

THE FERAL FOCUS

Quarterly Biosecurity Newsletter

1st Edition April 2019

General News

- The CRBA and SUG are actively working together to achieve successful results regarding the Biosecurity Program of controlling the numbers of wild / feral small and large herbivores
- Our Local LPMT's Bim and Sid have primarily been target baiting and Setting out Traps for Feral Dogs on the majority of Stations with in the SUG, Our LPMT are endeavouring to visit all Station Homesteads during their travels and appreciate any relevant feedback on feral animal activity Including – Sightings, Tracks, Stock Damages
- CRBA have supplied New replacement Feral Scan Devices for our Local LPMT's to record the amount and what type of activities are current in which areas, *(SUG are currently in the process of uploading all relevant information and Maps, These devices should be in use in the very near future)*
- SUG are awaiting on the arrival of 1 tonne of new sausage baits supplied by CRBA to try out *(the feedback to date regarding the use and effectiveness of these new baits has mainly been positive)*
- The CRBA are currently organising a community engagement trip to all Shire under their area including the Shire of Upper Gascoyne for 6th or 7th of May 2019 (Dates, Times and Venue are yet to be confirmed).

Reporting

CRBA have recently supplied SUG with a new Monthly LMPT Activity Report template for our LPMT's.

The new Report will supersede to old basic Report and achieve more specific statistics for each individual Station for a clearer understanding and create a more accurate Data base of Biosecurity issues including the number small and large feral herbivores – Quantities, tracks, Stock Damage, Feral animals destroyed, days worked around what areas, potential problem areas, amount of Traps and Baits being used.



FERALSCAN
ORG.AU

Help map feral animal sightings in your local area
Launched in 2009 - Now hosting over 130,000 community records.

						
RabbitScan	WildDogScan	FeralCatScan	FoxScan	FeralPigScan	ToadScan	MynaScan
						
MouseAlert	CamelScan	FeralGoatScan	FeralFishScan	StarlingScan	DeerScan	

Training Modules

1. Laying of 1080 Dried Meat Baits
2. Preparation of 1080 (6mg) – Impregnated Oat Meat Bait
3. Preparation and Setting of Steel Jaw Traps for Canine Predator Control

Arial Baiting

Persons Involved in the Organisation and Running the Aerial Baiting Programme for the Shire of Upper Gascoyne where CEO - John McCleary, Works Supervisor / LEMC & Biosecurity Coordinator - Dave Higgs, Dogging Coordinators - Don Hammarquist and Hamish McTaggart

One of our local SUG licensed contractors Ken Kempton supplied 6 Tonne of processed Baits to the Shires Chiller ready for aerial baiting with in time and within budget

6 x Drums of AV Gas was supplied from Fads (Refuel Australia)

Contracted Pilot and Plan was Rollo, Eric Roulston from Norwest Air Work Pty Ltd had just finished the Pilbara and Meekatharra Runs then was engaged by the SUG for their services and was worked around the Murchison and Byro runs

