

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC.



ANNUAL REPORT 2021 / 2022



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



natural resource
management program



ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS



Rangelands NRM

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
About the Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association	1
Committee of management members (as at 30 June 2021)	1
How the group is funded	2
2. CRBA AIMS AND AREA OF OPERATIONS	2
Aims	2
High priority declared pests	2
Area of operation	3
3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT	5
4. CRBA OPERATIONS 2021/2022	8
Wild Dog Control	8
LPMT Summary	8
Large Feral Herbivore Control	10
Declared Weed Control	10
Volunteer Summary	10
Partnership Summary	11
2021/22 Financial Summary	12
Project Summaries	16
5. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.....	18

1. INTRODUCTION

About the Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association

The CRBA is a not-for-profit association formed under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*, providing declared pest control services for land managers throughout the Shires of Shark Bay, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Murchison and Upper Gascoyne with additional pastoral leases in the Shire of Northampton and City of Greater Geraldton (locality of Mullewa). The associations' primary purpose is the control of declared pests using funding from Declared Pest Rates paid by landholders on pastoral stations. These Declared Pest Rates funds are matched dollar for dollar by the WA Government to reflect the public benefit of controlling declared pest animals and weeds. The association is formally recognised by the Hon Minister for Agriculture and Food as a recognised biosecurity group (RBG).

The association is managed by a committee of counters who spend a considerable amount of their time in managing the operations and compliances of the CRBA on an annual basis.

Committee of management members (as at 30 June 2021)

Position	Name	Member Station/organisation	Term Expiry
Chair	Justin Steadman	Wooramel Station <i>(Carnarvon)</i>	26 October 2022
Vice-Chair	Tim Higham	Meedo Station <i>(Carnarvon)</i>	26 October 2022
Secretary / Treasurer	Ross Collins	Glenburgh Station <i>(Upper Gascoyne)</i>	30 October 2024
Member	Harry McKeogh	Carey Downs Station <i>(Upper Gascoyne)</i>	5 December 2021
Member	Alister Gordan	Cooralya Station <i>(Carnarvon)</i>	30 October 2024
Member	Andrew Whitmarsh	Byro Station <i>(Murchison)</i>	30 October 2021
Member	Greydon Mead	Bullardoo Station <i>(Murchison)</i>	30 October 2021
Member	Cameron Tubby	Wahroonga Station <i>(Carnarvon)</i>	26 October 2022
Member	Roger Davies	Eudamullah Station <i>(Upper Gascoyne)</i>	26 October 2022
Associate Member	Gavan Mullan	Dept Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	30 October 2024
Associate Member			
Executive Officer		Krystie Bremer	

The CRBA works with local people who hold local knowledge on the region's problem pests. Utilising this local landscape understanding to form the basis of our annual operations each year.

How the group is funded

The association's main source of funding is from declared pest rates paid by pastoral lease holders that are matched equally by the State Government. Additional grant income has been received this financial year from the Wild Dog Action Plan (WDAP), with funding allocation for the WDAP2 announced in February 2021 and not secured past this operating year; State National Resource Management (State NRM); Rangelands National Resource Management (RNRM); and Australian Wool Industry (AWI).

The CRBA has also received funds from the Shires of Upper Gascoyne, Murchison and Shark Bay to allow for additional operations to be undertaken across those shire areas. Along with a small amount of funding for our assistance provided on small research programs, along with transfer of DPA for a pastoral property serviced by the CRBA each year.

The CRBA has specific obligations under the BAM Act regarding the transfer of funds from the Declared Pest Account, which are detailed in sections 170 of the BAM Act. When available the group also attracts funds from other sources such as Federal and State Government, although over recent years access to additional funding has become more difficult and harder to obtain, limiting some programs which aren't the key focus of concern for our members.

Through the strength of the RBG funding model local people are managing the sates declared pests to the best of our ability within the funding constraints. This model leverages the work already undertaken by leaseholders in our region.

2. CRBA AIMS AND AREA OF OPERATIONS

Aims

The Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association (CRBA) aligned its aims directly to its objects in the groups' constitution. These are:

- Foster the *control of declared pests* throughout the Area, via the formulation, implementation, and review of appropriate *management plans* and programs.
- Encourage *integration, coordination, and general collaboration* of all Area stakeholders in pest management matters.
- Promote the adoption of *sound biosecurity practices* throughout the Area.

High priority declared pests

Wild dogs - continue to have a major impact across the region, particularly for areas boarding Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and Reserves/National Parks and Exclusive Native Title properties and those properties in the north of the CRBA region.

There has continued to be an increase in numbers across the region with a higher number of reported sightings and stock losses, damage. Numbers controlled by Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) and landholders have increased this year with some regions being significantly impacted. The increase in stock losses this year is more noticeable in the south of the CRBA region due to the part installation of the Carnarvon Rangelands Barrier Fence.

Weeds of National Significance (WONS) including Mesquite and Parkinsonia - There are currently twelve pastoral leases, two areas of UCL and a reserve around Carnarvon townsite with known infestations. These infestations are mostly found along the Gascoyne, Lyons and Murchison Rivers.

Before the significant rainfall in 2021, work had been undertaken in control of these invasive weeds through external grant funding awarded to the group. Concerns remain that further spread may occur after this year's rainfall, flooding events and the growing season that has followed.

LPMTs and landholders continue to monitor those areas of control, along with reporting new infestations that are found through the CRBA region.

Large Feral Herbivores (LFH) including Donkeys and Camels – are of growing concern across the region with known populations within the Shires of Carnarvon, Murchison and Upper Gascoyne. At present they are found on approximately thirty-one pastoral leases, Exclusive Native Title properties and DBCA managed land within our region. LFH have been sighted as far south as the Murchison Region Vermin Cell (MRVC) fence.

Coral Coast Cactus – continues to be a weed that pastoralists and CRBA Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) around the region are finding. The CRBA is lucky that several known large infestations had considerable work undertaken by the Lyndon LCDC and are now a source of the biological control (cochineal) which is being used to treat new infestations as we become aware.

