



ANNUAL WILD DOG
OPERATIONAL PLAN
2022-2023

PO Box 1214

Esperance WA 6450

Eba.wilddog@outlook.com

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ANNUAL WILD DOG OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022- 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc. (EBA) originally formed as the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group Inc. (NMDSG) in 2004, following a community meeting called by concerned farmers, due to the increased livestock attacks by wild dogs within the Esperance Region.

Gaining consent as the 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. officially 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 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, Esperance Shire 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 continuous 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 of the proposal to 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.

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 Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
- Department of Health (DoH)
- Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMT)
- EBA Members
- EBA Corporate Members
- Australian Wool Innovations

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

- National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group
- ASheep

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

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

EBA ACTIVITIES

The EBA engage a Esperance Shire procured Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMT) to work along the 700km boundary of Agricultural and Unallocated Crown Land. The LPMTs use integrated tracking, trapping and hand baiting programs complying with Best Practice management control. 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 and livestock.

The last aerial baiting run was conducted in 2011, since this date all baits have been laid by hand in hotspots where LPMT have detected wild dog activity, in compliance with the *Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of 1080 in Western Australia*. The need for Aerial baiting is reassessed annually.

ESPERANCE EXTENSION TO THE STATE BARRIER FENCE

The EBA Committee secured necessary funding to complete the project and saw the first post go into the ground in May 2019. Progress on fencing stalled as Indigenous Land User Agreement (ILUA) was sought with the local Tjaltjaark People. This agreement has finally received the go-ahead from the Tjaltjaark and progress in fence construction will begin early 2022. A further ILUA is currently being negotiated with the Ngadju People for a section north of Salmon Gums.

AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The majority of the Group's activities are carried out within Un-allocated Crown Land, managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), which surrounds the Esperance Agricultural Area. Current risk assessments for all these areas have been completed, in consultation with Darren Dixon - DPIRD and Stephen Butler – DBCA, these permits/risk assessments are current until December 2022.

Occasionally it is necessary for LPMT to carry out activities on privately owned land, each individual landholder is responsible for obtaining a current risk assessment for their property prior to the LPMT undergoing any strychnine or 1080 applications.

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

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 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 reelected each year at the AGM. DPIRD, DBAC and the Esperance Shire Council work closely with the EBA Committee. Newsletters and notices are distributed to the EBA general members keeping them informed.

MONITORING OF LICENSED PEST MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN

The EBA Committee monitor the Licensed Pest Management Technician, who report regularly on activities to the EBA Committee, with all activities logged and recorded using GPS Data Loggers.

The data is also submitted to the WildDogScan part of the FERALSCAN Database which is a federally supported/funded program to monitor Feral animals in Australia.

MONITORING OF ADMINISTRATION

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 to report 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 DBAC are to be immediately notified of reported non-target deaths. Investigation to be carried out in consultation with DPIRD and/or DBAC 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, to be encouraged to inform EBA Committee members or Administrator of wild dog attacks and number of stock lost, 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.

The use of the FeralScan phone app is being investigated as a viable alternative to encourage accurate and prompt reporting of Wild dog sighting and stock losses. This app has the additional benefit of giving more accurate location data for the report. In addition, the app will notify the group administrator and LPMT instantly with the new report.

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. EBA has a membership base of 55 Esperance Landholders and 10 Corporate Members.

RAISING A RATE UNDER THE BAM ACT

For 2022/2023 EBA will be appealing to the Minister to raise a rate under the BAM Act to secure funding for the purpose of controlling declared pests within the Shire of Esperance with the main focus remaining on wild dogs and foxes.

Consent Statement

The Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc. by submitting the Group's 2022/23 Operational Plan consents to the transfer of \$106,500 (ex GST) from the Declared Pest Account to the Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc. for the control of declared pests on land in the Local Government areas of Esperance.

Disbursement Financial Year 22/23

Suggested payment schedule as follows:

1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th Quarter
1 July - \$53,250 Matching funds amount of DPR as per Directions notice		1 January - \$42,600 or amount of DPR collected so far	1 April Remainder of DPR received

ACTION PLAN FOR 2022/23

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Measurement of Milestone	Milestone Completion Date	Delivering of Milestone
<p>Reduce livestock losses to less than 100 animals per year, with an ultimate aim of zero losses</p>	<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>LPMT to use GPS Data Loggers to log all baits laid, traps set and wild dogs dispatched. Logger to be presented to DPIRD 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>Data to be checked monthly after each download</p> <p>Work to be carried out throughout the year, as needed</p>	<p>Work to be delivered by LPMTs.</p> <p>Stock losses to be an agenda item at EBA committee meetings with reports recorded in the minutes from each meeting.</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 to be logged using the GSP Data Logger</p>	<p>Work to be carried out throughout the year</p>	<p>Work to be delivered by LPMTs</p>
	<p>Aerial baiting</p>			<p>Reassess annually</p>
	<p>Provide support to Landholders to control declared pests (wild dogs, foxes) on their properties</p>	<p>Landholder to provide feedback to EBA</p>	<p>For the duration of project</p>	<p>Make landholders aware of EBA via local grower meetings</p>

