



PEEL HARVEY
BIOSECURITY GROUP

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



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"To build a complete picture of the achievements of the PHBG, the 2020 Annual Report is best considered alongside previous reports which are available on our website."

Jonelle Cleland, Executive Officer, PHBG

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

Well, hasn't the past 12 months seen us all have to change our ways and habits, none more so than in our working environments.

With the threat of COVID-19, many alterations were made to the way we conduct our business. I sincerely thank the team at PHBG for ensuring that our stakeholders were able to maintain an interface with them, and that they themselves were still able to complete their jobs and maintain a healthy work-family balance.

The inventory of equipment now available to those paying the rate has grown quite significantly and is being utilised to a high level. Feedback from the people using the equipment has been very positive. Having equipment available, along with the education of users by the team, has seen some great outcomes in the reduction of feral animals and weeds. The aim of the team has been to make it easy for landholders to reach their full potential for pest control, so armed with the right tools this is now a lot easier for them.

Weather conditions this past summer have not been favourable to the landholder with several rain events throughout the summer months germinating weeds and then giving them hope to survive when followed by further rain events. Unfortunately, when this occurs the only one that wins is the chemical companies.

I would, however, like to acknowledge the effort that Water Corp and Arc Infrastructure have been putting in trying to assist in the control of the weed burden. I can hear many people grumbling that they still need to do more. Yes, I don't think they, nor anyone else would disagree. However, the efforts are a starting point. Further focus on timing and frequency will see even more improvements over time. Along with these two entities and the efforts of local governments, we are seeing the slowing of ingress onto private property in certain areas.

Engagement from landholders, whether for weeds or feral animals, has been very good and there is support of the team when visiting. Community members must understand that some landholders are extremely passionate, and we hope this passion is contagious, but there are some on the other hand that are oblivious or ignorant, which we will continue to maintain our focus on with coaching. It has taken some time for the community to understand that we are not the APB and that we are here to assist and educate, which now they are using more of this service.



As the group has evolved to covering a much larger spectrum of pests beyond the initial cotton bush that was the original focus of the group, seeking the assistance of personnel with specific skills has been challenging but we have succeeded. The group has a small number of people engaged on limited hours to ensure we have the right person for the job. This has been very successful in that skills and knowledge are able to be passed onto the land holder with no waste. Being able to do this has assisted in enabling the greater than 8000 rate payers to not see an increase in the \$30 rate since inception.

As many of you are aware, dealing with large corporations or Government Departments can be very frustrating and challenging. This is no different for the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group. However, following some recent reviews including that of "The Office of the Auditor General" some changes may come to fruition that will make for a more efficient and harmonious working relationship.

All in all, the past 12 months have been challenging to say the least, but it has been a very successful year with some wonderful outcomes. I would like to close by thanking the committee along with our Executive Officer, Dr Jonelle Cleland and her amazing team.

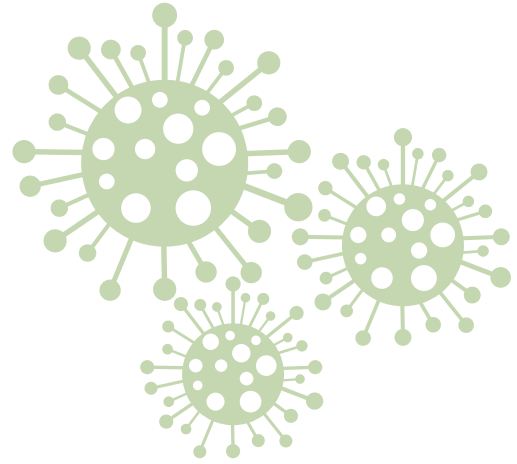
Vaughn Byrd
Chairperson, PHBG

2020 AT A GLANCE

COVID-19 IMPACTS

The year 2020 presented a new set of challenges for not-for-profits across Australia, including working from home and managing an increased demand for their services.

During lockdown the PHBG had an increased volume of queries and calls for assistance from landholders. This was generated by many landholders being at home with more time to inspect and work on their property, as well as a growing interest in self-sufficiency (e.g. getting chooks for eggs).



During COVID-19 restrictions and recovery, the PHBG demonstrated its agility and responsiveness to its stakeholders, including landholders. The following are some of the many actions taken;

- Cloud based systems to support both remote and collaborative working arrangements.
- Workarounds and hygiene measures put in place so that delivery services could be maintained.
- Cross boundary travel documentation to minimise disruption to programs.
- Impacted public workshops rescheduled, then delivered within COVID-safe guidelines.
- Impacted projects assessed, adjusted and approved by collaborators and external funders.
- No financial aid sought to keep staff onboard.
- New job opportunities provided to local people.
- New learning opportunities provided to local children via on-line teaching resources.
- Formal submissions, to capture community concerns, delivered to the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia and the Auditor General of Western Australia.



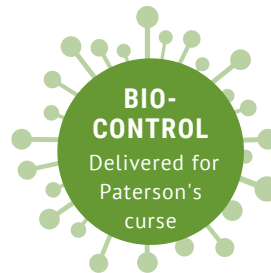
PHBG Staff were able to modify their equipment delivery practices to meet COVID social distancing requirements. In this picture two tree poppers were treated with antibacterial wipes before being delivered with gloves. Masks were not required at this stage

"I am incredibly proud of how the PHBG team handled the extra demands placed on them during COVID-19. Staff maintained a high level of professionalism whilst working from their kitchen tables. They adapted work flows so that there would be no disruption to productivity. They kept abreast of the increased requests for our services."

*Jonelle Cleland, Executive Officer,
PHBG*

DECLARED WEEDS

- Projects to remove cotton bush in the SJ National Park set up in partnership with the federal and state governments. Rangers and community group involved in the project.
- Promotion of weed control via hands-on workshops that has identification as the starting point for determining control options. Free weed ID booklet provided to participants. Workshops delivered in SJ in 2020. Initiated by the PHBG in 2019 with a successful workshop in the Shire of Murray, the format now replicated by other biosecurity groups in the South West.
- Workshop on bridal creeper control options delivered to the City of Mandurah. Biocontrol agent provided to the City park teams and natural areas bush crews.
- Collection of Paterson's curse biocontrol agents from the wheatbelt and delivery to nursery sites in the PHBG operational area.
- Tree poppers promoted and delivered to landholders wanting a non-herbicide option for controlling cotton bush.
- Further trials and customisation of the Cape tulip weed wipers ahead of 2021 rollout to landholders.



- Public reports of cotton bush and other declared weeds validated and recorded. Where possible, the responsible landholder was contacted and encouraged to control with a reminder of legal responsibility, as well as information on impacts and options.

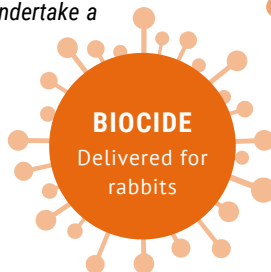
- With growing interest in biocontrol, initiation of a staged feasibility study looking at options to improve landholder access in the PHBG operational area. Initial stage of the study completed.

DECLARED FERALS

- Promotion of fox control via a hands-on workshop demonstrating cage and leghold trapping techniques, as well as baiting options.

A professional recording of the workshop will be launched on the PHBG website. The video will assist landholders when they loan trapping equipment from the PHBG, or undertake a baiting program subsidised by the PHBG.

- Promotion of rabbit control via an annual calicivirus project. Over 150 landholders registered for the 2020 release, with 128 participating.



