



Regional Wild Dog Management Plan 2021-2026



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List of definitions

List of Definitions	
Wild Dog	All wild living dogs (including dingoes, feral dogs and hybrids)
Dingo	Purebred descendant of the Asian Native Dog introduced into Australia
Feral Dog	Wild living domestic dog
Hybrid	Dogs resulting from a cross between the Dingo and a domestic dog, including the descendants of crossbred progeny
1080	Sodium fluoroacetate – an acute metabolic poison particularly toxic to canids
Strychnine	Strychnine alkaloid – non selective and highly poisonous
Doggers	Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs)

Abbreviations

Abbreviations	
AWI	Australian Wool Innovation
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industry, Research and Development
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
EBA	Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc.
EBA	Northern Mallee Declared Species Group Inc.
UCL	Unallocated Crown Land
the Group	Esperance Biosecurity Association
LPMT	Licensed Pest Management Technician commonly known as Doggers

Introduction

The Northern Mallee Declared Species Group Inc. (NMDSG) formed in 2004, following a community meeting called by concerned farmers, due to the increased livestock attacks by wild dogs within the Esperance Region. Cuts to the State Wild Dog Eradication Program in 2000 saw an escalation in wild dog numbers, with 3,000 sheep being lost within the Esperance Region during 2003 alone.

The Honourable Mark Lewis MLC Minister for Agriculture and Food gave consent to recognition for Northern Mallee Declared Species Group Inc. to become a Recognised Biosecurity Group for the purposes of section 169 of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, on the 23rd February 2017.

In May 2017 the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group Inc. official changed the group's name to Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc. to show better representation for all landholders within the group's operational area.

The EBA is managed by an active and dedicated voluntary committee comprising of 11 farmers, who employ two Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) and an Administrator. The EBA Committee meet regularly to ensure efficient management of the group.

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

The EBA has gained significant experience managing wild dog populations using alternative methods currently employed 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 LPMTs target their 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 EBA was the community driver of the proposal to construct an extension to the State Barrier Fence, to extend around the Esperance Agricultural area. Funding for this extension was announced in May 2019 with work beginning in June, 2020. Progress of the Extension is currently stalled.

Aims and objectives

The primary focus or goal of the EBA is to improve the co-ordination of wild dog management and control within the Shire of Esperance to reduce livestock losses.

Strategies to achieve this goal

- To implement and maintain best practice wild dog management on private and public lands in the region
- Enable a whole community response to the wild dog predation issues in the region and incorporate a biodiversity component in the management actions to reduce the impact of wild dogs upon natural resources as well as livestock.

- Increase community participation in wild dog and fox management.
- To monitor, evaluate and report on the progress towards reducing wild dog damage to livestock in the Esperance region.
- To provide proactive and positive extension activity driven by the community group that will facilitate broader community awareness of wild dog issues locally and nationally.

Key stakeholders

Key stakeholders and partners for the Wild Dog management activities include;

Main partners

- Esperance Landholders
- Shire of Esperance
- Department of Primary Industry and Development
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- South Coast NRM
- Licensed Wild Dog Control Officers
- EBA Members
- EBA Corporate Members

Other stakeholders

- WA Wild Dog Alliance
- National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group
- Esperance Stud Merino Breeders Association WA
- SEPWA
- ASheep
- Australian Wool Innovations

These groups will be engaged during the life of this Management Plan

Activities and Achievements

EBA activities

The EBA currently employs one Licensed Pest Management Technician. The LPMT is fully licensed and hold current insurance policies to cover Business Insurance (up to \$10,000,000 liability), operating as private contractors to EBA

- Mr. Daniel Carlisle – Pest Management Technician license number – 5002

Through the employment of Licensed Pest Management Technicians EBA has been able to maintain a protection buffer zone along the 700km boundary between Agricultural and Un-allocated Crown Land, protecting livestock and remnant native systems from the attacks of wild dogs.

