

Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association

Activity Report 2015/16

LARGE FERAL HERBIVORES

The Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association (KRBA) has an annual Large Feral Herbivore culling program that includes feral donkeys, horses and camels with other animals such as water buffalo and pigs targeted when located. The program focusses primarily on donkeys, using the radio telemetry technique with horses and camels culled opportunistically during tracking. Currently there are 135 active collars throughout the region.

In 2014/15 there were a total of eight runs in the West Kimberley, North Kimberley, and the Halls Creek areas. Results of animals culled on those runs are as follows –

Organisation	Donkeys	Horses	Camels	Pigs
KRBA	315	1862	885	6
DPaW	134	32	164	No data

It is recognised by the KRPG that land managers also contribute to controlling feral herbivores with both opportunistic and planned culling programs of their own however no figures of those programs are available.

No aerial shooting operations were carried out over Department of Parks and Wildlife managed land by the KRBA. However Department of Parks and Wildlife did undertake its own management shoot over the Drysdale National Park and the Ord River Regeneration area.

In this year a change in operational strategies was implemented through the development of a Large Feral Herbivore Management Strategy that set the organisation's direction until 2021.

Wild Dogs

The KRBA runs two aerial baiting programs a year to support the individual ground baiting programs run by individual pastoral stations. They are usually programmed for April and October to avoid the wet season. In 2015/16 both runs dropped baits on over 30 pastoral stations across the Kimberley.

Prickly Acacia

Two control programs were carried out on the 10,578 hectare Nulla Nulla site in partnership with Ord Land and Water over the 2015/16 wet season. In total 167 plants were controlled. Plant population now stands at only 2% of that it was in 2010.

Mesquite

Nicholson Station: Two control programs were carried out on the 10,754 hectare site in partnership with Ord Land and Water over the 2015/16 wet season. In total 402 plants were controlled. Plant population now stands at only 7% of that it was in 2012.

A total of 117 trees controlled and a further 47 mesquite plants were located during the aerial rubber vine survey at Yeeda Station.

An aerial survey and control was undertaken Thangoo Station with 8 trees treated.

Rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*)

Rubber vine control in the Kimberley is split between two regional locations, one in the East Kimberley and the other in the west. Both programs run independently of the other with separate steering groups overseeing the planning and work carried out. The KRBA provides funding to both programs whilst other partner organisations provide funding and in-kind contributions such as personnel to carry out the control and survey work.

East Kimberley: Rubber vine has been located at three locations in the East Kimberley – Oombulgurri, the Ord and Bow Rivers upstream of Lake Argyle and Limestone Creek adjacent to the Ord/Bow locations. A total of 12 field trips were carried out over the 2016 dry season covering 401 hectares, this was a 42% decrease in country walked over on the previous year. A total of 7811 plants treated, a 12% increase on plants treated in 2015.

An aerial survey program was undertaken in March 2016 covering 1,647 hectares locating 23 seeders.

West Kimberley: An aerial surveillance program covering 26,500 hectares finding 15 seeders. From 2017 it's envisaged that survey will be done solely by the use of cameras in the Aquila program.

Approximately 1,500 plants were controlled over the 6,000 hectare search area taking 180 man days to complete

It is expected that ground searching will be undertaken in 2017 – 18 followed on by aerial surveillance only.

Weed subsidies

Weed subsidies were paid out to a number of pastoral stations for the control of declared weeds on properties.