Full 6 Tonne of baits taken to Dairy Creek Drying rack in 2 stages

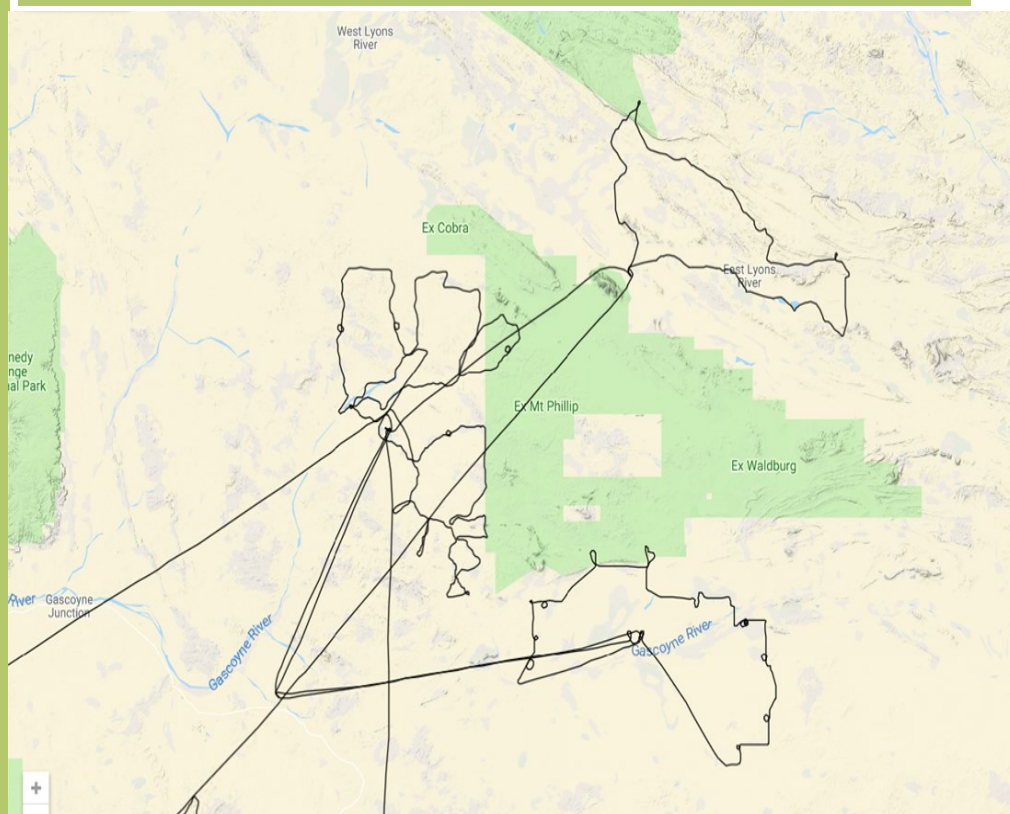
Ken was also involved in the Transportation and Bait Injection Process.

Coordinated Quantities and Locations for 6 x Drums of AV Gas and 6 Tonne of Baits from Dairy Creek Racks Deliver as Following:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| a. | 3 x Drums | 3 x Tonne | of baits to | Dairy Creek | Rack / Air Strip |
| b. | 1 x Drum | 1 x Tonne | of baits to | Yinnetharra | Air Strip |
| c. | 1 x Drum | 600 kg | of Baits to | Mt Augustus | Storage |
| d. | 1 x Drum | 1400 kg | of Baits to | Minnie Creek | Rack / Air Strip |

These Quants where both for Aerial baiting and Station to use that where not aerial baited.

Flight Plan



Summary

Baits / Fuel where ready and delivered at stations on time, The aerial baiting was successfully completed with no issues as expected, Unfortunately due to the busy time of the year with mustering etc. some stations missed out on the programme this run, but this has been addressed and hopefully more stations with in the Shire of Upper Gascoyne will become involved in the programme next time to potentially cover a larger percentage of the Shire of Upper Gascoyne's large harsh and inaccessible areas.

Baiting

Placement of Baits and Exclusion Zones

To help manage the potential risk of poisoning non-target species. Including humans, domestic pets, live stock and native animals there are distance restrictions for the placement of 1080 baits.

Under the code, the following minimum restrictions are specified:

For ground baiting programs, 1080 baits must be placed no closer than:

- 150 metres from a dwelling.
- 20 metres from a permanent or flowing water bodies.
- 5 meters from a boundary fences and
- 5 metres from the edge of formed/gazetted public roadways.
- or as directed by the Authoring Officer.

For aerial baiting programs, 1080 baits must be dropped no closer than:

- 150 metres from a dwelling.
- 20 metres from permanent or flowing water bodies.
- 500 metres from all property boundaries and constructed recreation sites, and
- 250 metres from the edge of formed/gazetted roadways,
- or as directed by the Authorising Officer.

Signage

Approved user **must** erect prominent warning signs at entrances and strategic points on the property to be baited alerting the public that 1080 baiting and Strychnine traps are taking place.

Please Double check your Signs to ensure they are still in-place and readable

The SUG have a limited number of signs available for free and a limited amount of Templates available for Loan only.