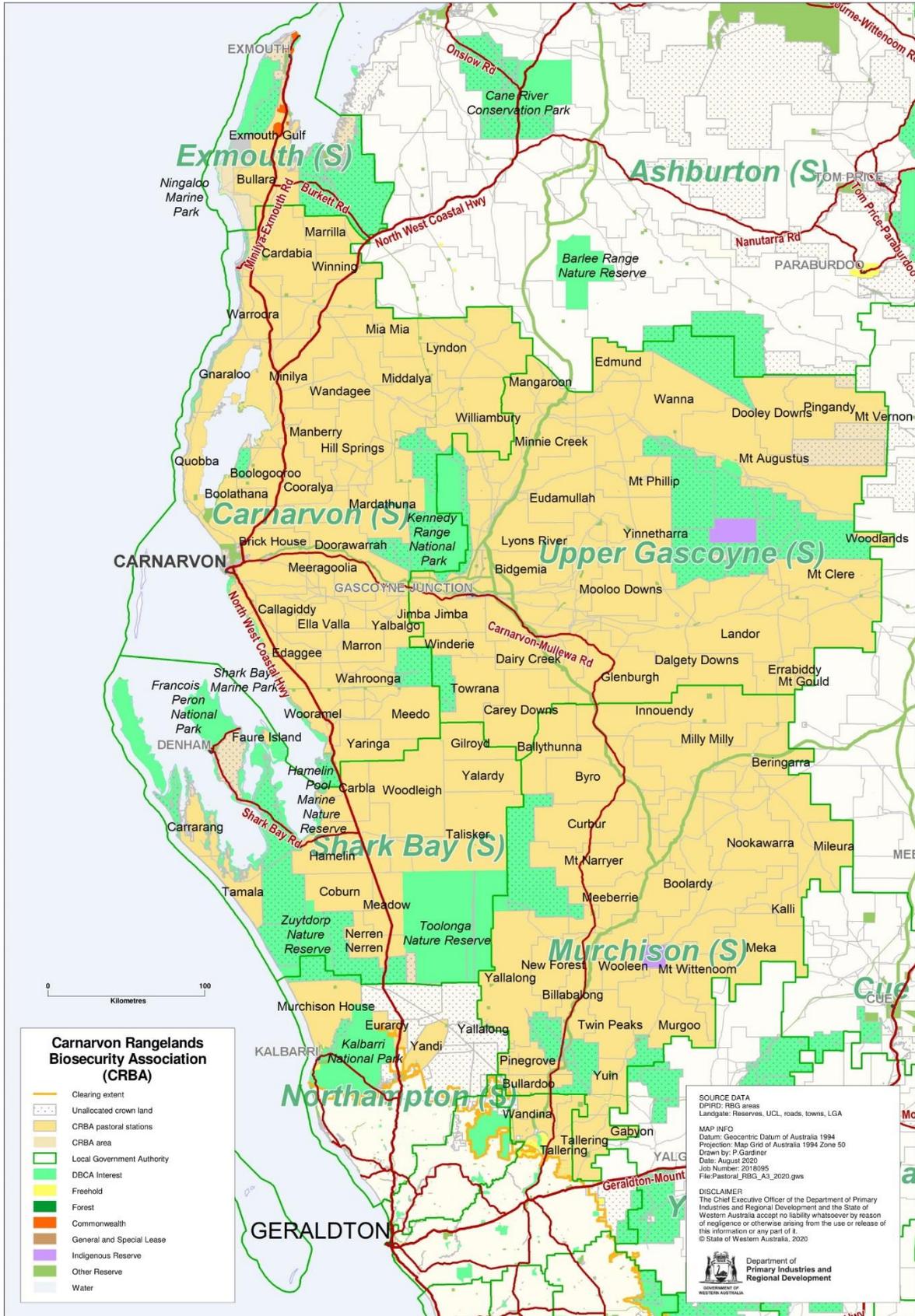
Area of operation

The CRBA area of operation takes in the Shires of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Shark Bay, Murchison and Upper Gascoyne. Along with additional pastoral properties below the state barrier fence within the Shire of Northampton and City of Greater Geraldton (locality of Mullewa) that also form part of the CRBA area of operation. There are over 90 pastoral leases with around 20% being small stock carrying properties; multiple Exclusive Native Title properties, making up approximately 7.5% (more than 1 million hectares) and approximately 21% of land that is under the control of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

The population for the CRBA area is approximately 9,500, with this number and numbers across the CRBA region increasing exponentially during the tourism season. Our largest town is Carnarvon, with a population of approximately 5,500 residents. Carnarvon is the regional service centre for the whole Gascoyne-Murchison area.

The CRBA region includes the Shark Bay & Ningaloo World Heritage Areas; Cape Range National Park, Mount Augustus and Kennedy Ranges National Parks, multiple nature reserves and former pastoral leasehold properties. The types of land tenures and access to them continues to change annually, with the CRBA working closely with the three DBCA regional offices that are responsible for the management of these and other such properties within our region.

The CRBA shares its northern boundary with the Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group (PRBG), the eastern boundary with the Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association (MRBA) and the southern boundary Northern Agricultural Region, no under the newly formed Northern Biosecurity Group (NBG) which includes Kalbarri National Park and unallocated Crown Land (UCL).



3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The 2021/22-year again saw an increase in financial pressures with the flow on effect of the Pastoral Rent review significantly decreasing the funding received by the CRBA from the Declared Pest Rates. Confirmation of available funding not being received until August 2021.

This saw the CRBA committee and Executive Officer working hard to ensure programs remained in place within our reduced operating budget.

With confirmation from Hon Minister Alannah MacTeirnan providing confirmation that our matched funding would remain the same, this relieved some of the pressure on the group and I would again like to thank the Minister in her efforts to obtain this funding for Pastoral RBGs.

Across the CRBA region these continue to be a focus on wild dogs as a major concern by members. These pests along with Large Feral Herbivores and woody weeds remain the focus of works undertaken within the groups limited financial resources.

The impacts of two large fire events in January & February 2022 across the Shire of Carnarvon and Upper Gascoyne played a large part in declared pests' movements and increased impacts on not only small stock but also native fauna.

Activities:

- Regional community wild dog ground baiting did not occur during 2021/22 due to the decreased in funding available to the group. The CRBA relied solely on landholder only baiting programs and work undertaken by the LPMTs.
- Aerial baiting was undertaken in the Kennedy Range National Park (a well-known problem area for the region), this was funded by DBCA with the CRBA providing the bombardier.
- LFH control programs were undertaken in November 2021 and March 2022, maintaining the work that has occurred across these northern properties in recent years. The continuation of this program thanks to the World Heritage Area program funding received from Rangelands NRM.
- Our Executive Officer worked with ProcessWorx on the development on WHS Procedures. This included significant work was undertaken on the groups insurances and what would be required at a minimum to protect the committees and volunteers moving forward.
- Executive Officer also worked on other policies & procedures required by DPIRD to receive our funding for the year and into the future.
- Shires that have shown and committed to supporting the RBG:
 - Shire of Upper Gascoyne – \$50,000.
 - Shire of Murchison - \$10,000
 - Shire of Shark Bay –\$5,000
- Additional leveraged funding was received from Rangelands NRM for LFH control, as outlined above and also predator control on Gnaraloo Station, again part of their WHA programs.

What is working well:

- CBRA communication to its constituents continues to improve, with new methods implemented. The bi-annual newsletter was again emailed to all stakeholders, with members also mailed a printed copy.
- The CRBA observed increase participation in its annual survey, further opening communication with its members.

- Email updates to members, when required throughout the year on important biosecurity matters, such as sharing of the Biosecurity Blitz (although it is noted that these updates have been few and far between over the past 12 months).
- The CRBA continues to meet the increasing governance requirements and pressures placed on RBGs.

