



ANNUAL WILD DOG
OPERATIONAL PLAN
2023-2024

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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 10 farmers, who engage one Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMTs) who are procured by the Esperance Shire and an Administrator. The EBA Committee meet regularly to ensure efficient management of the group.

EBA work closely with Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 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 made a significant impact on the wild dog problem in the Esperance Shire from initial livestock losses of several thousand per year to current levels of around 100 sheep annually. 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.

There is continuous risk of wild dog impact on livestock farmers, particularly sheep, in the region until the extension to the State Barrier Fence is completed. The EBA is the community driver for the completion of the extension to the State Barrier Fence as this is the most effective 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.
- The Group regularly re-assess the Risk Management for group activities and adapts the policies and procedures to reflect changes in risks identified.

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

EBA ACTIVITIES

The EBA engage an Esperance Shire procured Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMT) to work along the 700km boundary of Agricultural and Unallocated Crown Land (UCL). 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. Construction has recommenced in late 2022 as an Indigenous Land User Agreement (ILUA) with the local Tjaltjaark People was finalised and tenders for construction awarded.

A further ILUA is currently being negotiated by DPIRD with the Ngadju People for the section of the Fence north of Salmon Gums.

AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

Most of the Group's activities are carried out within UCL, managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), which surrounds the Esperance Agricultural Area. The procedure for the Permits to enable the EBA to conduct these activities are currently being re-assess by DPIRD, DBCA and the Department of Health (under the Poisons Act). The EBA has requested an extension to current permits to June 30, 2023 while this reassessment is being conducted.

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 7 additional supporting members. The EBA Committee is re-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 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 FERALS SCAN 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.

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 livestock 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 applying 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 2023/24 Operational Plan consents to the transfer of \$111,178 (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 23/24

Suggested payment schedule as follows:

1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th Quarter
1 July - \$50,000 Matching funds amount of DPR as per Directions notice		1 January - \$50,000 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 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	<p>Current risk assessments and permits must be held for all UCL</p> <p>Privately owned land, Landholders to obtain risk assessments/permits for their own property prior to any strychnine or 1080 applications being carried out</p>	Expire 31/12/2022	<p>Renew all risk assessments for UCL prior to expiry EBA to work with DPIRD and DBAC</p> <p>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</p>
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
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	<p>To be an agenda item at committee meetings Immediately notify DPIRD and DBAC of reported nontarget deaths.</p> <p>Investigation to be carried out in consultation with DPIRD and/or DBAC for any reported non-target deaths.</p>

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Measurement of Milestone	Milestone Completion Date	Delivering of Milestone
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
Work towards a Safe Workplace	Maintain a Risk Register Maintain Policies and Procedures to mitigate Risks	Re-assess risk register at each Committee meeting. Review Policies and procedures annually and at each change of the risk register.	On-going	Administrator to maintain
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
Community Engagement	Community Engagement events	Compile a plan for community engagement events and implement	ongoing	EBA Committee and Administrator

<p>Inform stakeholders and landholders about the value of the wild dog control program</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Copies of all correspondence to be kept on file</p>	<p>At regular intervals</p>	<p>EBA Committee to work with Administrator</p>
<p>Notifying of neighbours regarding use of 1080 and Strychnine</p>	<p>landholders with properties at the interface of the UCL and baited DBAC reserves in the Shire of Esperance will be written to annually – Notifying Neighbours</p> <p>Annual notice placed in the Local newspaper (Esperance Weekender)</p> <p>Existing 1080 Signage at entrances to UCL and baited reserves be maintained. New signs added where needed</p> <p>Include notifications in EBA newsletters, emails to members, at AGM, EBA Facebook page, webpage</p>	<p>Copies of correspondence to be kept on file</p> <p>Copy of newspaper to be kept on file</p> <p>Committee to liaise with LPMT</p> <p>Copies of all correspondence to be kept on file.</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>For duration of project</p> <p>At regular intervals</p>	<p>EBA Committee to work with Administrator</p> <p>Administrator to place notice in Esperance Express with guidance from EBA committee</p> <p>Signs to be replaced or erected as needed</p> <p>EBA Committee to work with Administrator</p>