- Fox traps delivered to landholders across the region.
- Subsidies for Restricted Chemical Permits offered.

- Support for volunteer feral pig control program with assistance ranging from site selection, traps, cameras and pre-feeding.

DECLARED INVERTEBRATES

- Fruit fly project set up in partnership with the University of WA. Monitoring network established in six towns. Fruit fly numbers regularly reported to the SJ community. Fruit fly control workshops delivered in SJ. Free traps provided to attendees.

The Mediterranean fruit fly is a declared pest within the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale. It is not declared for the other local governments within the PHBG operational area.



OUR VISION

The PHBG will see the **impacts** of priority pests reduced to a minimal or acceptable level.

OUR MISSION

Use the **tools** at our disposal to get priority pests on the day-to-day agenda of **people** who live, work or operate in our patch.

SEVEN SUCCESS OUTCOMES

The PHBG will be doing a good job, in terms of moving toward its vision, if it achieves the following outcomes within the next seven years.

1. People know that the PHBG is focused on implementing behaviour change at both a community and institutional level.
2. People know where to go to report pests and are motivated to do so.
3. Best practice for pest control are endorsed, readily accessible and widely promoted.
4. Pest control activities are coordinated and sustained across property and management boundaries.
5. Local champions, organisations and businesses are recognised for doing the right thing.
6. Compliance is forthcoming where engagement is not successful.
7. Children are given the opportunity to learn about pests impacts and management options.

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7



For more information on the PHBG's seven success outcomes go to its website, www.phbg.org, find the reporting landing page and take a look at its strategic blueprint.






Alternatively, scan the QR code.



OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The PHBG covers a large and diverse area. It comprises the local government authorities of Serpentine Jarrahdale, Mandurah, Murray, Waroona and Harvey.

WHO MATTERS TO US?

-  169,000+ people living across our operational area
-  Landholders issued with a declared pest rate (8000+)
-  Managers of the public estate (e.g. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Water Corporation)
-  Research institutions working on innovative ways to manage pests
-  Delivery partners and collaborators (e.g. local government, Peel Harvey Catchment Council, community groups)



Population density per local government area decreases dramatically from Mandurah (4.94 people/ha) to Serpentine Jarrahdale (0.36), Harvey (0.16), Murray (0.11) and Waroona (0.05).

OUR GOVERNANCE

The PHBG is governed in a way that empowers local people and authorities. It is a not-for-profit organisation operating under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2014*. It adheres to relevant laws for its operations (e.g. *Animal Welfare Act 2002*) and is recognised under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.

MEMBERSHIPS

A **landholder** within the PHBG operational area can apply for **ordinary membership**. Applicants must agree to adhere to the association rules (set out in law) and the constitutional objects of the organisation.

Membership applications are processed quarterly: where possible, a personal 'meet and greet' is organised ahead of processing the application. Some meet and greets were put off due to difficulties relating to social distancing requirements.

In 2020 there was a membership drive on social media. Landholders attending workshops and hiring equipment were encouraged to become members. There were 14 applicants for ordinary membership which were all approved.

Landholders with and without membership receive the same level of support (e.g. staff time) and benefits (e.g. equipment loan). It would be difficult to incentivise membership given that an equitable service provision is expected from landholders contributing to the declared pest rate. It would be reasonable to expect that a person will apply for membership if they want to take a more active role with the PHBG.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION & DECISION MAKING

The **PHBG management committee** sets the overarching vision for the organisation. It approves the annual budget and makes decisions relating to strategic planning, risk management, memberships and advocacy.

Each local government authority has one representative with full voting rights on the PHBG management committee. The representative can be a councillor or employed officer.

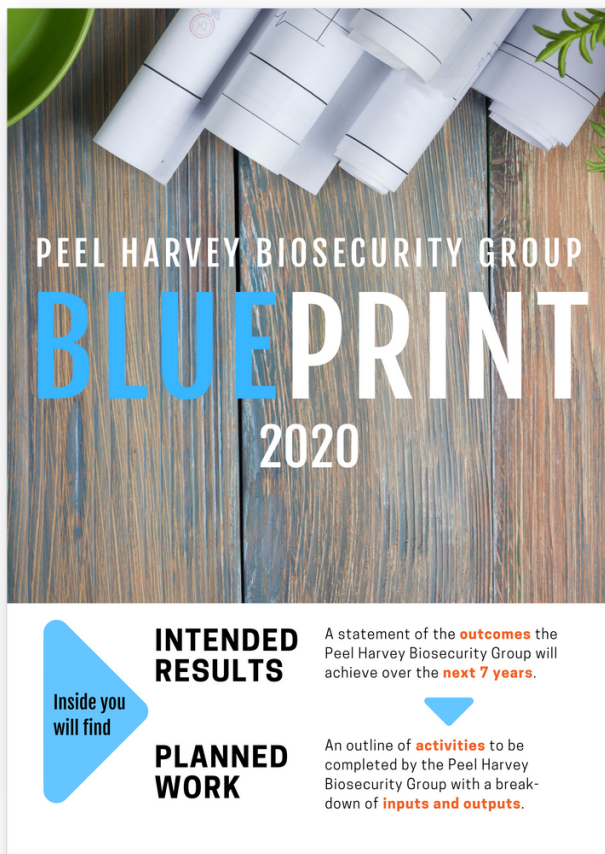
For each local government area, there can be up to three ordinary members on the PHBG management committee. Each ordinary member on the committee has full voting rights. In 2020, there was at least one ordinary member from each of the local government areas on the committee.

In 2020, local government (LG) was represented at all committee meetings. Two LG's were in attendance at all meetings. Another two LG's only missed one meeting. One LG missed two meetings due to prior commitments.

All executive positions (i.e. chair, vice chair, treasurer, secretary) on the PHBG committee were filled by ordinary members (i.e. landholders).

To ensure that the direction of the PHBG is clear and communicated widely to its stakeholders the organisation put together a strategic Blueprint. It is hoped that partners, collaborators, members and landholders become familiar with the Blueprint. The PHBG is open to updating the document to;

- (i) absorb constructive feedback,
- (ii) capture a wider set of values and priorities, and
- (iii) increase local ownership.



The PHBG's Blueprint was made available online in 2020.

Members of the public have been encouraged to provide feedback on the document, which is dynamic and will be updated with constructive input. To date, the PHBG has not received any comments or suggestions from landholders.

For more information go to www.phbg.org, find the reporting landing page and take a look at its strategic blueprint.



PHBG Blueprint QR code

OUR FUNDING

Boom-bust funding cycles are particularly detrimental for pest control. Good work to remove a pest is quickly undone as gaps are filled by new invaders.

A biosecurity group, recognised by the Minister of Agriculture, provides a region with the opportunity of annual funding to set up and sustain initiatives to suppress populations of declared pests across the area. The Minister formally recognised the PHBG in 2018, and has since raised a declared pest rate each year, matched dollar for dollar by the State Government.

The initiatives of a biosecurity group are **not meant to replace the legal responsibilities of individual landholders**. Biosecurity groups enhance the efforts of individuals through a range of mechanisms including;

ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH A DECLARED PEST RATE

Access to information on control options

For example, the PHBG purchases and distributes the popular *PestSmart Glovebox Guides* for controlling feral rabbits, foxes and pigs.

Up-skilling to apply best practices

For example, the PHBG provides regular demonstrations and hands-on workshops.

Access to specialised tools and equipment

For example, the PHBG purchases and distributes specialised pest control equipment.