Areas of concerns:

- 2022 sees the commencement of the BAM Act Review, with a key focus on the Declared Pest Rate and RBG model as part of the review.
- Impact of the pastoral land values (rent review) on the CRBA total land value, saw the need of a significant increase in rates for the 2022/23 year to bring the CRBA total operating budget back in line with previous years. Concerns over this being an issue into the future is high.
- Access to critical data required for the business of RBGs is providing undue stress to the Executive committee and our Executive Officer. Access to this information has been removed with no consultation or warning prior to doing so. Our Executive Officer continues to try and work with DPIRD to ensure that the core data required for the business of running the CRBA is received.
- The need for financial support moving forward for RBGs surrounding the increased pressure from DPIRD, along with the ever-increasing administrative requirements, along with group governance.
- Access by the CRBA LPMTs onto lands under the management of the government continues to be a major problem, with a review into Restricted Chemicals permits currently being undertaken by the three major government departments (DPIRD, DBCA, DOH). Krystie has been working through these issues including permits to allow LPMT access. This issue continues to be problematic with those responsible for management not seeing the same issues around pest animals as the CRBA committee and surrounding landholders. This issue continues to be unresolved.

Committee:

- Whilst there is only one vacant position on the CRBA committee, there are four positions coming up at the next AGM.
- The positions of Vice-Chair and Chair also require replacement at the 2022 AGM, with both executive positions being held for two consecutive terms.
- With the expiry of these executive positions, there is growing concerns on attracting volunteers to step in and new members over the coming months with the increased pressure on the committee faced over the past 18 months from the department.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Exclusive Native Title properties that are known problem areas for the region not having current chemical permits or agreements to allow CRBA LPMTs to undertake operations. Increasing pressure on neighbouring landholders and LPMTs.
- Exclusive Possession Native Title properties and the issues surrounding access for biosecurity (and management of it as a whole) continues to cause issues with no work undertaken on the significant holdings of this estate since 2018.

Summary

Without the support of the CRBA volunteers the groups achievements would not be what they are. I would like to thank the CRBA committee, LPMT coordinators and community bait racks coordinators for their continued commitment to the group and wider region.

The work the CRBA continues to undertaken on a region wide basis not only benefits landholders but the wider community and those other areas around us. The work of our members volunteers and

stakeholders continues to best manage the funds received, ensuring they are spending on the region's priority pests.

I would like to thank the 2021/22 LPMTs for the continued work they do across the region to assist our landholders and I would also like to recognise the support and participation received from key stakeholders of the CRBA, including the Shires of Murchison, Shark Bay and Upper Gascoyne; DBCA and Rangelands NRM.

In closing I would like to thank those committee members who are finishing up their tenure at this year's AGM, your commitment to the group and its ongoing operations is appreciated.

Thankyou

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Justin Steadman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Justin Steadman
CHAIRPERSON
Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc.

4. CRBA OPERATIONS 2021/2022

The CRBA has a Declared Pest Account into which the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is responsible, via the Office of State Revenue (OSR) to issue rates notices annually to all pastoral leases within the CRBA region. DPIRD then provide the CRBA with the Government’s matching dollar for dollar contribution. One of the biggest benefits of the RBG model is that it is funded 50% by leaseholders and 50% by the State, recognising their obligation as landowners within the CRBA region.

Funding in 2021/22 was significantly impacted by the changes to the pastoral land values not only for this year but retrospectively applied to the 2020/21 year.

The Hon Minister for Agriculture and Food, Alannah MacTiernan announced on the 14th December 2020 continued State Government support for the WA Wild Dog Action Plan (WDAP2) for four years commencing 2021/22. This announcement recognised the State’s obligation to manage biosecurity on vast lands they manage within our region. Whilst decisions on actual allocations for the full four years are pending the CRBA received confirmation from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on the 4th February 2021 that our allocation for 2021/22 would be \$200,000 for use to contract two Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) who would continue towards protecting small stock properties from wild dog incursions

There continues to be large and ever-changing complexities around the required administration and governance of the CRBA and its declared pest rates. The increased requirements see diversion of funds for on ground activities moved towards the funding of the CRBA Executive Officer (EO). An integral part of ensuring the CRBA meets these obligations. Our EO continues to spend considerable time dealing with the increasing pressure put on the volunteer committee by DPIRD and also spends considerable time trying to resolve many issues that arise throughout the year relating to things such as: DBCA access; Restricted Chemical Permits (RCPS), management of the Declared Pest Account funds and the monitoring and reporting requirements.

Wild Dog Control

Declared Pest Account Program activities and expenditure included:

- Due to the significant drop in our operational budget for the 2021/22 year due to the land value changes the CRBA was unable to undertake a community wide baiting program;
- One aerial baiting program, coordinated with DBCA in the Kennedy Range National Park, with DBCA funding the cost of baits and plane; and the CRBA providing the LPMT bombardier;
- Contracting Licenced Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) for local wild dog trapping, baiting and shooting functions.

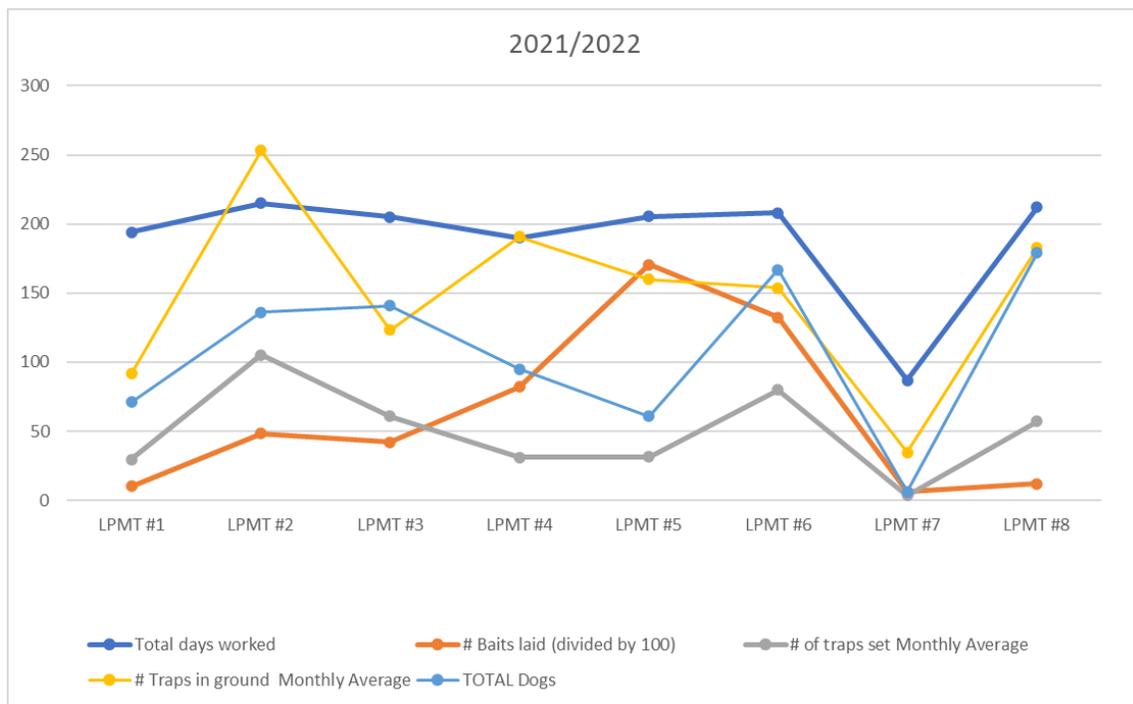
LPMT Summary

Contains combined figures from 8 CRBA contracted LPMTs:

Total days worked	1 516.5
Number of baits laid	50 371
Number of traps set	2 397
Number of dogs destroyed - Shot	92
Number of dogs destroyed - Trapped	726
Number of dogs destroyed - Other	38
Number of reported small stock kills by wild dogs #	295
Number of reported wild dog complaints by landowners #	66

Note #: these increases coincide and relate to the part installation of the Carnarvon Rangelands Barrier Fence within the southern region of the CRBA. Until the fence is fully completed it is anticipated that the funnel to the small stock properties will continue. This increase to wild dogs in this area has been further impacted by significant fires in both January and February 2022.

The CRBA is of the opinion that operations undertaken across our region play a key role in minimising the risk to the State’s agricultural region. The CRBA committee believing a key to our success in management of wild dogs comes from region-wide engagement of LPMTs, alongside land manager control.



NOTE: LPMT 7 finished contract in February 2022 and was not replaced.

Wild dog incursions continue to be an issue in the region and have the biggest impact on pastoral businesses. It is believed that the increase it was due to a number of factors including no community wide wild dog control undertaken by the PRBG (due to funding), along with the removal of the CRBA wide community baiting due to funding constraints.

YEAR	Total days worked	Dogs shot	Dogs trapped	Dogs Other (Pups)	TOTAL Dogs	Average Dogs/Days worked
2016/2017	995	16	254	11	281	0.282
2017/2018	1029	23	272	4	299	0.291
2018/2019	1194.5	63	450	33	546	0.457
2019/2020	1078.5	19	374	24	417	0.387
2020/2021	1469.5	48	464	22	534	0.363
2021/2022	1516.5	92	726	38	856	0.564
TOTALS	7283	261	2540	132	2933	

NOTES: The number of LPMTs across CRBA has changed significantly since 2016 and data for SUG contracted LPMTs is missing or minimal for 2016/17 – 2019/20.

The CRBA relies heavily on pastoral lease holders playing active roles in the management of declared pests and plants on their own stations. The group continues to rely on its members and key stake holders to participate in preparing wild dog meat baits at Community Baiting Events, distribute dried prepared baits across their properties, trap/shoot wild dogs and also to show interest in and support the LPMTs that operate on their properties.

Not only did the control undertaken by our LPMTs increase over the past 12 months, but numbers reported by our landholders has also increased significantly. Landholders reported controlling **129** wild dogs throughout the year.

Landholders within the CRBA continue to contribute more than through the payment of their declared pest rates with landholders in the region providing meat for baits, making/distributing baits on their properties, undertaking other controls, paying bounties for control of wild dogs on their properties and even contracting LPMTs privately to undertake additional controls.

The CRBA would also like to recognise the Shire of Murchison who continues to actively encourage people within their Shire to control dogs via internal initiatives. From their records **106** wild dogs have been controlled throughout the year.

Through the wild dog program undertaken by the CRBA is the known control of **2** foxes and **21** feral cats. With landholders reporting **12** foxes and 39 cats controlled as part of their day-to-day operations. Whilst feral cats are not a declared pest the number of sightings and reports has increased significantly across the region in past years.

Large Feral Herbivore Control

The CRBA relies heavily on additional funding received to undertake control of these pests due to the financial restraints, how wide spread they are in the region and funds being expensed on priority pests. That said control through 'soft money' in 2021/22 has seen a significant number of animals controlled across the region (reported under project summaries).

Effective methods of control of LFH come at a high cost and require significant planning to ensure they're run efficiently. Through outside funding since 2018 the CRBA has had a notable impact on known LFH locations within our region and we are thankful for the support received from our partnership with Rangelands NRM during 2021/22.

Along with these programs landholders have controlled a total of **194** and LPMTs **147** LFH. With the Shire of Murchison reporting control of **45** LFH.

Declared Weed Control

Work was undertaken on Weeds of National Significance (WONS) utilising 'soft money' (reported under project summaries). CRBA contractors have also worked with landholders on the control of Coral Coast Cactus, utilising biological control to manage infestations.

Through the WONS program the CRBA has obtained significant insight into known infestations of Mesquite and Parkinsonia in the region. With the program enabling the CRBA to work with landholders past the cessation of outside funding to continue the work on these invasive pests.

Reports on the Coral Coast Cactus across the region is that the biological control has worked well where it has been placed, with new LPMTs working to utilise control in new locations as they are reported/identified.

Volunteer Summary

The CRBA counts on the local knowledge of our volunteers and members to manage declared pests across our vast landscape. The CRBA committee estimates that our volunteers contribute upwards of 3000 hours each year to the group and its operations, a value of more than \$165,000 in-kind. The CRBA depends on volunteers within the community to assist with various roles/activities that are required to ensure the smooth running of our operation.

These roles include:

- Participation on the Management Committee;
- Attendance and participation in meeting with outside stakeholders;
- Review of vast correspondence received by the CRBA;
- Time and fuel commitments by members to attend training days, workshops, industry and government meetings and liaisons. Given the vast area the CRBA covers this is a big commitment by our committee with often more than 600km round trips required to attend face to face meetings.;
- Local Rack Coordinators – who coordinate local pastoralists to attend bait preparations racks to inject, dry and bag meat baits ready for baiting programs;
- LPMT Coordinators – local pastoralists who are responsible for supervising and guiding local LPMTs who operate across a defined network of pastoral properties. Coordinators are also involved in contract reviews and reviews of monthly reports and invoices prior to payment;

- Assistance with wild dog baiting programs, including helping with loading baits and providing fuel into the contracted charter plane, as well as taking on the roles of navigator and/or bombardier during aerial baiting flights to ensure baits are dropped in areas of need on rough terrain that cannot be accessed for ground baiting;
- Negotiating and developing partnerships with WALGA, DBCA, local Shires and other key stakeholders; and
- Pastoral stations that make airstrips available for the aerial programs to use, along with providing meals and overnight accommodation for the pilots, ground staff during various declared pest programs including aerial baiting, LFH and weed control.

Over and above the volunteer contribution made by CRBA lease holders is the additional finance costs of managing the state's pests with land managers undertaking their own control programs (including operation of air craft such as helicopters and planes), providing meat for baiting programs and even fuel for contractors.