The protection buffer zone and hot spots are managed using an integrated tracking, trapping and baiting program complying with best pest management control practice. This program is solely delivered by the

trained Licensed Pest Management Technicians, complying with the *Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of Strychnine in Western Australia* and the *Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of 1080 in Western Australia*. This integrated program runs all year round, as a proactive approach to addressing the wild dog issue and regularly monitoring wild dog hotspots within the area.

The wild dog baiting program also effectively controls foxes, which provides positive environmental outcomes for small to mid-sized native animals.

EBA Achievements

EBA has successfully reduced the number of wild dogs within the Esperance Region and greatly reduced the attacks upon livestock. The below table shows the total number of wild dogs destroyed and baits laid by the group. The number of wild dogs taken is likely an under-estimate, noting that many wild dogs that take a bait will die elsewhere and not be detected.

Year	Number Wild Dogs Taken	Number Baits Laid
2004/05	59	
2005/06	59	
2006/07	84	16,000
2007/08	30	27,000
2008/09	15	18,240
2009/10	53	26,227
2010/11	28	26,410
2011/12	21	19,199
2012/13	35	12,370
2013/14	13	16,125
2014/15	15	10,951
2015/16	16	9,907
2017	18	3,546
2018	13	2,544
2019	16	4,126
2020	9	3,331

Areas of activities

UCL - department of parks and wildlife

The majority of the Group's activities are carried out within Un-allocated Crown Land, managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DBCA), which surrounds the Esperance Agricultural Area. Current risk assessments for all these areas have been completed, in consultation with Darren Dixon - DAFWA and Stephen Butler - DBCA. With all parties holding copies of the permits (DAFWA, DBCA and EBA) these permits/risk assessments are current from 1st August 2015 until 31st July 2020.

Localities Include;

Locality	Property CRIS Number	Locality	Property CRIS Number
Lort River Reserve	1208760	East Naernup Nature Reserve	1209690
Mt Ney Nature Reserve	1206500	UCL East Coolgardie Hwy	3164954
Cape Arid National Park	1206680	UCL West Coolgardie Hwy	3164945
Mt Ridley Nature Reserve	R27386	Ravensthorpe UCL	3164945
Neds Corner Road	3195607	Beaumont Nature Reserve	1206520
Cnr Rollonds & Ned Cnr Rd	1209450	Beaumont Nature Reserve	1206560
Peak Charles National Park	1209800	Beaumont Nature Reserve	1206510
Salmon Gums Nature Reserve	1209460	Cheadanup Nature Reserve	1209830
Kau Rock Nature Reserve	1206540	Clyde Hill Nature Reserve	1206580
Kau Rock Nature Reserve	1206530	Dundas Nature Reserve	1209820
Kau Rock Nature Reserve	1206550	Dowak Nature Reserve	1206680
Kau Rock Nature Reserve	1205930	Frank Hann National Park	1209830
East Naernup Nature Reserve	3209379	Lake Gilmore Nature Reserve	3195608
East Naernup Nature Reserve	1209130		

Esperance Agricultural Landholders

For all activities carried out on privately owned land, each individual landholder is responsible for obtaining a current risk assessment for their property prior to the Licensed Pest Management Technician undergoing any strychnine or 1080 applications.

EBA works closely with Landholders offering support and training on best pest management techniques for the control of declared pests (wild dogs and foxes) on their properties.

Public drinking water catchment areas

No activities are carried out by EBA within the Public Drinking Water Catchment Areas

Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring of groups activities

The EBA's dedicated voluntary committee hold regular meetings to monitor on-ground and administration activities. An AGM is held in September/October of each year followed by committee meetings as needed throughout the year. The EBA Committee consists of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, and 8 additional supporting members. The EBA Committee is elected each year at the AGM. DPIRD, DBCA and the Esperance Shire Council work closely with the EBA Committee. Newsletters and notices are distributed to the EBA members keeping them informed.

Monitoring of Licensed pest management technicians

The EBA Committee outline the tasks required of the Licensed Pest Management Technicians, who work as Independent Contractors to EBA. EBA work with consultation with DPIRD and DBCA for areas of baiting and protocols.

