

Declared Pest Rate Funding Scheme 2025-2026

2025-26 DPRFS Progress Funding Report

Application No. RBG-09-DPRFS2025 From Southern Biosecurity Group

Form Submitted 8 Mar 2026, 6:30PM AWST

DPRFS Progress Report Purpose

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The purpose of this Progress Report is to detail the Recognised Biosecurity Group's (RBG) achievements to date, including the activities undertaken and funding expended, for purposes as detailed in the RBG's Funding Agreement.

Reporting submitted to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), pursuant to section 170 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, must be published on DPIRD's electronic website. For enquiries regarding this report, please contact the Funding Schemes Team on talkingrbg@dpiird.wa.gov.au.

Consent Privacy

Privacy Statement

Information provided by Recipients or collected by DPIRD in relation to the project, may be used in the administration of this Funding Scheme and in the acceptance of this report.

Any information provided (personal, financial or otherwise) will be solely used for this purpose of this Funding Scheme.

DPIRD will adhere to the legislative requirements of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, and the *Privacy Act 1988* (cth) when storing information provided by Recipients or collected by DPIRD in relation to this Progress Report.

DPIRD is also subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* and documents in our possession are subject to these provisions.

By completing this report, the authorised representative consents to the publication of their name, position title, phone number, and email address on the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's website alongside the submitted report.

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Statement and I consent to and authorise such uses and disclosures *

Yes

NAME OF RBG ("Recipient")

Southern Biosecurity Group

This question is read only.

Funded Activities & Budget to Date

*** indicates a required field**

Funded Activities

The table below details the activities outlined in your Declared Pest Rate Funding Scheme (DPRFS) Application Form and/or Funding Agreement.

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Please provide an Activity Update covering the period from 1 July 2025 to the date of this report. Your update should describe what activities have been undertaken to date and any early results or outcomes achieved.

If you have undertaken additional activities which were not detailed in your DPRFS Application Form or Funding Agreement, please add rows as required.

-----Funded Activities (1)

Funded Program

Wild Dog Program

This question is read only.

Name of Program, e.g. Feral Pig Program

Planned Program Activities & Measures

Activities including year-round baiting and trapping, and engagement of a Licensed Pest Management Technician for a minimum of 50 days.

Measures include number of baits laid, number of traps set, and observations from track and trap surveys.

This question is read only.

What activities will be done and how will success be measured?

Update on Activities & Results YTD for 2025-26

Since 1 July 2025, the Southern Biosecurity Group has continued to implement a coordinated wild dog management program across the Shire of Ravensthorpe, focusing on year-round monitoring, baiting and trapping activities in areas with known or reported wild dog activity. The program is being delivered in accordance with the activities outlined in the DPRFS funding agreement, which requires engagement of a Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMT) and ongoing baiting and trapping operations with activity monitoring.

2025-26 DPRFS Funding Agreement

A Licensed Pest Management Technician has been engaged to undertake operational control activities including strategic 1080 bait deployment, trap placement, and ongoing surveillance of known travel corridors and activity sites. Control activities have focused on areas where landholders have reported livestock predation or increased wild dog movement. Baiting programs have been implemented in consultation with landholders to ensure safe and effective placement, and traps have been used where appropriate to target problem animals.

Monitoring of wild dog activity continues through track inspections, trap site observations, and landholder reporting, allowing the group to respond quickly to emerging activity. Engagement with local landholders remains a key component of the program, with communication maintained to ensure coordination of baiting periods, reporting of sightings, and access permissions where required.

Overall, the program remains active and responsive, with ongoing control measures aimed at reducing wild dog impacts on livestock enterprises while maintaining compliance with best-practice pest management and regulatory requirements. Continuous monitoring and adaptive management will ensure activities remain targeted in the areas of highest need for the remainder of the funding period.

YTD update on activities and outcomes achieved (e.g. number of activities/pests controlled,

-----Funded Activities (2)

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Funded Program

Fox Program

This question is read only.

Name of Program, e.g. Feral Pig Program

Planned Program Activities & Measures

Activities including baiting and trapping, delivery of one community fox shoot.

Measures include number of baits and traps deployed, and fox activity monitored through surveys.

This question is read only.

What activities will be done and how will success be measured?

Update on Activities & Results YTD for 2025-26

Since 1 July 2025, the Southern Biosecurity Group has continued implementing targeted fox control activities within the Shire of Ravensthorpe as part of the DPRFS funded pest management program. Activities have focused on key reserve areas where fox activity poses a risk to livestock, native fauna, and biodiversity values.