Access to new or improved control methods

For example, the PHBG has started exploring how to make biocontrol options more readily available to landholders.

Coordination of work

For example, the PHBG is helping time the efforts of private landholders and managers of the public estate to address infestations crossing boundaries.

Bulk purchasing and subsidies

For example, the PHBG fully subsidises the cost of restricted chemical permits for eligible landholders.

One stop shop for reporting declared pests, with notification provided to the appropriate landholder

For example, the PHBG validates weed reports and sends a letter to the responsible landholder.

Grant writing assistance and value-adds for community initiatives addressing declared pests

For example, the PHBG writes letters of support and provides in-kind and cash contributions for community groups that apply for grants, where the outcome is to control declared pests.

Advocacy of community concerns to governing bodies and independent reviewers

For example, the PHBG has raised landholder concerns in its submissions to the Auditor General and Biosecurity Council.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER STRATEGIC REVIEW

Dr Jonelle Cleland

I started with the PHBG in 2016. With the unwavering support of a band of committed volunteers and the backing of local authorities and organisations, I have seen the PHBG grow from strength to strength over this relatively short period – even within the context of COVID-19 setbacks and restrictions.

When I began my employment with the PHBG it had an axe to grind regarding cotton bush infestations impacting agricultural production, particularly in the Shire of Harvey. The PHBG still has cotton bush as a top priority, but over time it has become more inclusive of a wider set of values and stakeholders. Large agricultural producers, horticulturalists, viticulturalists, equine enthusiasts, hobby farmers and small landholders are all serviced by the PHBG. As are landholders who want to achieve conservation outcomes from managing pests on their property and surrounds.

The PHBG is now rolling out multi-pronged and staged programs addressing a much wider set of regional concerns including six additional declared weeds (i.e. apple of Sodom, blackberry, arum lily, bridal creeper, Cape tulip, Paterson's curse), four declared ferals (i.e. rabbit, fox, pig, rainbow lorikeet) and a declared invertebrate (i.e. fruit fly where it is declared in the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale). These pests not only impact agriculture. The environment, public health and social amenity are impacted too. Ultimately, each program aims to find the right mix of tools which helps a landholder to undertake effective control measures – not as a once off, but as part of their everyday property maintenance and care.

Going forward it will be critical for the PHBG committee to continue with its focus on what is best for the region as a whole, and not be captured by singular or misguided interests. For example, managing misinformation can be complex in the age of social media where campaigns are run to undermine a robust body of scientific evidence or specifically damage the reputation of individuals. Indeed, addressing such issues can consume a disproportionate amount of resources. The PHBG will need to consider what needs to be done to keep the majority informed. In turn, the PHBG needs to determine where it should disengage from intractable public debates, or alternatively, work collaboratively at a state-wide level to consolidate and promote clear messages to the public.

To this end, improving the general understanding of biosecurity risks and the impacts of breaches, outbreaks and infestations is needed as a matter of priority. Similarly, there needs to be genuine buy-in from government, industry and community – each has a different role and set of responsibilities and this needs to be clearly articulated. Much of the angst directed at recognised biosecurity groups in the South West of WA (the raising of a declared pest rate) could have been mediated by the State Government being clear that they were moving to a shared delivery model for widespread and established pests and there was no other investment options being considered. Indeed, there is still a place for this dialogue with the community.

Committed
volunteers

Diverse values &
interests

Expanding weed &
feral animal
programs to service
landholders

Representing what
is in the best
interests of the
region

Everyone has a role
and this needs to be
better understood

Similarly, the State Government needs to explain and reinforce that the legal responsibility for controlling declared pests lies with the landholder and the only prosecuting authority is the State Government – not a community based biosecurity group. To put it in context, if a landholder refuses point blank to deal with an infestation on their property there is nothing more a biosecurity group can do. A biosecurity group can attempt to engage and educate, as well as improve capacity but it cannot force entry nor compliance. Therefore, it is unfair to measure the short to medium term success of a biosecurity group against the number of compliant/non-compliant landholders.

Effecting positive behaviour change takes a large investment of time, energy and ultimately perseverance. The biosecurity group model is based on the concept that stable and resourced community networks foster 'peer learning' and introduce 'peer pressure' to do the right thing and cooperate. This is what best enables long term behaviour change. The PHBG strongly endorses this approach, so long as the promised support from government is available to deal with those who refuse to do the right thing. Without the threat of reprimand, free-rider issues will overwhelm and undermine a community-based model. This is a well researched and documented issue for pest management right across the world.

In 2017 the PHBG became recognised after completing a written application to the Minister. This was straightforward. In comparison, rating has not been easy. It was always expected that there would be pockets of resistance to a 'new tax' on landholders, irrespective of the intent and relatively small outlay of \$30 per VEN (i.e. valuation entity number and what is considered as a parcel of rateable land). However, the PHBG was optimistic that it could appease and satisfy the majority, and accepted that there would always be a small proportion of residual landholders who will vehemently oppose the rate. Indeed, this has been exactly the case.

What was unexpected was the risks and challenges presented at a political and institutional level. Political debates over the funding model for biosecurity (especially in the lead up to the State Government election) detracted from the good work being done by biosecurity groups in the South West. Institutional issues have been ongoing and draining for both biosecurity support staff from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and biosecurity groups. The Department has struggled to provide strong leadership and direction on multiple fronts. The reasons are likely complex, but the legacy of resource cuts and extended organisational restructuring, with the loss of expertise and high staff turnover are likely contributing factors.

Of increasing concern is the difficulty many biosecurity groups have in trying to resolve institutional issues directly impacting their operations. Commonality between the biosecurity groups has now been realised, and at the end of 2020 executive officers from across the State came together to work through the most pressing issues. This has culminated in a briefing note and paper, endorsed by 10 biosecurity groups, which was recently presented to the Minister for Agriculture for her consideration. Indeed, biosecurity groups working together to improve the system will bring benefits to their individual region and landholders they represent.

Biosecurity groups cannot force entry or compliance on individual landholders

Above all else, behaviour change takes perseverance, on top of time and effort

The majority support or are indifferent to the pest rate, but there are very passionate objectors

Bureaucracy has been the most challenging aspect

Biosecurity groups have consolidated their voice & now seek improvements from the State Government

EXECUTIVE OFFICER OPERATIONAL REVIEW

Dr Jonelle Cleland

The PHBG has exponentially grown the range of services available to landholders. The figure on the adjacent page shows how species-specific programs have rapidly come online over the past 2 years. This growth has been achieved by having a declared pest rate, with funds first accessed in 2019. The \$30 declared pest rate has enabled the PHBG to build its stock of loan equipment and most importantly, to have local and skilled people on hand to answer a constant and growing stream of landholder queries and provide them with a range of avenues to get on track with their own control, or to find ways to bring others on board. **Part-time staff, which included Teele Hooper-Worrell and Megan Plant in 2020, are to be highly commended for their commitment to attending to the specific needs of individual landholders.**

Benefits are now being attained on an individual property level, as well as at a broader landscape level. The next step will be putting in standard measures that go beyond anecdotal feedback. Whilst it is within the means of the PHBG to put measures in place to assess levels of engagement and behaviour change (as specified in the PHBG Blueprint) it is a much bigger and resource-intensive job to assess actual changes in pest populations across the landscape and the resulting impacts on productivity, biodiversity and ecosystem function, as well as human health. This requires innovation, leadership and investment at a state and national level to come to fruition. It cannot be funded through a tight operational budget of a recognised biosecurity group.