Licensed Pest Management Technicians report regularly on activities to the EBA Committee, all activities are logged and recorded using GPS Data Loggers. Each Data Logger is presented to DPIRD monthly, the data downloaded and recorded on DPIRD's Wild Dog Management database and FeralScan. This data is prepared into detailed maps showing each location a wild dog is caught and baits laid, these maps are presented to the EBA Committee, other DPIRD officers and DBCA.

Monitoring of administration

An Administrator is employed by the group to handle administration duties. The Administrator reports to Committee Meetings and works closely with the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer.

Reporting to funding bodies

The group reports regularly to funding bodies, keeping in line with the individual funding agreements.

Monitoring and reporting of off target deaths

The monitoring and reporting of off target deaths is to be carried out for the duration of this plan, with Licensed Pest Management Technicians, Committee and community members reporting any observations or reports to the EBA. This is to be included as an agenda item for committee meetings and reports documented in the minutes. DPIRD and DBCA are to be immediately notified of reported non-target deaths. Investigation to be carried out in consultation with DPIRD and/or DBCA for any reported non-target deaths.

Off target incidents report to be submitted annually to the Pesticides Advisory Committee.

Reporting process for landholder on wild dog attacks

Landholders within the Esperance Region are encouraged to inform EBA Committee members or Administrator of wild dog attacks and number of stock losses due to wild dogs on their properties. This information greatly assists with assessing the effectiveness of the control program being implemented.

These reports can assist the Licensed Pest Management Technicians in targeting wild dog hotspots and preventing these dogs from causing further attacks.

Operation / funding

Membership

Membership and Corporate Membership fees raised cover meeting expenses for the group, venue hire, catering and other associated costs. Surplus funds raised through membership go towards on-ground work expenses. EBA has a membership base of 73 Esperance Landholders and 10 Corporate Members.

Pest Rate Funding

As a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) the EBA receives this funding annually from which the groups work is paid from. This funding is managed on our behalf by the Shire of Esperance.

Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) sit in on management meetings and administer RCP permits into the future.

Esperance shire council

The Esperance Shire Council provide funding each year to assist EBA with their operations to control wild dogs. In addition, the Esperance Shire manage all funding provided to the group from grants and Pest management rates. The Esperance Shire provide regular financial reports regarding the EBA funds to the EBA Committee.

Department of Primary Industry and Development, Western Australia

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development, Western Australia (DPIRD) provide technical advice and support to the EBA, working very closely with the EBA Committee.

future funding

looking forward – funding secure under BAM acts Declared Pest rate and continued support from Esperance Landholders.

The EBA would consider applying for further funding should there be additional need for LPMT activity within the Esperance area.

action plan 2021 to 2026

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Measurement of Milestone	Milestone Completion Date	Delivering of Milestone
Reduce livestock losses to less than 100 animals per year, with an ultimate aim of zero losses	<p>Continue to Employ a fully qualified LPMT 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>LPMT must be a trained Pest Management Technician and hold current permits</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>LPMT to use GPS Data Logger provided to log all baits laid, traps set and wild dogs dispatched. Logger to be presented to DAFWA monthly for data download</p> <p>Landholders to report stock losses caused by wild dogs to the EBA committee or administrator for recording</p>	<p>Completed by 2026</p> <p>Work to be carried out throughout the year, as needed, for the duration of the plan</p>	<p>Work to be delivered by LPMTs, overseen by EBA.</p> <p>The continued employment of the second LPMT will depend upon funding.</p> <p>Stock losses to be an agenda item at committee meetings for EBA committee, LPMTs, DPIRD, DBCA and community to report.</p>
	<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>Number and location of all baits laid is to be logged using the GSP Data Logger</p>	<p>Completed by 2026</p> <p>Work to be carried out throughout the year</p>	<p>Work to be delivered by LPMTs, overseen by EBA.</p>
	<p>Provide support and training to Landholders to control declared pests</p>	<p>Landholder to provide feedback at information</p>	<p>On landholder</p>	<p>Incorporate Best Pest Management training into</p>