Partnership Summary

The CRBA continues to work with DBCA to gain support, assistance and access for LPMTs to undertaken control of declared pests on their land tenures. Through internal changes within the DBCA offices the CRBA works with access to a large number of properties has been removed, with no know control of the states declared pests being undertaken. Thankfully, the CRBA has been able to continue to work with DBCA to undertake a much-needed aerial baiting program in the Kennedy Range National Park (not including large tracts of ex pastoral lands now under Exclusive Native Title possession). This national park is a known wild dog hotspot for the region and the impacts of this program no longer occurring would be detrimental to the region's biodiversity.

Without access to DBCA managed lands, the management of pests across the region will be difficult and have significant impacts on neighbouring pastoral lands.

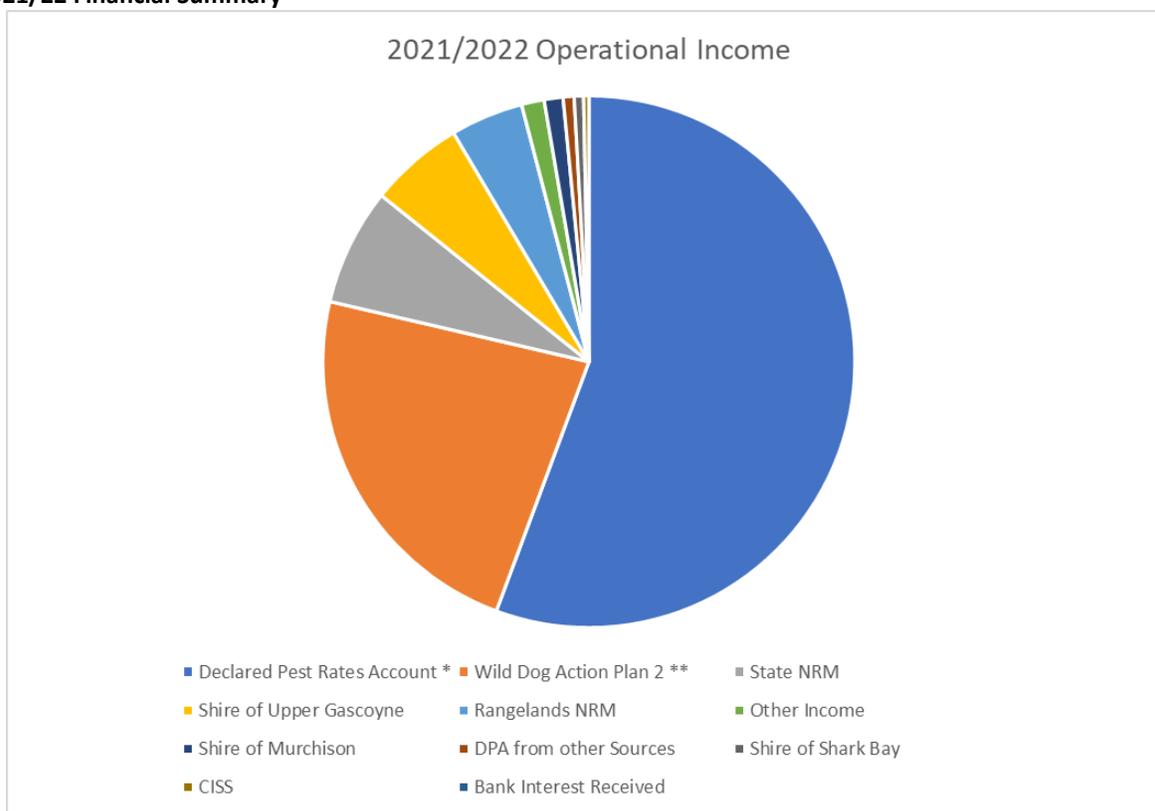
The CRBA continues to welcome our relationship with Rangelands NRM with whom we work on projects to assist in the conservation of the World Heritage Areas within our region. Through this relationship we have worked hard to minimise the impacts of LFH on the river systems that feed into these areas.

Our long standing relationship with the Shires of Upper Gascoyne, Murchison and Shark Bay sees the CRBA able to provide key services to those landholders within those areas to ensure that the impacts are declared pests as managed within our limited capacities.

The CRBA also appreciates the ongoing role of S7 Retailer Shane Aylmore of Carnarvon Pest Control/Ella Valla Station. Shane via an S7 Retailer Licence stores and distributes wild dog control chemical as an unpaid, voluntary service to CRBA pastoral stations and LPMTs in accordance with RCP permits and LPMT Licence conditions.

Further appreciation from the CRBA needs to go to the Shires of Carnarvon, Murchison and Upper Gascoyne for the storage and ongoing running costs of the CRBA bait meat freezers within their depots.

2021/22 Financial Summary



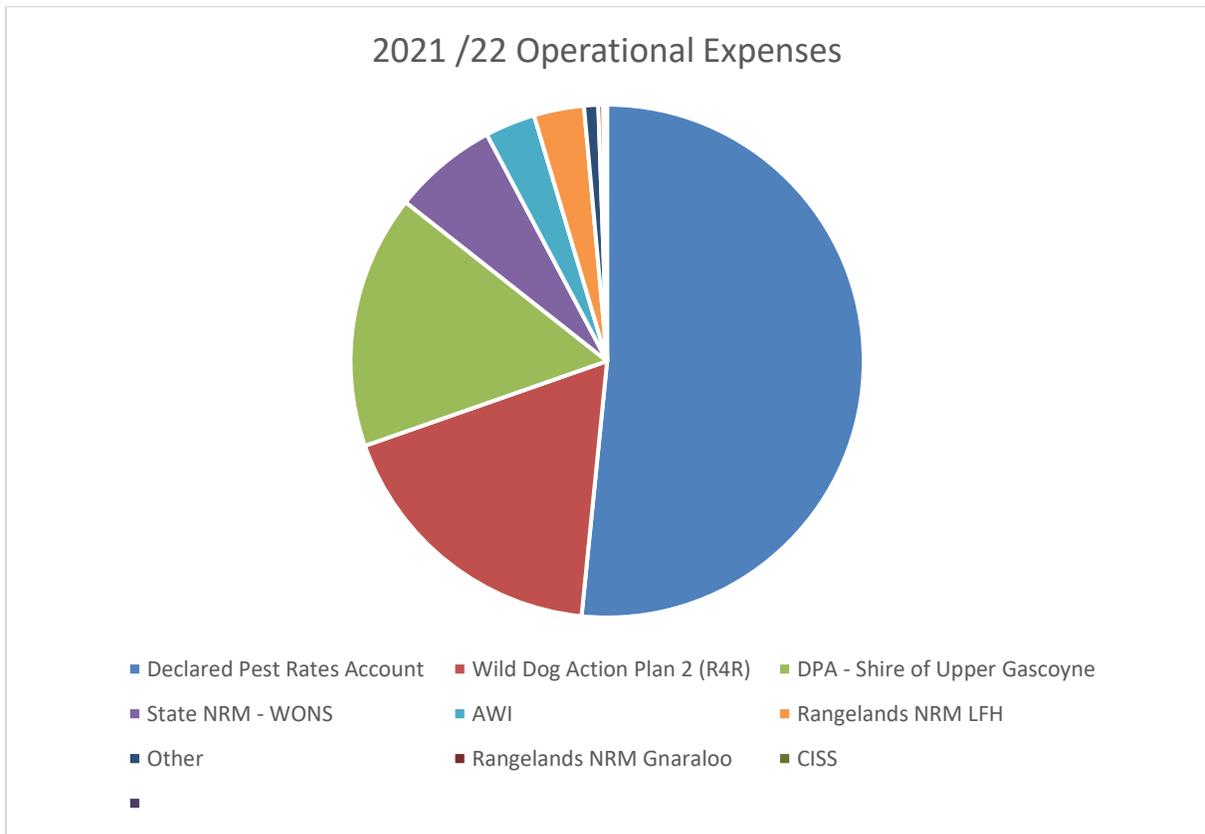
2021/2022 Operational Income (excluding GST):