The PHBG is encouraging the sharing of technical and practical knowledge. It has made significant inroads with feral animal control, particularly trapping. This is a big achievement in a space that has traditionally been a singular pursuit, often with guarded tricks of the trade that have been discovered over decades of working in the field. The PHBG has set up networks, learning opportunities and sponsored local innovation in trap design. In 2020, new ideas and prototypes for fox cage traps have been put together by local landholders, Andrew Bosma and Alan Elliot. Tristan Barker, also a local landholder, is working hard on cage trap designs with four working traps in operation across the Shires of Harvey and Waroona. This sort of technical expertise, alongside a commitment to improving traditional techniques is to be commended. Indeed, it is likely that there is a significant knowledge bank in the region, going beyond trapping, which is yet to be fully utilised.

Knowledge is a powerful tool and the PHBG is working hard on updating and refining messages about declared pest control. Increased effort is being invested in reinforcing the message that pest control is not a one off, nor can it rely on one technique alone. Timing is critical and patience is essential. These are incredibly important messages to communicate. For example, many landholders have found it difficult to accept that tools such as the calicivirus are not a silver bullet that will wipe out all rabbits on their property or local area, and that follow-up and sustained control is necessary across the entire region. This is where the PHBG is a necessary delivery agent – it is committed to making a suite of tools available to landholders, and building capacity in their responsible use.

In 2019 the declared pest rate came online. As a result, landholders are able to access a growing number of programs and services.

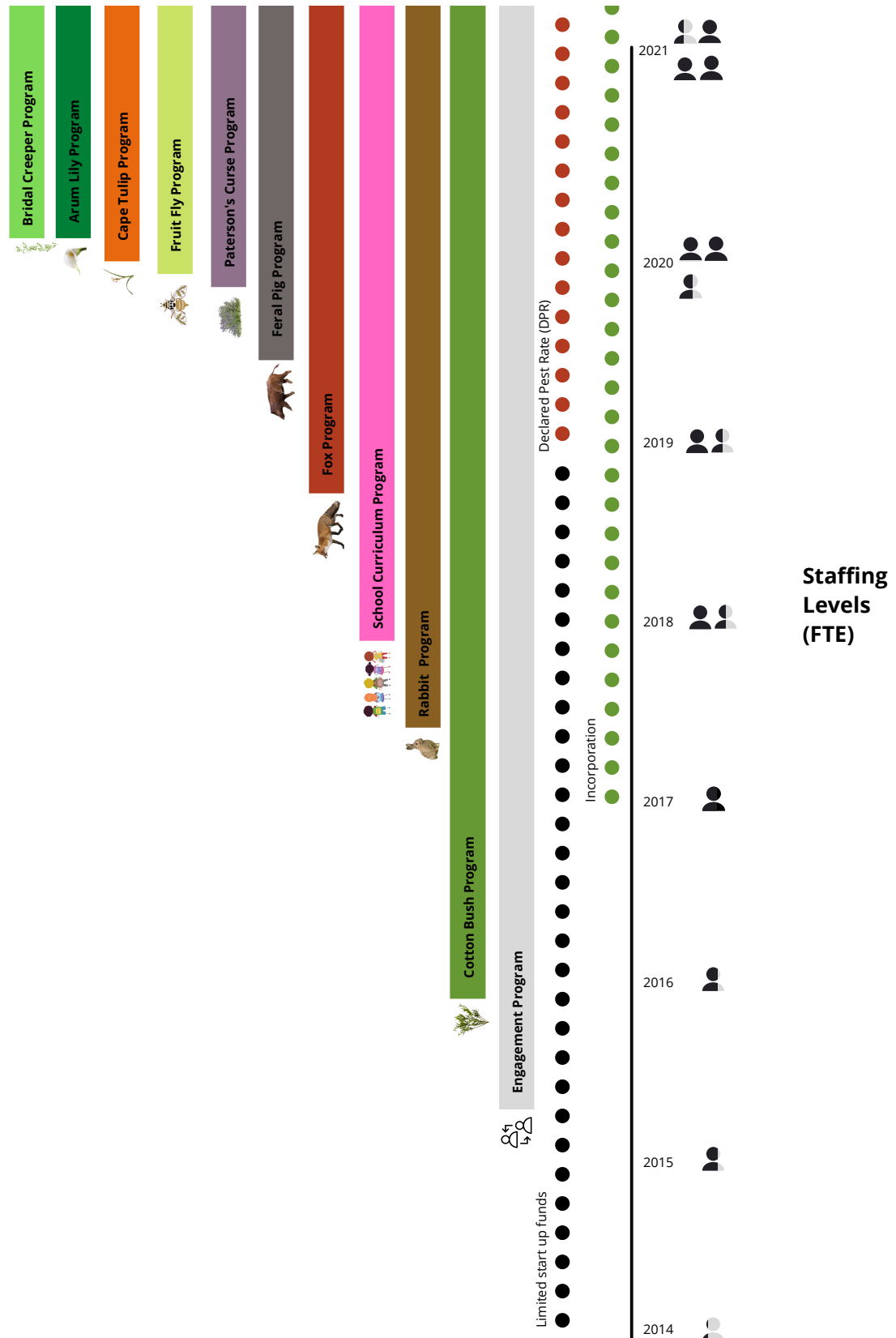
Outcomes can be measured, but it is important to understand that this requires some additional investment.

Knowledge sharing will help to overcome barriers.

The most important message to landholders is that pest control is not a one-off and it needs to be approached from multiple angles.

The activities funded under the Declared Pest Rate (see page 8) are the building blocks for programs that aim to increase the control of declared pests that have been identified as a priority by the local community. These programs have been ramping up as the PHBG's increasing capacity. Volunteers cannot carry the expanding load which is why there are now more staff on board.

Then and Now - PHBG Program delivery 2014 - 2021



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

In the **2019 Annual Report**, the PHBG started to align its operational highlights with its strategic Blueprint (access last year's annual report on the PHBG reporting webpage). It largely focused on how the PHBG was overcoming barriers in achieving its seven success outcomes. Barriers are outlined in the Blueprint and were captured in the 2019 Annual Report as landholder quotes. It then provided an overview of targeted outputs as a demonstration of how typical barriers were being overcome, where relevant landholder feedback was provided as well as the value of the output.

For example,

Landholder quote

"I don't know what declared weeds are found in my area."

Targeted output

Magnet provided to landholders as a handy reference.

Landholder feedback

"I didn't realise that I had cotton bush until I saw this magnet."

Value add

Saving time for busy landholders who can now contact PHBG staff to report declared weeds or seek assistance with weed identification and control options.

For the **2020 Annual Report**, it is hoped that there is increased familiarity with the PHBG Blueprint. As such, less emphasis has been placed on providing context and framing the highlights. What is captured is a snapshot of outputs across the seven success outcomes. Additional details of specific programs and projects are available on the PHBG website.

"As you read through the following pages of operational highlights, I am guessing you will be blown away by what the PHBG is achieving. It is testament of what a not-for-profit can do with the modest backing of government and its own people. Momentum is growing with more and more people coming on board, not only to get their \$30 worth, but to be part of a team effort to get on top of the pest problem in the Peel Harvey. The problem was here before the PHBG came into existence, but its volunteers and staff are doing everything in their power to turn the situation around. Sure, it can be hard going at times, but the PHBG is up for the challenge and asks that you join us too."