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Measurement of Milestone	Milestone Completion Date	Delivering of Milestone
	(wild dogs, foxes) on their properties	sessions	request	RBG information sessions
	Risk Assessments on all localities where wild dog control program is implemented	Current risk assessments and permits must be held for all UCL Privately owned land, Landholders to obtain risk assessments/permits for their own property prior to any strychnine or 1080 applications being carried out	Permit system currently under review by DPIRD, DBCA and DoH (2021)	Renew all risk assessments for UCL for the 22/07/2025 EBA to work with DPIRD and DBCA Privately owned land, is the Landholders responsibility, LPMTs not to carry out any strychnine or 1080 applications unless a currently risk assessment can be produced
	Community Engagement events, to promote RBG	Compile a plan for community engagement events and implement	30/06/2026	EBA Committee and Administrator to work with assistance from DPIRD SEPWA?
Efficient Reporting	Report to funding bodies as required in funding agreements	Submit reports in a timely manner and copies to be keep on file	As required	Administrator to submit reports in a timely manner, overseen by EBA Committee
	Monitor and record off target deaths	Records to be kept in minutes from committee meetings	For the duration of project	To be an agenda item at committee meetings Immediately notify DAFWA and DBCA of reported non-target deaths. Investigation to be carried out in

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Measurement of Milestone	Milestone Completion Date	Delivering of Milestone
				consultation with DAFWA and/or DBCA for any reported non-target deaths.
	Report to the Pesticides Advisory Committee on off target deaths, include nil reports	Copies of submitted reports to be kept on file	Annually	EBA Committee to consult with DPIRD and DBCA on off-target deaths
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 Website, EBA Annual General Meeting, Farmers meeting e.g. SEPWA updates, Radio Interviews, EBA Committee Meetings, Mail outs via Esperance Shire	Copies of all correspondence to be kept on file	At regular intervals	EBA Committee to work with Administrator Website to be kept up to date
Notifying of neighbours regarding use of 1080 and Strychnine	Obtain approval from the Department of Health to use local media to notify landowners adjoining UCL and the general public of the group's use of 1080 and Strychnine for wild dog control	Copies of all correspondence to be kept on file	Approval every 5 years due Dec 2026	Provide Department of Health with all material needed for approval to be granted. EBA Committee to be assisted by DPIRD and DBCA
	1) all landholders with properties at the interface of the UCL and baited DBCA reserves in the Shire of Esperance will be written to annually advising that baits and traps may be present on the UCL all year. Approach Esperance Shire Council for approval for a letter to be included in with Shire rates notice	Copies of letter to be kept on file	Annually	EBA Committee to work with Administrator

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Measurement of Milestone	Milestone Completion Date	Delivering of Milestone
	<p>2) Annual advert placed in the Local newspaper (Esperance Weekender) showing the broad map of baiting/trap locations across the Shire and that baits may be present all year.</p> <p>3) Annual ABC local radio interview advising of wild dog baiting by EBA Chairperson</p> <p>4) Existing 1080 Signage at entrances to UCL and baited reserves be maintained.</p> <p>5) Include notifications in EBA newsletters, emails to members, at AGM, EBA website</p>	<p>Copy of newspaper to be kept on file Pending approval from the Department of Health</p> <p>Pending approval from the Department of Health</p> <p>Committee to liaise with LPMT</p> <p>Copies of all correspondence to be kept on file. Website to be kept up to date</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>For the duration of the project</p> <p>At regular intervals</p>	<p>Administrator to place ad in Esperance Express with guidance from EBA committee</p> <p>EBA Chairman to do an interview with ABC local radio</p> <p>LPMT to replace signs as needed</p> <p>EBA Committee to work with Administrator</p>
	<p>LPMTs to comply with the <i>Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of 1080 in Western Australia</i> and abide by section 10 of the <i>1080 Code of Practice</i></p> <p>LPMTs to comply with the <i>Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of Strychnine in Western Australia</i></p>	<p>EBA to provide copies of both codes of practice to LPMTs employed by them to ensure the codes are being adhered to</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Codes of Practice to be followed by LPMT, overseen by EBA, DPIRD and DBCA</p>

