were set. This led to the successful trapping of 5 wild dogs within the operational control area. Importantly, no reports of stock losses were received during this period, a positive indicator of the success of our management efforts.

We also utilized data from state barrier fence monitoring to alert landholders to wild dog sightings in their areas. This data was instrumental in compiling reports for the Industry Funding Scheme and guiding our ongoing control strategies.

Stakeholder Engagement and Data Management

Throughout all control activities, we emphasized collaboration with landholders and stakeholders, providing them with updates on pest control efforts and engaging them in education initiatives. Data management has been a critical component of our work, ensuring that accurate information was shared with industry partners, and used to refine our risk assessment and control plans.

In conclusion, the pest control projects undertaken during the reporting period have shown promising results.

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Management of Declared Plant Pests	<p>Plant pests including Cactus, Apple Sodom, and Bridal Creeper.</p> <p>achieved by implementing surveillance, prioritization, prevention, intervention, control, collaboration, and data management per project need.</p>	<p>This report outlines the outcomes and methods used in our projects targeting key plant pests within the operational area, including Bridal Creeper, Apple of Sodom, and Cacti. We focused on surveillance, prioritization, prevention, control, collaboration with landholders, and data management to ensure effective plant pest management.</p> <p>Apple of Sodom Control</p> <p>Control efforts for Apple of Sodom were conducted over a span of 8 days during spring and late summer. A total of 46 plants were treated using Metsulfuron as the primary herbicide. Notably, the use of Metsulfuron appeared to sterilize the seeds, as no new seedlings were observed in previously treated areas. Additionally, a seed germination trial was attempted using pods collected last year, but the seeds did not germinate, further supporting the effectiveness of the treatment.</p> <p>Control efforts involved revisiting all previously identified plants and targeting newly established ones. For larger plants (greater than 1 meter), we applied a combination of cochineal insect infection and chemical treatment using Grazon at a rate of 1L/100L and Pulse at 300ml/100L. Dyed chemical sprays were used for easy identification of treated plants, and smaller plants were removed by hand and disposed of at an approved site.</p> <p>Bridal Creeper Control</p> <p>Bridal Creeper control spanned 10 days during</p>
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spring and late summer, using chemical treatments and manual removal methods. Significant progress was noted, particularly in the town-site, where there was a dramatic decrease in Bridal Creeper density in the originally treated areas.

During this project, we applied strict dieback prevention measures:

Dieback Control Measures:
All vehicles, boots, and equipment were thoroughly washed down with methylated spirit solutions after leaving off-road areas, and mud was avoided to prevent contamination.

Cacti Control

Cacti control efforts were integrated into the same operational framework, utilizing a combination of manual removal and chemical treatment, as required. Smaller plants were physically removed, and chemical treatment was applied to larger infestations using Grazon and Pulse to ensure effectiveness.

Chemical Application

The following chemical treatments were used for both Bridal Creeper and Apple of Sodom:

Metsulfuron: 0.4g/100L

Pulse: 250ml/100L

Dye: 300ml/100L A total of 1950L of solution was applied during the course of the projects to ensure comprehensive coverage of the treated areas.

Collaboration and Data Management

Throughout these projects, we worked closely with land-

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		<p>holders and local stakeholders, sharing updates on pest control progress and encouraging their participation in ongoing monitoring and reporting efforts. Data collected from these projects has been compiled to assist in future prioritization and control measures.</p> <p>In summary, the control projects targeting Apple of Sodom, Bridal Creeper, and Cacti have demonstrated significant progress, particularly in reducing the population of these invasive species in key areas. Continued follow-up and monitoring will be crucial to maintaining these gains and preventing re-infestation.</p>
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Please upload any relevant documents to support the achievement of Funded Activities

Filename: 725aa7f4926dfdf4.pdf
File size: 96.9 kB

Filename: a9dac83f33d765e8.pdf
File size: 81.2 kB

Filename: Current Projects.pdf
File size: 237.6 kB

Filename: deb86815455dd792.pdf
File size: 80.8 kB

Filename: e35a8f2639451d4e.pdf
File size: 28.5 kB

Filename: Facebook posts.pdf
File size: 1009.2 kB

Filename: Fox Control Program in Cheadanup and Long Creek Reserves.docx
File size: 13.3 kB

Filename: image0.jpeg
File size: 4.0 MB

Filename: image1.jpeg
File size: 4.1 MB

Filename: Revisiting of previously identified Cacti infestation areas in the Shire of Ravensthorpe.docx

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File size: 114.9 kB

Including minutes from meetings, photographs, social media posts etc. Please note the Annual Report upload is requested below.