Jonelle Cleland, Executive Officer, PHBG

THE PHBG IS AIMING TO DELIVER ON SEVEN OUTCOMES

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7





Outcome 1.

People know that the PHBG is focused on implementing behaviour change at all levels.

The long term successful management of declared pests will only be achieved through behaviour change at all levels.

Electronic information

The PHBG has continued to develop information resources accessible on the PHBG website. It promotes success stories, initiatives and seasonal control recommendations through the quarterly E-newsletter. In 2020 the PHBG newsletter subscription grew by over 220 members more than doubling its reach from 2019.



987

E-NEWSLETTERS
SENT OUT

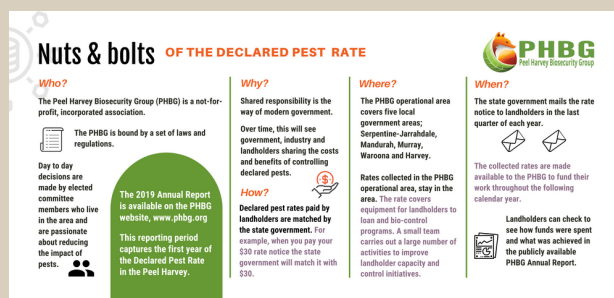


5,936

WEBSITE
VISITS

Hard copy information delivered to every landholder

In 2020 the PHBG mailed out an informative postcard to all landholders paying the Declared Pest Rate (DPR). This postcard was designed to help promote the PHBG and provide context around the funding model. The postcard outlined PHBG programs, equipment and activities that are covered by the rate, which are developed by the PHBG to support landholder efforts.



Presentations

In August 2020, the Biosecurity Council of WA provided RBG's and other interested groups based in the South West, an opportunity to present their views on the status of biosecurity. PHBG staff travelled down to Augusta to share concerns and experiences from our local area.



Biosecurity members and stakeholders

The PHBG also contributed to the Biosecurity Council review of funding mechanisms for biosecurity, via

- a written submission
- face-to-face meeting with the PHBG chair and executive officer and a subset of Biosecurity Council members
- attendance at a virtual meeting to review the Biosecurity Council report on RBGs and industry funding schemes.



Outcome 2.

People know where to go to report pests and are motivated to do so.

The PHBG believes it is positioned perfectly for sharing pest reporting information between the community and the government. The PHBG uses its network to; (i) share information on new incursions from the State and Federal Government, (ii) promote data platforms for sharing and aggregating information and (iii) encourage reporting of declared pests by the local community.

Shared warning information on new incursions

Keeping Australia safe from new incursions is made easier when the whole community is involved. recognised biosecurity groups can assist government by keeping their local community aware of new incursions. The PHBG share this information via their social media platforms.



Promoted data sharing platforms

Reporting tools like FeralScan allow landholders to record data in a straightforward way. The systematic collection and mapping of sightings and damage can reveal hotspots that require more attention and control efforts.



Use of Feral Scan by PHBG landholders during the 2020 rabbit virus release

190



Sightings

144



Control Reports

38



Damage Reports

2

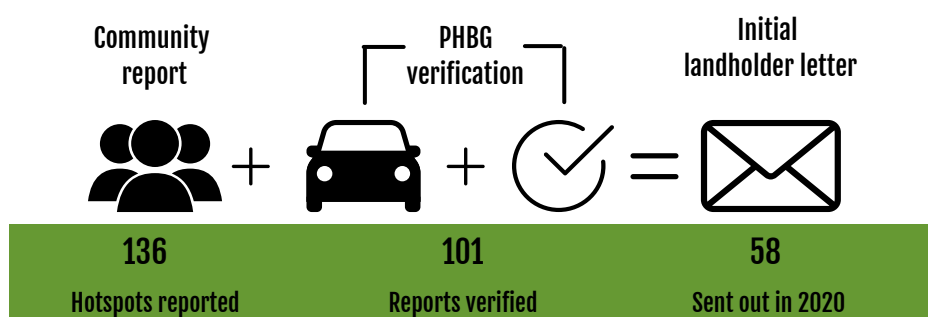


Disease Reports

Validated community reports of declared weeds

The PHBG encourages the community to report declared weeds through an online hotspot form. A PHBG officer will then attempt to validate the report and send an initial landholder letter to the land manager detailing control options. In 2020, 136 reports were made by members of the community. Of these, 101 reports could be validated. Unfortunately, sometimes insufficient detail is provided to find the infestation or it cannot be viewed from the road. In some cases, the reporting landholder allows access onto their property to be able to view the infestation which is very helpful. The PHBG has streamlined its mapping and address matching to expediate issuing of letters to landholders. There have been some challenges on this front. Many biosecurity groups have found it difficult negotiating and overcoming data sharing and data quality issues with DPIRD: this is an item that is been taken up at a state-wide level.

The ultimate aim of validated reports and landholder letters is to build a body of evidence of engagement effort, to then prompt DPIRD to utilise its regulatory powers for addressing non-compliance.





Outcome 3.

Best practices for pest control are endorsed, readily accessible and widely promoted.

Access to experts

During 2020, even with complications from COVID-19, the PHBG was able to deliver demonstrations, workshops and attend community events with information stalls.



Weed ID & Advice Workshop



70

Attendees



Over

150

weed samples



Of attendees recommended the workshop to others



Fox Control Workshop



23

Attendees



Hands on learning



I have more confidence in controlling foxes going forward - Landholder

Subsidies to encourage uptake

The PHBG continues to support landholders in their application for Restricted Chemical Permits (RCP). The PHBG subsidises the cost of the application fee while the Coolup LCDC now also covers the costs for the 1080 products themselves.

'1080 is considered the most environmentally responsible option currently available to protect Australia's native environment from decimation by introduced species' - PestSmart.org.au.

1,211 ACRES
PROTECTED
WITH RCP
PERMITS



Weed Wiper

36

Pieces of equipment
hired out in 2020

Equipment loans

The PHBG has increased the amount of equipment accessible to landholders FREE of charge. This includes the purchase of additional weed wipers that will make Cape tulip control easier, more cost effective and environmentally friendly for landholders.

Local access

The PHBG are keen make it quicker and easier for landholders to access our equipment. In 2020 the PHBG purchased 15 tree poppers for the Lake Clifton - Herron Progress Association to hire out to landholders on the PHBG's behalf. Now landholders in the Lake Clifton - Herron area aren't constrained by PHBG staff availability or need to travel to the Waroona office when seeking weed control equipment.



RESEARCH ENDEAVOUR

The PHBG is developing connections with leading research institutions to improve the adoption of best practice in the region.

Fruit Fly Project

In January 2020, the research project *Strengthening the weakest link in peri-urban Medfly suppression* was initiated in the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale. **The aim of the project is to test the effectiveness of low-cost training and information provision across townsites.**

Throughout the project, fruit fly presence data is being collected with the final results indicating whether increased education and training decreases fruit fly presence.

External funding was sourced from the Plant Biosecurity Science Foundation, with the University of Western Australia and the PHBG being joint collaborators. Additional operational funds for monitoring were injected via the declared pest rate. Assistance has been provided by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, as well as the SJ Food and Farm Alliance.



Dr Isabel Arevalo-Vigne, DPIRD and Dr Ben White, UWA, collaborators on the project.