Declared Pest Rates Account *	\$	484,443.00
Wild Dog Action Plan 2 **	\$	200,000.00
State NRM	\$	61,960.00
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	\$	50,000.00
Rangelands NRM	\$	38,500.00
Other Income	\$	12,000.34
Shire of Murchison	\$	10,000.00
DPA from other Sources	\$	5,761.80
Shire of Shark Bay	\$	5,000.00
CISS	\$	2,727.27
Bank Interest Received		
Total Operating Income	\$	870,392.41

* DPA income breakdown is as follows:

DPIRD matching CF appropriation	\$	192,847.00
Declared Pest Rate paid by Pastoralists (unable to calculate payment % due to lack of debt split provided by DPIRD)	\$	191,596.00
CRBA drawdown of reserve funds held by DPIRD	\$	100,000.00
	\$	484,443.00

** R4R Funding covers 1.5 FTE at current LPMT contractor rates, all other cost (equipment, chemicals, insurances, ammunition, administration & management) are funding by the CRBA.



2021/2022 Operating Expenses (excluding GST):

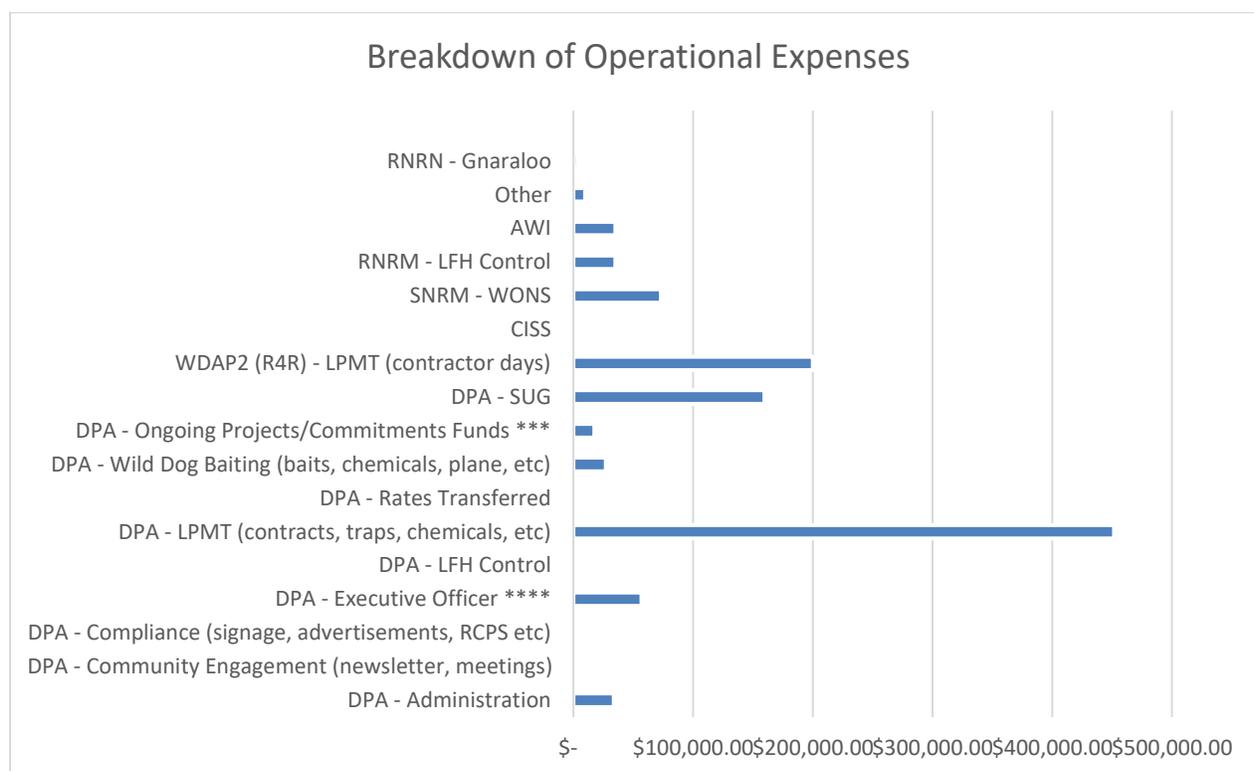
Declared Pest Rates Account	\$	571,623.11
Wild Dog Action Plan 2 (R4R)	\$	200,000.00
DPA - Shire of Upper Gascoyne	\$	177,243.64
State NRM - WONS	\$	73,143.57
AWI	\$	35,066.27
Rangelands NRM LFH	\$	34,999.97
Other	\$	9,900.00
Rangelands NRM Gnaraloo	\$	3,365.00
CISS	\$	2,704.66

Total Operating Expenses	\$	1,108,046.22
---------------------------------	-----------	---------------------

Deficit for 2021/2022 ***	-\$	237,653.81
---------------------------	------------	-------------------

*** CBRA relied heavily on available carryover funds to carry out operations during the year due to impacts of VEN on DPR.

All CRBA surpluses are committed to ongoing projects.



DPA – Declared Pest Account, WDAP2 – Wild Dog Action Plan (R4R), RNRM – Rangelands NRM, SNRM – State NRM.

DPA Operating Expenses (excluding GST):			%
Wild Dog	\$	639,153.63	85.35%
LFH	\$	17,590.43	2.35%
Weeds			
Community Engagement	\$	1,506.12	0.20%
Administration & Governance ^	\$	90,616.57	12.10%
Total Operating Expenses	\$	748,866.75	100.00%

^ of this 3.89% relates to insurance held by CRBA as part of new WHS requirements

The CRBA committee continues to work within the budget to ensure that the impact of increased governance/administration pressures have a limited impact on the groups on ground operations. A task that gets more difficult each year.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Funding in 2021/22 has been significantly impacted by pastoral objections to the high increase on Pastoral Land Values (VEN) across the region in 2019, with a large portion of pastoral properties objecting to these before 30th June 2021, after the DPR consultation process for this year had been undertaken. These new valuations were backdated and have had a massive impact on the operating budget for the CRBA not only for the 2021/22 year but also already spent funds in the 2020/21 year.