Budget (GST Exclusive)

The table below details the anticipated expenditure included in the budget section of your DPRFS Application Form.

Please complete the **Actual Expenditure** column to detail the actual values which have been expended on funded activities.

Please only include funding from the Declared Pest Rate and State matched funding.

All amounts should be GST exclusive.

Please **do not add commas** to figures – e.g., type \$1000 not \$1,000 – this will ensure your figures for each table total correctly.

Funded Activity	Anticipated Expenditure (Ex GST)	Actual Expenditure (Ex GST)
Name of program, e.g. Wild Dog Program.	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.
Administration & Governance	\$93,290.00	\$130,086.00
Communication & Community Engagement	\$9,000.00	\$6,147.00
Declared Animal Pest Program	\$67,561.00	\$40,757.00
Declared Plant Pest Program	\$20,500.00	\$21,513.00

Budget Totals

The values below are auto calculated based on the values entered in the Budget Table.

Anticipated Expenditure Total (ex GST)	\$190,351.00	Actual Expenditure Total (ex GST)	\$198,503.00
	0		0
	This number/amount is calculated.		This number/amount is calculated.

Variations

Did you request a variation for delivery of your 2023-24 funded activities? *

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Annual Report & Independent Financial Audit

The provision of an Annual Report is necessary to meet the legislative requirements under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.

The provision of an Independently Audited Financial Report is necessary to meet the legislative requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* and the DPRFS Funding Agreement.

The financial statement of income and expenditure in relation to the Funding, certified by an Independent Financial Auditor and completed to Australian Accounting Standards, including but not limited to the following:

- the total Declared Pest Account (DPA) Funding received for the financial year.
- any balance brought forward from the previous reporting year, including the intended purpose for those funds.
- the amount of interest earned by the Recipient on the DPA Funding for the financial year (if any)
- the amount of DPA Funding spent and unspent in respect of the Funded Activities.

Please upload you 2023-24 Annual Report and Independent Financial Audit using the appropriate upload options below.

Please upload your 2023-24 Annual Report

Filename: Annual Report 2023-2024.pdf
File size: 2.3 MB

Please upload your 2023-24 Independently Audited Financial Report

Filename: 2024 Draft Financials - Updated P&L Split.pdf
File size: 177.1 kB

Please upload your combined 2023-24 Annual Report & Independently Audited Financial Report

Filename: Combined Annual Report adn Audited Financials DPR2023-2024.pdf
File size: 2.4 MB

Unspent DPR Funding

Please provide information about any unspent funding in 2023-24.

Unspent funding includes funds which have been transferred to RBGs which have not been expended in the financial year they were transferred. Unspent funds can be allocated or unallocated.

The value detailed, should be the same as what is reported in your Independently Audited Financial Report.

What, if any, was the value of unspent DPR funding from 2023-24 *

\$0.00

Must be a dollar amount.

Is the unspent value allocated or unallocated? *

- ☒ Allocated
☐ Unallocated

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☐ No unspent funds to report

Please note: Allocated unspent funding is funding held by RBGs in their bank account from the prior financial year which has been allocated to an activity or program. Unallocated unspent funding is funding held by RBGs in their bank account from the prior financial year which has not been allocated to an activity or program.

Please provide information about what operational activities the unspent funds have been allocated to within 2024-25.

N/A

Certification Declaration

*** indicates a required field**

Declaration

This section must be completed by the Chairperson, or appropriate delegate, on behalf of the Recipient organisation.

Once this form is submitted via SmartyGrants, it will be deemed as authorised by the below signatory, despite no signature provided.

By submitting this application, I acknowledge that:

- The information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.
- If any personal details of a third party are included, the third party has been made aware of, and given their permission for, those details to appear in this Final Report.

I Agree *

☒ Yes

Name *

Mrs Michelle Grobler

Position *

Executive Officer

Phone Number *

0484 932 447

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email

sbg.execofficer@gmail.com

Must be an email address.

Date *

16/10/2024

Must be a date.

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