Experimental design



Treatment 1. Control towns

- Fruit fly monitoring
- Fruit fly survey



Treatment 2. Information towns

- Fruit fly monitoring
- Fruit fly survey
- Information updates



Treatment 3. Information + training towns

- Fruit fly monitoring
- Fruit fly survey
- Information updates
- Workshops

Project outputs (so far)

100

FRUIT FLY MONITORING TRAPS
ACROSS THE PROJECT AREA



4

COMMUNITY
WORKSHOPS

2

EDITIONS OF
THE FLYCAST
NEWSLETTER

2

STALLS AT
GROWER
MARKETS

35

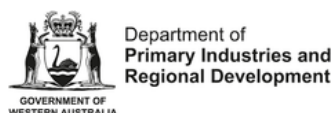
ATTENDEES

FREE

FRUIT FLY
TRAPS FOR
ATTENDEES

Landholder feedback

'I caught a fruit fly in the free trap I got at the recent fruit fly workshop, within the hour!'



ACCESSIBILITY TO CONTROL OPTIONS

Revitalising a historical biocontrol project to support landholders in controlling a curse.

Paterson's curse biocontrol

During 2020, landholders experienced increased germination of Paterson's curse. In response to landholder queries about control options, including chemical-free alternatives, the PHBG looked into revitalising a past biocontrol project coordinated by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). The project started in 1993 and focused on five different types of Paterson's curse biocontrol agents that were collected from overseas, brought to Australia and reared for release. Nursery sites were set up where the biocontrol agents could then be redistributed across Western Australia.

Staff from the PHBG and Peel Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) travelled to the Avon region, a release site for the original project, to find and collect crown and root weevils to bring back to trial sites in the Shires of Serpentine Jarrahdale and Murray.

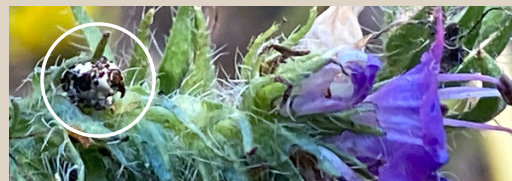
While numbers were low at the Avon sites, once back in the PHBG operational area a number of sites along the scarp were found to have large, healthy populations of weevils responding to the increased germination of Paterson's curse.

Managing expectations

Crown and root weevils can be an asset in the control of Paterson's curse. Biocontrol provides a chemical-free option in areas where herbicide application is problematic or undesirable. However, weevils alone will not completely eradicate Paterson's curse.

Given biocontrol agents rely on sufficient host weeds to provide their food and habitat, they will not completely eliminate their host plant populations. Instead, biocontrol is used to reduce weed populations to levels below damaging thresholds.

Paula Pownell, former RALF Officer for the PHCC, looking for weevils in the Avon region.



Feasibility of biocontrol in the Peel Harvey

Once the word got out that the PHBG was doing some work with Paterson's curse biocontrol agents, the Group started fielding calls from landholders as far north as Gingin and Chittering. Around the same time, the PHBG received a request from the City of Mandurah wanting information on how to introduce the biocontrol agent for bridal creeper, which had started invading some of their roadsides and reserves (see page 20).

This got the PHBG thinking about biocontrol in a more strategic manner. For example, what could be done to make sure landholders have a reliable and easily accessible supply of biocontrol agents? Which also didn't have the PHBG traipsing the countryside essentially looking for a weevil in a haystack.

The PHBG engaged an expert in the field of agricultural supply markets, to help work through the opportunities and constraints of biocontrol agents being more accessible to landholders in the Peel Harvey Region. The broader benefits of this work were quickly identified, and the PHBG has approached the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia to help take the next steps. A stakeholder forum is planned for 2021 to get key stakeholders working together. From the forum, the PHBG hopes to get a couple of quick runs on the board so that landholders will have greater access to a number of biocontrol agents for agricultural and environmental outcomes in the very near future.



Outcome 4. Pest control activities are coordinated and sustained across property and management boundaries.

The PHBG's main focus is to support landholders in their control of declared pests. This extends to the impact on those landholders from nearby infestations on publically managed land. The PHBG is building relationships with public land managers in order to support the efforts of our community members.

Working across tenure



Declared weeds don't respect boundaries, however the operational area of the PHBG is clearly defined by its five local government areas (LGA). The PHBG provide bordering LGA's with declared weed reports to prevent the spread of infestations into our area. The City of Rockingham continues to be proactive in responding to these reports.



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



In response to community reports about cotton bush in Dwellingup, the PHBG reached out to the DBCA Dwellingup team to offer the use of tree poppers to remove cotton bush in sensitive bushland areas.

"The loaning of the tree poppers has assisted our team predominantly around the Murray Valley Trails area where, due to installation of a new trail and associated additional soil disturbance, cotton bush has had a resurgence. The use of this equipment has been highly beneficial with regards to only targeting this weed species with minimal damage to the surrounding native vegetation. The tree poppers have also assisted with enabling us to remove juvenile blackberry plants reducing the need for spraying around the Nanga Brook area."

Inez Howell, Ranger, Lane Poole Reserve, Dwellingup



Stakeholder Group

The PHBG coordinated the development of a stakeholder group to assist land managers in the Beela and Harvey Dam to communicate about declared weed control.

All the relevant parties share information about what they were doing and when. The PHBG is assisting by convening the stakeholder meetings and providing data from its weed validations, which are in response to community reports.

Communities Environment Grant

The PHBG successfully applied for funding for cotton bush control in the Serpentine National Park. The project included 4.5 days of cotton bush removal by the Ecojobs team and the installation of two interpretive signs (see front cover) that describe cotton bush control at different stages of development. The signs have been installed along the popular walking trails visited by local, national and international visitors.

The outcomes of this project provided the foundation for the successful bid to the State NRM program for three years of funding for ongoing cotton bush control in the National Park.





Outcome 5. Local champions, organisations and businesses are recognised.

The PHBG likes to showcase great work done in the control of declared pests across our area. This includes big efforts by landholders to remove weeds, such as cotton bush; celebrating long term service by committee members; and local government commitment to educating their staff on declared pest control, as well as on-ground control efforts.

Champions in our patch



Landholder efforts recognised

To encourage others to control cotton bush, the PHBG showcases community efforts to remove this declared weed. The landholder above removed acres of cotton bush plants after loaning the PHBG tree poppers.



Athol Wigg celebrated

The PHBG was excited to congratulate Athol Wigg, who was recognised as a part of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale's Volunteer Recognition Program for his hard work with the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group.



Shire of Harvey invests in arum lily control

The Shire of Harvey responded to the community calling for action on arum lily control. The PHBG promoted the Shire's efforts, and the story was picked up by WALGA. The media release is available on the PHBG website under success stories.



Shire of SJ attend PHBG weed workshop

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale sent their entire operations team to the PHBG Weed ID and Advice Workshop to learn about weed identification and how to troubleshoot when determining the best control strategies.



City of Mandurah support bridal creeper control

In response to growing community concern, the City of Mandurah reached out to the PHBG to hold a demonstration about the collection and spread of bridal creeper rust to help control the declared weed.

Thank You



Outcome 6.