DANGER - Wild Dog Trap Signs

200mm x 200mm



DANGER – 1080 and Strychnine Signs

300mm x 300mm



DANGER – 1080 and Strychnine Template

400mm x 400mm

Western Australia Large Feral Herbivore Management

Development of State Strategy for LFH

LHF and Feral Pig Stake holders from many parts of Western Australia have held numerous consultation Workshops

Following the workshops, draft goals and supporting strategies will be developed to address the vision articulated by DPIRD for the future state of feral pig and LFH management, that being:

- Feral Pig / Large Feral Herbivore management is an integral part of the sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of the economy, the environment, human health and public amenity.

Some Common important issues raised at the Workshop as below;

- uniform standards and practices across state government agencies
- better access to land, particularly Unallocated Crown Land – Substantial issue for CRBA with in the SUG
- the ability to mobilise more quickly
- greater freedom to undertake opportunistic culling
- the ability to pool and carryover funding
- Feral pig and LFH management is seen to be significantly under resourced, with no secure funding stream other than through rates raised by RBGs. All stakeholders (with the possible exception of state govt. agencies) are heavily reliant on federal and state grants for feral pig and LFH management activities. This funding is spasmodic, target driven and limited in nature and does not generally cover administration costs, despite administration being an essential activity.
- Raising the public's awareness of feral pig and LFH damage is seen to be important in order to maintain the social license to control these species and to stimulate the injection of public monies for control. However, stakeholders recognise that the public image of feral pig and LFH management needs to be carefully managed to avoid negative media attention.

Survey Reports

- **Feral Pigs**

The survey has confirmed that feral pigs are considered to be an issue of concern across the state, but are of highest concern in the South West region. The perceived economic value of the impact of feral pigs is similar when comparing the result from all regions combined (i.e. the whole state) to that of the South West region only. In both cases, the majority of respondents believe the economic impact to be medium or high, with nearly 10% of respondents in the South West region believing it to be severe.

Lack of funds and resources, lack of coordination and collaboration, accessing the land where the feral pigs are located, illegal hunting and deliberate translocation of pigs are seen as being amongst the most significant barriers to effective feral pig management both across the state and when the South West region is considered alone.

Not surprisingly then, timely and ongoing control, improved coordination and collaboration amongst stakeholders, and the effective management of illegal hunting and deliberate translocation of pigs are most frequently seen as the most important mechanisms to improve feral pig management.

- **Feral Camels**

38% of respondents consider feral camels to be an issue of concern in their area. This reflects the fact that feral camels are concentrated in the arid, desert regions of the state which fewer of the stakeholders who responded to this survey represent. However, the majority (45%) of those that do consider feral camels to be an issue of concern, rate their level of concern as high. The perceived economic value of the impact of feral camels is believed by the majority of respondents to be medium (38%) to high (41%). Lack of funds and resources, remote or inaccessible terrain, the sheer scale of the problem and land tenure issues affecting access to land where the feral camels are located are seen as being amongst the most significant barriers to effective feral camel management.

Timely and ongoing control, increased aerial culling, improved coordination and collaboration amongst stakeholders, strategic fencing (particularly of water sources in the desert) and improved knowledge of camel populations and movement patterns are seen as being amongst the most important mechanisms to improve feral camel management.

Commercialisation is seen by some as a solution to feral camel management and feral camels are currently an important source of income and employment for one Indigenous organisation based in the Gibson Desert. However the commercial market for camel is not economic for most. This creates a conflict between those who see feral camels as a either a current or potential future resource and those who seek to have them managed as a declared pest animal as legislation dictates.

- **Feral Horses**

34% of respondents consider feral horses to be an issue of concern in their area. This reflects the distribution of feral horses being predominately in the pastoral areas of the Kimberley, Pilbara, and Goldfields, with localised populations in Meekatharra and Carnarvon. The Kimberley, Pilbara, and Goldfields-Nullarbor regions were well represented by respondents to the survey, however the Meekatharra and Carnarvon regions were poorly represented. The majority (59%) of those that consider feral horses to be an issue of concern, rate their level of concern as medium. The perceived economic value of the impact of feral horses is believed by the majority of respondents to be low (37%) to medium (44%).

The objection of the general public and Indigenous Traditional Owners to horses being culled, coupled with animal welfare concerns, remote or inaccessible terrain and the sheer scale of the problem are seen as being amongst the most significant barriers to effective feral horse management.

ore trapping, timely and ongoing control, more ground level culling and the use of strategic fencing are seen as being amongst the most important mechanisms to improve feral horse management.