OHS risk assessment

As the new Workplace Health and Safety law to be in effect in WA, the EBA will endeavor to maintain up-to-date Risk Assessments of the group's dealings. The Risk Assessment will be included in committee meeting agendas to be review regularly.

Following is the current Risk register (2021).

PRE-MITIGATION				MITIGATIONS / WARNINGS / REMEDIES	POST-MITIGATION			
RISK	RISK SEVERITY	RISK LIKELIHOOD	RISK LEVEL		RISK SEVERITY	RISK LIKELIHOOD	RISK LEVEL	ACCEPTABLE TO PROCEED?
Public picking up and consuming dog bait or caught in trap	INTOLERABLE	POSSIBLE	EXTREME	warning signs are posted to warn public of risk at beginning of tracks. Public notices in Kalgoorlie Miner, Esperance tide, Esperance Weekender, Esperance Community Facebook and EBA Facebook page. Annual letter to landholders along fence	INTOLERABLE	IMPROBABLE	HIGH	YES
off-target animal (pet) picking up dog bait or getting caught in trap	UNDESIRABLE	POSSIBLE	HIGH	warning signs are posted to warn public of risk at beginning of tracks. Public notices in Kalgoorlie Miner, Esperance tide, Esperance Weekender, Esperance Community Facebook and EBA Facebook page. Annual letter to landholders along fence	TOLERABLE	IMPROBABLE	MEDIUM	YES

public running into warning sign	UNDESIRABLE	POSSIBLE	HIGH	frangible posts as per Esp Shire specifications.	TOLERABLE	IMPROBABLE	MEDIUM	YES
Dogger (LPMT) stuck in bush, leading to serious injury/death due to unknown location	INTOLERABLE	POSSIBLE	EXTREME	training, PPE (sat phone and personal EPRP) gps locator, communication of intended location. Communicate daily partner/EBA with location (text on sat phone).	INTOLERABLE	IMPROBABLE	HIGH	YES
Dogger (LPMT) being poisoned by dog bait	INTOLERABLE	POSSIBLE	EXTREME	training, PPE. Complying with Code of Practice in Chemical handling.	INTOLERABLE	IMPROBABLE	HIGH	YES
Admin Officer developing RSI from paperwork associated with group's work	TOLERABLE	POSSIBLE	MEDIUM	Encouraged to set up office in ergonomic manner, encouraged to spread paperwork over several days rather than one stretch	TOLERABLE	IMPROBABLE	MEDIUM	YES
Committee members/Admin Officer/meeting attendees driving long distances to/from meetings and having MVA	INTOLERABLE	POSSIBLE	EXTREME	no alcohol served at pre-meeting lunch; meeting not to extend over 2 hours; members encouraged to self-assess fatigue	INTOLERABLE	IMPROBABLE	HIGH	YES

issues that may affect this management plan

State barrier fence extension

The Esperance Extension of the State Barrier Fence was announced May 2019 and to June 2021, 63 km of the 660km has been completed. Fencing can re-commence upon the completion of the ILUA negotiations with Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation and Ngula People.

Upon completion of the Fence, the work required for Wild Dog control will be greatly reduced, however a LPMT will still be required to control dogs along the fence and in the wildlife corridors that will remain open, such as Lort River, Young River and Oldfield River corridors.

endorsement of EBA regional wild dog Management plan

The Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc. endorses this five-year Regional Wild Dog Management Plan for use from 2016 to 2021.

signed for and on behalf of
Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc.

Signed

Name - Scott Pickering

Position – EBA Chairman

Signed

Name – Peter Harkness

Position – EBA Secretary / Treasurer