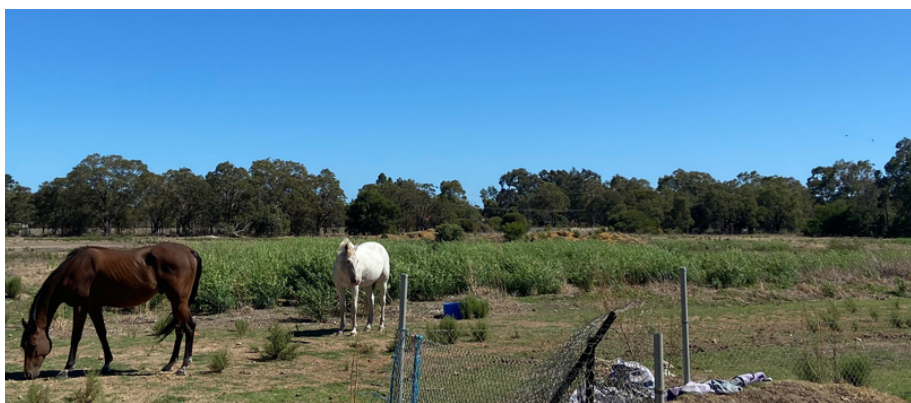
Compliance is forthcoming where engagement is not successful.

The process of validating community reports of weed infestations has been described under outcome 2, on page 15. The ultimate aim of validated reports and landholder letters is to build a body of evidence of engagement effort, to then prompt DPIRD to utilise its regulatory powers for addressing non-compliance.

To date, compliance to support the work of biosecurity groups has been limited. In the South West of WA – only where a recognised biosecurity group is active – there has only been a compliance program for cotton bush. Compliance properties are prioritised and a limited subset are investigated by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

The PHBG appreciates that compliance is at the pointy end of options, with the associated costs of government officers collecting and documenting defensible evidence. Voluntary compliance is a better alternative. However, in many instances, there needs to be the real threat of getting caught, to incentivise voluntary action. Biosecurity groups cannot continue to wear the brunt of community angst associated with long-standing non-compliant properties.

In acknowledgement of the State Government's reduced compliance for established pests, and a local desire for greater compliance action, the Shire of Murray has been in negotiation with the DPIRD to have some powers from the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act 2007* delegated to local government. Since at least 2016, the Shire has done a considerable amount of background work to help progress the discussion. In July 2020, the PHBG convened a meeting for the Shire of Murray to re-initiate discussions with DPIRD. Indeed, it is difficult to evaluate DPIRD's appetite for this alternative approach. The Shire of Murray may utilise the upcoming BAM Act review to further this option.



2019/20 compliance property



Picture taken during re-validation, July 2020



Outcome 7.

Children are given the opportunity to learn about pest impacts and management options.

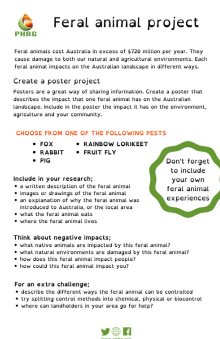
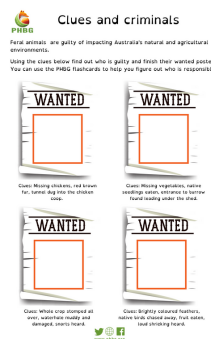
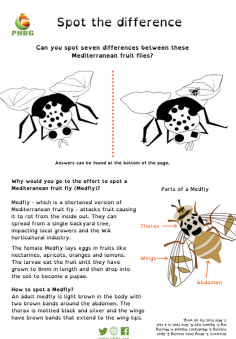
Online learning during COVID lockdowns

When COVID lockdowns started, and schoolchildren were staying at home, the PHBG responded by creating fun biosecurity worksheets for students to work on at home. The worksheets started with visual knowledge, word knowledge and problems solving activities at beginner and advanced levels.

The PHBG held online Facebook events promoting the learning activities and uploaded the worksheets with answer guides up onto the website.



Follow the QR code to the PHBG's Online Learning page



Pesky Pests – development of a pest curriculum and resource set

The concept of the education package started back in 2017, when the PHBG engaged with local teachers to evaluate what biosecurity resources were available. Nicole Entz found that there were great resources in Australia; however, there was no cohesive framework or direct relevance to the established pests in the Peel Harvey Region. This was followed by a successful application to the Peel Development Commission and the State NRM Program to develop a biosecurity curriculum and resources for students in the Peel Harvey region.

Retired primary and secondary teachers, Robyn and Chris Brown, wrote the first draft of the curriculum and gathered resources that have been included in the package.

In 2020 Hannah Lalor, an experienced science teacher, came on board to further develop the 'Pesky Pesks' school based curriculum. This was made possible through the original seed funding from the State NRM Program.

The curriculum is freely available to teachers and is available at, www.schools.phbg.org. For more information, contact schools@phbg.org.



Professor Bandi is the official mascot for the school package. Prof Bandi guides the children with his local knowledge on pests, keeping a sharp eye out for foxes who prey on the Southern Brown Bandicoot, also known as the quenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT

2020 Treasurer's Report



AGM 30th June 2021

I would like to present the audited financials for the 12 months to December 31, 2020. These reports have been completed by Ward and Ilsley Partners, Business Accountants, Mandurah.

Background Information

The Minister has set the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) at \$30 per rate notice for properties one hectare and above in the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group operational area, which includes the local government authorities of Serpentine Jarrahdale, Murray, Waroona, Harvey and Mandurah.

The rate is collected by the Office of State Revenue (OSR) and is matched dollar for dollar by the State Government, with the funds held in the Declared Pest Account (DPA) administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

To better suit the government's timeline for collecting the DPR and granting funds from the DPA, the PHBG decided at its 2019 annual general meeting to change its financial reporting period to a calendar year.

Over the past two years, the PHBG has received a grant from the DPA;

- 2019 \$401,050
- 2020 \$492,150

The budget for expenditure from the DPA, in 2021, is \$495,000.

Additional Notes

The COVID-19 restrictions faced throughout 2020 reduced the number of workshops and community events that could be delivered by the PHBG. While support and advice continued many planned events and programs could not happen. This led to a substantial underspend within the budget. The main budget items affected were advertising and marketing, surveys, school outreach, community group support and workshops.

The Federal Government ATO Cash Boost of \$36,376 was moved to Reserves (Non DPR) to give a balance of \$95,079.

During 2020, the PHBG had 2.8 FTE employees committed to the main focus areas of education, community support and the provision of equipment to assist landholders to control declared pests and weeds.

Assets

Major purchases through 2020;

Laptops x 2
Fox trap trailer
Weed wipers x 2
Weed wiper trailer
Pig trapping systems x 2

I move that the Audit and Financial Reports for 2020 be accepted as a fair and true record of the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group finances.

I would also like to recommend that Ward and Ilsley be appointed as the auditor for 2021.

Colleen Archibald
Hon. Treasurer

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PEEL HARVEY BIOSECURITY GROUP INCORPORATED

STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE

In The opinion of the Committee:

1. The accompanying Income & Expenditure Statement of the Organisation are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the

PEEL HARVEY BIOSECURITY GROUP INCORPORATED

to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Organisation as at the end of the year.

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 December 2020**

2. At the date of the accounts, the Organisation has no debts as and when they fall due.

3. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Applicable Accounting Standards as noted in Note 1 of the accompanying accounts and do comply with the Organisation's constitution.

This statement is made in accordance with the resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Name

Position

Name

Position

Dated:

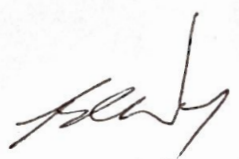
PEEL HARVEY BIOSECURITY GROUP INCORPORATED

STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE

In The opinion of the Committee: -

1. The accompanying Income & Expenditure Statements of the organisation are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the organisation for the year ending 31 December 2020.
2. The accompanying Balance Sheet of the organisation is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Organisation as at the end of that period.
3. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the organisation will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
4. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Applicable Approved Accounting Standards as noted in Note 1 of the accompanying accounts and do comply with the Organisation's constitution.