Enabling non-government shooters to use semi-automatic firearms from privately operated helicopters (described as “enable non-govt aerial culling” in the results section) is also seen as an important mechanisms to improve feral horse management. This would require amending firearms legislation.

- **Feral Donkeys**

30% of respondents consider feral donkeys to be an issue of concern in their area. This reflects the distribution of feral donkeys being predominately in the pastoral areas of the Kimberley, Pilbara, and Goldfields, with localised populations in Meekatharra and Carnarvon. .

Kimberley, Pilbara, and Goldfields-Nullarbor regions were well represented by respondents to the survey, however the Meekatharra and Carnarvon regions were poorly represented.

In contrast to the other three species, the majority (46%) of respondents that consider feral donkeys to be an issue of concern, rate their level of concern as low, however a significant number consider their impact to medium (21%) or high (29%). Exhibiting a similar distribution, the perceived economic value of the impact of feral donkeys is believed by the majority (50%) of respondents to be low, however a significant number consider the value to be medium (17%) or high (33%).

Lack of funds and resources, remote or inaccessible terrain, the sheer scale of the problem, tenure issues affecting access to land where the feral donkeys are located are seen as being amongst the most significant barriers to effective feral donkey management. More aerial culling, timely and ongoing control, the continuation and expansion of the Judas Donkey Program, more ground level culling and improved collaboration and coordination amongst all stakeholders are seen as being amongst the most important mechanisms to improve feral donkey management.

2019-2024 LFH Management Strategy Draft for WA

Scope

This Strategy outlines a high-level approach to the management of LFH across five regions; Kimberley, Pilbara, Carnarvon, Meekatharra, and Goldfields - Nullarbor of Western Australia from 2019 – 2024 and identifies strategic priorities to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits through improved LFH management.

The Strategy recognizes that effective LFH management requires a long-term, well resourced, coordinated approach across tenure boundaries and the active involvement of all key stakeholders including State Government agencies, local Governments, pastoralists, traditional owners, non-Government organizations, mining companies and research institutions. The ongoing support of the general public is also essential to ensure public funding continues to be applied to LFH management.

The Strategy recognizes that in some instances, particularly for Aboriginal traditional owners, LFH may have cultural significance or commercial value and these must be balanced with the obligation to manage these declared species.

The Strategy has been informed by the recommendations of experts and an extensive stakeholder consultation process. This has identified where LFH management is working effectively and where, with increased collaboration, cooperation and resourcing, improvements in LFH management may be gained.

The Strategy provides guidance for the wide range of stakeholders actively involved in LFH management in the rangelands of WA and identifies a range of key management opportunities and challenges. Some of the identified opportunities can be achieved simply through increased cooperation and collaboration and can be readily implemented at little or no cost. Others will require significant additional research, planning, time or funding to implement.

- **WA Biosecurity Strategy**

The WA Biosecurity Strategy 2016 – 2025, sets the strategic direction for partnership arrangements to manage biosecurity issues affecting agriculture, fisheries, forestry and biodiversity in terrestrial and aquatic environments. The strategy covers pest animals and plants, and diseases. It acknowledges that an effective biosecurity system needs to manage risks across the entire biosecurity continuum, and emphasises the importance of preventing incursions as well as detecting them early.

- **Invasive Species Plan for WA**

The Invasive Species Plan for Western Australia 2015 – 2019, identifies actions for a coordinated approach to manage existing and potential invasive species. The plan defines invasive species as vertebrate animals and plants that can cause undesirable impacts on economic, environmental and social assets and values.

The plan provides for greater involvement in pest surveillance by all stakeholders, and the use of improved ways of identifying and reporting pests. Developing a post-border surveillance strategy relevant to industry, community and Government will help achieve this coordinated approach.

- **Large Feral Herbivore Management is Strategic**

Management of LFH should be strategic in terms of determining where management should occur, timing of management, being proactive and using appropriate techniques. Prevention and early intervention are the most cost-effective techniques. Management should aim to address actual rather than perceived problems, and to reduce impacts rather than simply animal numbers. As part of an integrated LFH management program, commercial harvesting may offset management costs.