Esperance Biosecurity Association 2023-24 Projected Cashflow Budget

	TOTAL	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
RECEIPTS													
DPR income	47000			24651				24651					
Gov matching funds	47000			24651				24651					
Extra DPA funds	0												
	0												
TOTAL OP RECEIPTS	98604	0	0	49302	0	0	0	49302	0	0	0	0	0
PAYMENTS													
Baits	6000		2000			2000						2000	
Reporting equip	2000				2000								
LMPT contractor	180000	50000				50000			50000			30000	
Red card fox shoot	1000										1000		
Community contact	2500			2500									
WHS	2200		2200										
EO Admin	18000	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Meeting costs	6000		2000			2000					2000		
Legal costs	2000			500				500			500		500
Insurance	1000		1000										
Co ordinator	5000	5000											
Sec/Tres	5000				5000								
Sundry	5000		1000		1000			1000			1000		1000
TOTAL OP PAYMENTS	235700	56500	9700	4500	9500	55500	1500	3000	51500	1500	6000	33500	3000
NET PAYMENTS	235700	56500	9700	4500	9500	55500	1500	3000	51500	1500	6000	33500	3000
Bank Balance	243800	243800	187300	177600	222402	212902	157402	155902	202204	150704	149204	143204	109704
Surplus/Deficit		-56500	-9700	44802	-9500	-55500	-1500	46302	-51500	-1500	-6000	-33500	-3000
Balance		187300	177600	222402	212902	157402	155902	202204	150704	149204	143204	109704	106704

Esperance Biosecurity Association 2023-24 Projected Budget

INCOME	DETAIL/NOTES	DPA/DPR	Other Sources
Rate revenue		47000	
Govt matching		37600	
Additional DPA Reserve fund	Allocated carryover	187300	
Carryover Interest			
	Total DPA/DPR	271,900	
Membership			7,000
Sponsorship			500
	Total- Other sources		7,500
	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		279,400
EXPENDITURE	DETAIL/NOTES	DPA/DPR	Other Sources
Program 1 - Wild Dogs	Aerial baiting	-	-
	Bait manufacture	4,000	-
	Reporting Equipment	2,000	
	LPMT contract	180,000	
	Total Program 1	186,000	
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	-
	Total Program3	2,500	
Program 4 - Governance & Administration	Executive Officer	18,000	-
	Meeting costs	6,000	1,000
	WHS	2,200	
	Insurance	1,000	-
	Co-ordinator Fee	5,000	-
	Treasurer/Secretary Fee	5,000	
	Sundry	5,000	5,000
	Total	42,200	6,000
	TOTAL COST	233,700	6,500
GRAND EXPENDITURE			240,200
OUTCOME			39,200

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. This reserve has been utilised and projected cashflow budgets for the next 2 years has shown that a minimum of 4.9% increase each year in DPR is required to maintain EBA projects at current levels. The cash reserves will be depleted YE 2025 (to \$11,000).

Completion of the State Barrier Fence Esperance Extension will reduce some LPMT cost but that is depending on the impact of the 4 wildlife corridors on surrounding farmland and livestock.

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 \$52.45 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 – 100 – 500	Rate - \$52.45
>500 – 1,500	\$52.45
>1,500 – 5,000	\$52.45
>5,000 – 10,000	\$209.80
>10,000	\$524.50

With the estimated amount to be rated being \$55,589.”

Moved: Peter Harkness

Seconded: C Hine

Carried

Above motion taken from EBA Committee Meeting minutes dated

ENDORSEMENT OF EBA 2021 2022 OPERATIONAL PLAN

The Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc. endorses this Operational Plan for use for 2023 2024.

Motion: “That the 2022 2023 Operational Plan for the Esperance Biosecurity Association as tabled at the EBA Committee Meeting held 13 January, 2023 be endorsed for use.”

Moved: Peter Harkness

Seconded: M Ayers

Carried