This statement is made in accordance with the resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:


Name BRIAN DOY
Position: CHAIRPERSON

Name COLLEEN ARCHBOLD
Position: TREASURER

Dated: 22nd September 2021

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Assets		
Current Assets		
1-1110 PHBG Chq Acc	370,498	188,052
1-1120 PHBG Debit Card	1,946	1,990
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	200	-
Total Current Assets	372,644	575,989
Total Assets	372,644	575,989
Liabilities and shareholder's equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts Payable (A/P)	1,899	-
2-1170 Employee Provisions		
2-1171 Annual Leave Provision	9,027	7,363
2-1172 Long Serve Provisions	9,146	6,613
Total 2-1170 Employee Provisions	18,173	13,976
2-1190 Superannuation payable	4,853	5,610
2-1240 Grants in Advance	250,244	98,517
ATO Clearing Account	2,375	13,218
Total current liabilities	277,545	517,268
Shareholders' equity:		
Net Income	0	0
3-0500 Opening balance equity	20	20
3-4000 Reserves Non Declared Pest Account	95,079	58,701
Total shareholders' equity	95,099	58,721
Total liabilities and equity	372,644	575,989

These are audited special purpose financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the audit report dated 22 September 2021

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
Income & Expenditure Statement
As of 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
Income		
4-1020 Grants Federal	9,713	-
4-1021 ATO Cash Boost	36,376	-
4-1050 Grants State	492,150	378,885
4-1061 Unspent Grant State	(151,728)	(98,517)
4-1100 Grants Other	1,000	1,500
4-3010 Services	1,365	630
4-5020 Interest Income	432	981
4-5035 Recoupments	185	-
Project Costs Recouped	221	21
Total 4-5035 Recoupments	406	21
4-5050 Sundry Income	255	214
Total Income	389,969	283,713
Gross Profit	389,969	283,713

These are audited special purpose financial statements and should
be read in conjunction with the audit report dated 22 September 2021

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Income & Expenditure Statement

As of 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
Expenses		
6-0010 Accounting and bookkeeping	382	1,060
6-0020 Advertising and marketing	8,604	803
6-0040 Asset Purchased	44,373	23,902
6-0050 Audit Fees	2,800	800
6-0070 Bank charges and fees	218	117
6-0100 Cleaning and Office Maintenance	910	400
6-0110 Client or Event Support	-	
6-0111 Catering	1,115	940
6-0112 Workshops	4,431	1,310
Total 6-0110 Client or Event Support	5,546	2,250
6-0210 Client or Event Consumables	3,486	4,795
6-0220 Computer and IT	6,896	7,998
6-0230 Consultants and Contractors	26,443	14,505
6-0231 GIS Support	1,300	-
Total 6-0230 Consultants and Contractors	27,743	14,505
6-0240 Landholder Communication	8,443	-
6-0300 Gifts and donations	10	388
6-0330 Fees Bait and Permits	5,463	172
6-0400 Insurance	3,979	4,182
6-0480 Meeting Expenses	801	1,464
6-0490 Membership Fees paid	-	189
6-0500 Vehicle and Equipment Expenses	658	77
6-0510 Postage & shipping	1,603	9,382
6-0520 Printing, stationery & supplies	1,806	1,971
6-0540 Publications and Resources	4,578	9,003
6-0590 Repair and maintenance	198	227
6-0600 Salary and wages - staff	181,725	144,050
6-0607 Superannuation Expense	17,148	14,881
6-0608 Annual Leave Provision	1,665	1,903
6-0609 LSL Provision	2,533	2,935
6-0610 WC Insurance	1,151	-
6-0612 Honorarium and fees	2,750	2,750
6-0660 Staff Amenities	133	206
6-0670 Sundry Expenses	-	21
6-0680 Telephone & internet	2,014	1,659
6-0700 Training and Development (Staff)	3,724	5,206
6-0710 Travel expenses	10,455	6,104
6-0730 Volunteer Costs		
6-0731 Travel	1,800	319
6-0732 Volunteer Training	-	1,292
Total 6-0730 Volunteer Costs	1,800	1,611

These are audited special purpose financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the audit report dated 22 September 2021

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group **Income & Expenditure Statement**

As of 31 December 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Expenses (Continued)		
Reserves Non Declared Pest Account	36,376	18,701
Total Expenses	<u>389,970</u>	<u>283,711</u>
Other Expenses		
BAS Roundoff Gain or Loss	(1)	2
Total Other Expenses	<u>(1)</u>	<u>2</u>
Net Surplus \ (Deficit)	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

These are audited special purpose financial statements and should
be read in conjunction with the audit report dated 22 September 2021

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the requirements of the Department of Primary Industries to prepare a financial report. The Committee has determined that Peel Harvey Biosecurity Inc. is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following applicable Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 101 :	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 108 :	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 110 :	Events after Reporting Period
AASB 1048 :	Interpretation of Standards
AASB 1054 :	Australian Additional Standards

No other Australian Accounting Standards or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report is also prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

Note 2: Presentation of Comparative Information

During the year ended 31 December 2020, the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Incorporated amended their basis of accounting from cash basis to accrual basis. The 31 December 2019 figures are presented on a cash basis whereas, the 31 December 2020 figures are presented on an accrual basis, therefore making it difficult to compare the two financial years.

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated

NOTES TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

Note 3: Grants in Advance

The organisation receives grant funding from various sources, including an annual grant from the Declared Pest Account (DPA) administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

The table below depicts the breakdown of balances at 31 December 2020 for projects that remain current and where funds have been carried forward into 2021:

Federal Government (Cottonbush CEP)	1,707
State NRM (Professor Pest)	10,995
Coolup LCDC (1080 baits)	928

A total of \$79,167 in DPA funds was carried forward from 2019 and allocated to the following ongoing projects:

	2020 DPA Expense
Pig Trapping	16,945
Biocontrol Agent Feasibility	5,176
Cape Tulip	13,706
Pest Control	6,830
Total	<hr/> 42,657

The balance of \$36,509 has been carried forward into 2021 for these ongoing projects.

A total of \$200,104 in unspent funds from the 2020 Declared Pest Account (DPA) grant has also been included in the Grants in Advance total reported in the Balance Sheet. As no basis exists for allocating grant funds from the Declared Pest Account to periods other than the one in which the grant was received, the funds are held pending advice from DPIRD and may be deducted from the organisation's annual grant from the DPA in 2021.

AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

PEEL HARVEY BIOSECURITY GROUP INCORPORATED

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated (the Organisation) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, statement of comprehensive income, notes to and forming part of the accounts and statement by the committee of management.

In our opinion, the financial report of Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated, presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position as at 31 December 2020 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report which describes the revenue recognition policy of Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group Incorporated, including the limitations that exist in relation to the recording of cash receipts from various revenue sources. As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable to maintain an effective control over income and expenses prior to their initial entry into the accounting records, and therefore, no opinion is expressed on the accuracy of these amounts. However, all amounts recorded as deposits and payments have been properly reflected in the financial report. Accordingly, our audit procedures were limited to the amounts recorded in the books of accounts. Our opinion is unmodified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.


Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

WARD & ILSLEY PARTNERS PTY LTD
Certified Practising Accountants
55C Mandurah Terrace, Mandurah, WA



I J A ILSLEY CPA
On 22 September 2021