Management of the CRBA Declared Pest Rate Invoices and their payments continues to cause financial stress for the groups volunteers as the management of these remain in the control of DPIRD with limited timely communication on our financial position. Something that the CRBA Executive Officer has and continues to chase up with DPIRD. All funds currently held from outstanding debt collected in 2020/21 are being used by DPIRD to refund overpayments,

leaving a significant shortfall not just in this year's operational plan but into future years as the CRBA has previously utilised these balances as additional drawdown annually.

The CRBA has specific obligations under the BAM Act regarding the transfer of funds from the Declared Pest Account, which are detailed in section 170 of the BAM Act.

The forecast for the 2021/22 year sees a bleak financial position moving into future years.

*The CRBA continues to request that the groups DPA debt be monitored and a breakdown provided each quarter to ensure that this figure does not continue to increase to an unsustainable figure. The fourth quarter balance for 2021/22 being **\$137,880** with the group unable to calculate the DPR payment rate for the year.*

WDAP2 funding has only been confirmed for the CRBA for 2021/22 year, with no confirmation for the remainder of this second plan. The CRBA hopes that it will be able to work with DPIRD to receive early confirmation of funding earlier than in past years to elevate pressure put on the volunteer committee.

Without a confirmed equivalent form of replacement funding along with the significant reductions in the Declared Pest Rate for 2021/22 (and into the future), the CRBA will have to reduce its budget spending in a manner that will reverse the achievements and ground made over the last 5 years. Lack of replacement funding will also see a considerable amount of land under the management of DBCA receive little to no on ground activities.

Moving into 2022/23 the CRBA will rely heavily on future program funding, leaving the group in an untenable situation moving into future years. Seeing a massive reduction in programs and LPMTs across the entire region which will result in an increase in predator distribution across not only the CRBA region, but the state.

Project Summaries

State NRM WONS - Mesquite

The CRBA was awarded a State National Resource Management Community Stewardship Grants 2019 round to undertake work on WONS Mesquite & Parkinsonia along the Murchison and Gascoyne River. This three-year program finished this year, with outstanding outcomes.

Through the three years of the program, even with the implications of Covid-19 and the rainfall received in the second year the project has been completed within budget and the timeline.

The project engaged the services of Glenburgh Grazing to undertake with program, with a small portion close to the town of Carnarvon undertaken by Westerly Contracting to ensure the project was completed on time. The program took place across a total of 9 pastoral leases in the Shire of Carnarvon, Exmouth and Upper Gascoyne.

Over a total of **56** days, the contractor covered approximately **85,000** hectares controlling nearly **22,000** Mesquite trees and **1,300** Parkinsonia.

The CRBA will in 2022/23 provide those landholders involved with GPS data for their infestations and work with them to continually monitor and control these invasive weeds.

Rangelands NRM for Small Predator Grant - Gnaraloo

The Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association (CRBA) commenced additional assistance on Gnaraloo Station in October 2019 during the Turtle breeding season. October 2021 – April 2022 being the second-year funding has been received for 6 days.

The CRBA provided additional traps and chemicals to the Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMT) Adam Robinson. These additional 6 days of funding saw Adam work a total of 16 days on Gnaraloo Station during the past 7 months. Over this time Adam has laid baits and set traps across the entire pastoral lease.

Observations across Gnaraloo show a significant decrease in wild dog activities. With only one dog observed and destroyed over the past 8 months. Adam undertook a large bait run over summer laying more than 500 baits across the property. October saw an increase in tracks identified as young dogs, along with evidence of cats.

The biggest concern now is the impact tourism is having since access to the northern portion of the property has now been made public. This has further limited the ability to undertake control on declared pests. Access was hindered by weather and the 6-mile gate being closed for all access due to a portion of the road being underwater for the majority of the year.

Australian Wool Industry Funding

Funding was received from AWI to train landholders and LPMTs to assist with feral animal control across the CRBA region. 2021/22 being the final year of this program.

Training was held in Carnarvon on 1080 usage. This training provided a total of **9** landholders with the qualifications required to inject 1080 baits at community bait racks, increasing the capacity of the CRBA sustainably.

An LPMT training day was held in October 2021. This day was a great opportunity for contractors to get together and discuss control methods, hear about new technologies and research being undertaken in the control of wild dogs.

The funding for AWI also allowed for the CRBA to purchase squawker boxes and cameras to put on the grids (when upgraded) and coastal fence ends of the new Carnarvon Rangelands Barrier Fence. This fence is being stalled around 6 small stock pastoral properties. Additional field cameras have also been purchased to be used by LPMTs to monitor wild dog movements, including used in new control locations to monitor impacts of control work undertaken.

The CRBA would like to thank AWI for their contribution to the group and for providing us with the opportunity to undertake these programs.

Rangelands NRM Large Feral Herbivores

The first program for 2021/22 took place in November 2021. The funding received allowed the CRBA to leverage additional funds and run the program in the North East Carnarvon & North Upper Gascoyne.

Across the entire area covered a total of **611** animals were controlled. Including ferrying time, a total of **37.3** hours were utilised. There were **1** wild dog controlled and **611** LFH. A very successful and financially viable program.

The follow up program was undertaken in March 2022 and again was undertaken in the North East Carnarvon & North Upper Gascoyne.

Across the entire area covered a total of **591** animals were controlled. Including ferrying time, a total of **39.1** hours were flown.

The CRBA committee would like to thank Lyndon Station and Mt Augustus for providing accommodation during both programs for the team.

Through this relationship with Rangelands NRM and funding received since its inception in 2018 the CRBA have been able to control a total of **3887** large feral herbivores at a cost of just over \$43 per animal.

Wild Dog Action Plan Funding

This program provided funding for a total of **360** days of LPMT time with the CRBA using this towards two additional full 200-day contracts and DPA funding providing the shortfall in funding for these contracts, along with day-to-day overheads.

The two contractors control a total of **303** wild dogs, **1** fox, **7** LFH and **2** feral cats. These contractors cover those small stock properties and surrounding government managed lands that the CRBA has access too. These LPMTs received a total of **48** complaints relating to wild dogs and reported observing stock attacks on **146** occasions.

In December 2020 the Minister announced that the second Wild Dog Action Plan would be funded, sadly the funding is the same amount as the last plan. After much follow-up, funding amounts for the 2021/22 year have been announced with similar funding being received by the CRBA. The Ministers Offices plans to consult with industry during next year to work out where the funding for the remaining two years of the new plan will be allocated.

The CRBA continues to work with DPIRD on ensuring that this funding is announced in a timely fashion to ensure smooth operations into each new year.

Centre for Invasive Species - CISS

The CRBA was provided with a small grant from CISS to increase communications on our RBG. After discussions at the committee meeting, it was decided that these funds would be utilised to create a website www.crba.org.au and information flyer.