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Measurement of Milestone	Milestone Completion Date	Delivering of Milestone
	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	Expire 31/12/2022	Renew all risk assessments for UCL prior to expiry EBA to work with DPIRD and DBAC 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
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	Updates to be given at EBA Committee Meetings	For the duration of the project	Maintain strong support for the project
Community Engagement	Community Engagement events	Compile a plan for community engagement events and implement	30/06/2023	EBA Committee and Administrator
Efficient Reporting	Report to funding bodies as required in funding agreements	Submit reports in a timely manner and copies to be kept on file	As required	Administrator to submit reports in a timely manner, overseen by EBA Committee
Off Target Deaths – Aim for nil off target deaths	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 DPIRD and DBAC of reported nontarget deaths.

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Measurement of Milestone	Milestone Completion Date	Delivering of Milestone
				Investigation to be carried out in consultation with DPIRD and/or DBAC for any reported non-target deaths.
Report to Pesticides Advisory Committee	Report to the Pesticides Advisory Committee on off target deaths, include nil reports	Copies of submitted reports to be kept on file	Annually	Administrator to submit report as required
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	Copies of all correspondence to be kept on file	At regular intervals	EBA Committee to work with Administrator
Notifying of neighbours regarding use of 1080 and Strychnine	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 Annual notice placed in the Local newspaper (Esperance Weekender) Existing 1080 Signage at entrances to UCL and baited reserves be maintained. New signs added where needed Include notifications in EBA newsletters, emails to members, at AGM, EBA Facebook page, webpage	Copies of correspondence to be kept on file Copy of newspaper to be kept on file Committee to liaise with LPMT Copies of all correspondence to be kept on file.	Annually Annually For duration of project At regular intervals	EBA Committee to work with Administrator Administrator to place notice in Esperance Express with guidance from EBA committee Signs to be replaced or erected as needed EBA Committee to work with Administrator

Esperance Biosecurity Association 2022-23 Projected Budget

INCOME	DETAIL/NOTES	DPA/DPR	Other Sources
Rate revenue		53250	
Govt matching		53250	
Additional DPA		-	
Reserve fund	Allocated carryover	155930	
Carryover			
Interest		-	
	Total DPA/DPR	262430	
Membership			7,000
RfR			
Donations			500
Carryover			
	Total- Other sources		7,500
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			269930
plus Expected Carryover			

EXPENDITURE	DETAIL/NOTES	DPA/DPR	Other Sources
	Program 1 - Wild Dogs		
	Aerial baiting	-	-
	Bait manufacture	10,000	-
	Reporting Equipment	2,000	
	LPMT contract	175,000	
	Total Program 1	187,000	
	Program 2 -Foxes		

Bait manufacture	2,000	500
Red Card Red Fox Sponsorship	1,000	-
Total Program 2	3,000	500
Program 3 - Community Engagement		
Community activities	2,500	-
Materials	2,500	-
Equipment	2,500	-
Total	7,500	-
Program 4 -Governance & Administration		
Executive Officer	24,000	-
Meeting costs	10,000	1,000
Professional	2,000	-
Insurance	3,000	-
Co-ordinator Fee	5,000	-
Treasurer/Secretary Fee	5,000	-
Sundry	5,000	5,000
Total	54000	6,000
TOTAL COST	251,500	6,500
GRAND EXPENDITURE		258,000
OUTCOME		11,930

NOTES TO BUDGET

The EBA has had a substantial reserve fund over the previous 2 budgets due to additional funding received from the State Governments Royalties for Regions. We are aiming at reducing this reserve by not seeking any additional funding and keeping the Declared Pest Rate at the minimum rate for this budgeted year. The EBA expects a further reduction in Wild Dog control requirement by the LPMT as the Esperance Extension to the State Barrier is completed. Some control measures will always be required as there are 4 “wildlife corridors” in the fence.

Motion: “That the Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc. recommends that the Minister of Agriculture and Food determine a flat rate on freehold land 100ha and over, with a minimum payment of \$50 on the rural valuation roll maintained under the Land Valuation Act 1978 in the Esperance Biosecurity Association area of operation (Local Government Area of Esperance), with the breakdown of the rate to be as follows;

Hectare Range	Rate
100 – 500	\$50
>500 – 1,500	\$50
>1,500 – 5,000	\$50
>5,000 – 10,000	\$200
>10,000	\$500

With the estimated amount to be rated being \$53,250.”

Moved: Peter Harkness

Seconded: Peter Piercey

Carried

Above motion taken from EBA Committee Meeting minutes dated 22th December 2021

ENDORSEMENT OF EBA 2021 2022 OPERATIONAL PLAN

The Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc. endorses this Operational Plan for use for 2022 2023.

Motion: “That the 2022 2023 Operational Plan for the Esperance Biosecurity Association as tabled at the EBA Committee Meeting held 22nd December 2021 be endorsed for use.”

Moved: Peter Harkness

Seconded: Basil Parker

Carried