Stakeholder	Role in LFH management
Federal Government	
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	Administer the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> . Undertake biosecurity risk analysis, import approvals, diagnostics, standards, policy, education and awareness.
Department of Environment and Energy	Administer the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
State and Local Government	
Minister for Agriculture and Food	Under the BAM Act, may declare an organism as a declared pest for the whole or part of WA. Allocates funds for invasive species management and surveillance, as authorised by the BAM Act.
Minister for the Environment	If proclaimed, under the BC Act, may proclaim a species as an environmental pest for the whole or part of WA. Allocates funds for environmental conservation.
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	Undertakes surveillance and management of priority invasive species that affect environmental values on the state land that it manages. Administers the BC Act. Participates in cross-tenure control of invasive species with community groups. Implements Good Neighbour policy
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)	Lead agency in developing the Western Australian Strategy for Large Feral Herbivores. Provides strategic leadership in biosecurity matters across WA, and administers the BAM Act and the declaration process. Leads the response to incursions and eradication of priority invasive species within the state, where it is feasible and cost-effective to do so. Provide inspection and certification services for interstate border and post-border movements, and at international borders (in collaboration with the Federal Government). Coordinates surveillance and reporting from industry and community, including biosecurity groups. Responsible for policies and systems that relate to specific pests. Undertakes research into the distribution, identification, surveillance, management and control of invasive species. Raise awareness, actively engage stakeholders and empower them to share responsibility.
Biosecurity Council of Western Australia	Provides strategic advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Food, the Director General of DPIRD and other ministers on matters related to biosecurity. Comprises members with an interest and expertise in managing the biosecurity of WA. Actively engage with industry, community and Government to ensure informed and robust advice is given.

Biosecurity Senior Officer's Group	<p>Comprised primarily of senior executives from each of the WA State Government agencies with biosecurity responsibilities for biosecurity management.</p> <p>Provides strategic overview and interagency coordination of biosecurity issues of interest to the state and the activities of member agencies.</p> <p>Raises awareness and provides advice on biosecurity issues to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and other ministers as required.</p>
Local Government	<p>Raise awareness and undertake surveillance activities within the community.</p> <p>Biosecurity responsibilities as land managers.</p>
Industry	
Industry and land managers	<p>Undertake targeted surveys and passive surveillance.</p> <p>Relevant primary producers contribute to management of priority pests through Industry Funding Schemes.</p>
Community	
Recognised Biosecurity Groups	<p>Established under the BAM Act for purposes including controlling declared pests that are important in local and regional areas relevant to the group.</p> <p>Collection of the DPR, development of operational plans</p> <p>Collaborate with landholders and Government agencies to develop and implement strategic, landscape-wide management programs for invasive species.</p>
Landholders, managers and occupiers of land and freshwater bodies	<p>Primary responsibility for controlling invasive species on the lands they manage (legally obligated to control declared species).</p>
Not-for-profit and community organisations	<p>Deliver on-ground programs, fundraising, communications and awareness-raising activities.</p> <p>Be aware and informed of invasive species and the importance of surveillance, and maintain vigilance.</p>
Research organisations such as CSIRO and universities	<p>Undertake research and partner with other organisations to deliver on-ground programs.</p>
General public	<p>Report vertebrate pests.</p> <p>Be aware and informed of invasive species and the importance of their management.</p>

List of Acronyms

AWC	Australian Wildlife Conservation
BAM Act	Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act
COP	Code of Practice
CRBA	Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DPLH	Department of Planning Lands and Heritage
DPR	Declared Pest Rate
DWER	Department of Water and Environment Regulation
GNRBA	Goldfields-Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association
IGAB	Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity
KPCA	Kimberly and Pilbara Cattleman's Association
KRBA	Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association
MRBA	Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association
NKLCDC	North Kimberley Land Conservation District Committee
NRM	Natural Resource Management
LFH	Large Feral Herbivores
LPMT	Licensed Pest Management Technician
PGA	Pastoralist's and Graziers Association
PMMC	Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee
PRBG	Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group
RBG	Recognised Biosecurity Group
RCP	Restricted Chemical Permit
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SUG	Shire of Upper Gascoyne
WA	Western Australia

Quarterly Biosecurity News Letter for the Shire of Upper Gascoyne

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