After considerable work by the CRBA Executive Officer Krystie Bremer, the website was created providing access to CRBA Annual Reports, Operational Plans, Membership details and other key resources. Each landholder and key stakeholder in the CRBA were also mailed an information brochure outlining who the CRBA and what we do to assist the region in the management of declared pests.

Signed:  _____

Date: 28/09/2022

Justin Steadman, Chairman, Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association

5. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2022

**WESTWOOD
ACCOUNTANTS**

ABN 74 420 909 329
128 Chapman Road
GERALDTON WA 6530

Phone: 08 9964 1941
Email: admin@westwood.com.au

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC
ABN 98 325 203 509

Contents

Committee Member's Statement
Independent Auditor's Report
Statement of Financial Position
Income and Expenditure Statement
Declared Pest Control Account

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

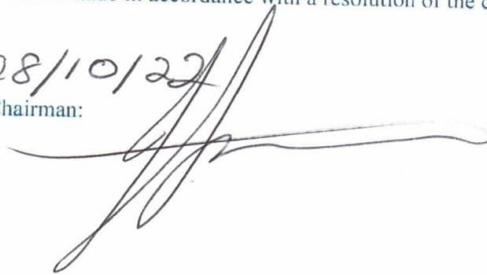
Committee Members' Statement

The committee members' of the Association declares that:

1. the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act 2015 and give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date;
2. in the committee members' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee members.

Dated: 28/10/22
Signed by Chairman:



CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2022 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

Basis for 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 association 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 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 – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 2015. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 and for such internal control as the committee 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, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Independent Auditor's Report

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.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on :



C/9/22

Kevin Cassidy, Institute of Public Accountants IPA
Westwood Accountants
Geraldton

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$
Current Assets		
Cash Assets		
CRBA - DPA/R4R (6577)		76,486
CRBA One off funding/grants (6486)		25,548
CRBA - Contingency/reserved (4964)		133,925
		<u>235,958</u>
Current Tax Assets		
GST clearing		34,384
		<u>34,384</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>270,342</u>
Total Assets		<u>270,342</u>
Net Assets		<u>270,342</u>
Members' Funds		
Reserves		
Members' funds		507,996
Surplus (deficit) for year		(237,654)
Total Members' Funds		<u>270,342</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Income & Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022
	\$
Income	
DPIRD - DPA CRBA held funds	100,000
DPIRD - DPA matching \$	192,847
DPIRD - DPA rates	191,596
DPIRD - DPA Rates from other RBG	5,762
DPIRD - State NRM office grant	61,960
DPIRD - Wild dog action plan R4R	200,000
Rangelands NRM	38,500
CISS	2,727
Shire contributions	15,000
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	50,000
Other income	12,000
Total income	<u>870,392</u>
Expenses	
Declared Pest Account	
- DPA LPMT - North West Carnarvon	100,842
- DPA LPMT Shark Bay / South Carnarvon	26,092
- DPA LPMT - North Murchison	101,587
- DPA LPMT - North East Carnarvon	96,750
- DPA LPMT - Carnarvon	111,451
- DPA LPMT - South Murchison	5,335
- DPA LPMT - Safety & Misc	4,181
- DPA - 1080 Landholders	141
- DPA - 1080 Baiting Programs	3,249
- DPA - Oats	35
- DPA - Strychnine	5,563
- DPA - Bait Ground	21,840
- DPA - Baiting Advertising	428
- DPA - Baiting Supplies	1,523
- DPA - S7 License Renewal Fees	371
- DPA - Executive Officer	52,827
- DPA - Executive Officer Travel & Office	3,993
- DPA - Accountancy XERO	634

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC
ABN 98 325 203 509
Income & Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022
	\$
- DPA - Accounting fees Audit	4,000
- DPA - Member Travel	181
- DPA - Insurance	29,163
- DPA - Community Engagement	537
- DPA - Meetings	788
- DPA - WHS Implementation	112
- DPA SUG LPMT - South Upper Gascoyne	62,135
- DPA - SUG LPMT North Upper Gascoyne	96,212
- DPA - SUG LPMT Safety & Misc	1,306
- DPA - SUG - LFH	17,590
	748,867
WDAP	
- WDAP2 LPMT - Shark Bay / South Carnarvon	87,862
- WDAP2 LPMT - South Murchison	112,137
	200,000
Rangelands NRM LFH	
- Rangelands NRM Donkey - Helicopter Hire	35,000
	35,000
Rangelands NRM Gnaraloo	
- Rangelands NRM Gnaraloo - LPMT	3,365
	3,365
State NRM WONS 21/22	
- WONS - Diesel	2,442
- WONS - Executive Officer	5,486
- WONS - LPMT Weed Specialist	65,215
	73,144
AWI	
- AWI - LPMT Training	4,320
- AWI - Landholder Training	30,746
	35,066
CISS	
- CISS - Marketing / Website	2,705
	2,705
Other Funding Sources	

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC
ABN 98 325 203 509
Income & Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022
	\$
- DPA - Accounting fees Audit	4,000
- DPA - Member Travel	181
- DPA - Insurance	29,163
- DPA - Community Engagement	537
- DPA - Meetings	788
- DPA - WHS Implementation	112
- DPA SUG LPMT - South Upper Gascoyne	62,135
- DPA - SUG LPMT North Upper Gascoyne	96,212
- DPA - SUG LPMT Safety & Misc	1,306
- DPA - SUG - LFH	17,590
	748,867
WDAP	
- WDAP2 LPMT - Shark Bay / South Carnarvon	87,862
- WDAP2 LPMT - South Murchison	112,137
	200,000
Rangelands NRM LFH	
- Rangelands NRM Donkey - Helicopter Hire	35,000
	35,000
Rangelands NRM Gnaraloo	
- Rangelands NRM Gnaraloo - LPMT	3,365
	3,365
State NRM WONS 21/22	
- WONS - Diesel	2,442
- WONS - Executive Officer	5,486
- WONS - LPMT Weed Specialist	65,215
	73,144
AWI	
- AWI - LPMT Training	4,320
- AWI - Landholder Training	30,746
	35,066
CISS	
- CISS - Marketing / Website	2,705
	2,705
Other Funding Sources	

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Income & Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022
	\$
- Other Sources - LPMT Research	9,900
Total expenses	1,108,046
Change in members funds	(237,654)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Declared Pest Account Funding

For the year ended 30 June 2022

DPA Opening Funds 1 July 2021	\$267,225
DPA Income	\$490,205
Total available DPA	\$757,430
Less DPA expenses	\$748,867
Remaining 30 June 2022	\$ 8,563
Invoice paid 1 July 2022	\$ 8062
Uncommitted DPA	\$ 501
Cash at bank 30 June 2022 (after DPA)	\$227,395
Grant funds	\$ 3505
State grant funds (of which \$13,081 is WONS to be returned)	\$ 23,714
General funds	\$200,176