In October 2025, coordinated fox baiting programs were undertaken at Cheadanup Reserve and Long Creek Reserve in collaboration with a Licensed Pest Management Technician. At Cheadanup Reserve, a total of 54 x 6 mg 1080 baits were deployed using a combination of dried meat baits and composite baits on 22 October 2025. Prior to bait placement, all warning signage within the reserve was inspected and replaced where required to ensure compliance with safety and notification requirements. Monitoring during this program indicated that fox activity was present but at a lower density and frequency compared to previous control programs.

Cheadanup Reserve Fox Control S...

A concurrent fox control program was also undertaken at Long Creek Reserve, where 157 x 6 mg composite baits were laid to target fox populations within core activity areas. As with the Cheadanup program, warning signage was inspected and maintained prior to bait deployment to ensure public awareness and safety. Observations from this program also indicated lower fox activity levels compared with previous control periods, suggesting that ongoing control efforts are contributing to suppressing local fox populations.

Long Creek Reserve Fox Control ...

These spring baiting programs form part of the Southern Biosecurity Group's ongoing seasonal fox control strategy, which targets known habitat and movement corridors in conservation reserves and adjoining agricultural land.

Additional autumn control programs are scheduled for April and May 2026, which will include further baiting in previously treated reserves and other locations identified through monitoring and landholder reporting.

In response to the recent Fitzgerald River National Park fires, the Southern Biosecurity Group is also working with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to plan additional fox baiting programs targeting unburnt refuge areas. Following the fires, wildlife has concentrated in small remaining pockets of unburnt habitat, increasing vulnerability to predation. Increased fox activity has also been observed in these areas. Targeted baiting programs are therefore being planned to reduce predator pressure on surviving native fauna and assist ecological recovery, particularly in areas where wildlife is currently concentrated.

These coordinated control efforts aim to maintain pressure on fox populations across the landscape while protecting both agricultural assets and native biodiversity within the

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Ravensthorpe region.

YTD update on activities and outcomes achieved (e.g. number of activities/pests controlled,

-----Funded Activities (3)

Funded Program

Rabbit Program

This question is read only.

Name of Program, e.g. Feral Pig Program

Planned Program Activities & Measures

Activities including oats mixing day, two scheduled RHDV releases.

Measures include bait take-up, and level of community involvement.

This question is read only.

What activities will be done and how will success be measured?

Update on Activities & Results YTD for 2025-26

Since 1 July 2025, the Southern Biosecurity Group has continued implementing targeted rabbit control activities across the Shire of Ravensthorpe to reduce impacts on public reserves, community infrastructure, native vegetation and surrounding agricultural land.

During November 2025, a coordinated Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) release program was undertaken across multiple townsites including Hopetoun, Krystal Park, Jerdacuttup, Ravensthorpe Recreation Grounds and the Kukenarup Memorial area. The program involved the release of RHDV using a host food mixture of oats and carrots, which was distributed across council verges, recreation areas and remnant vegetation sites to introduce the virus into local rabbit populations. The program commenced on 16 November 2025 and was implemented in areas where toxins were not considered appropriate due to proximity to townsites and public use areas.

Hopetoun Rabbit Control RHDV Re...

Monitoring conducted during the program indicated generally low to medium rabbit population densities across most surveyed locations. Activity levels were found to be relatively light in the Hopetoun townsite and foreshore areas, while medium-density activity was observed in parts of the Krystal Park area, with some larger active warrens present on adjoining private properties. Rabbit activity around the Jerdacuttup area and Ravensthorpe Recreation Grounds was found to be low to moderate with no active warrens identified during the survey period.

Hopetoun Rabbit Control RHDV Re...

Based on the monitoring results and contractor recommendations, follow-up RHDV releases are planned for Autumn 2026 to further reduce rabbit populations and maintain pressure on remaining colonies.

Additional rabbit control programs are currently being planned for the April to June 2026 period (weather dependent). These activities may include further RHDV releases and coordinated control measures in areas where rabbit activity has been identified through monitoring or landholder reports.

In response to the recent Fitzgerald River National Park fires, the Southern Biosecurity Group is also planning to undertake targeted RHDV releases in unburnt refuge areas where wildlife has concentrated following the fires. These unburnt pockets of vegetation currently support higher concentrations of native fauna and are therefore vulnerable to habitat degradation caused by rabbit grazing. Targeted rabbit control in these areas will assist in

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reducing grazing pressure on regenerating vegetation and supporting ecological recovery following the fire event.

These ongoing and planned activities aim to maintain coordinated rabbit management across the region while supporting both environmental recovery and protection of community assets and agricultural land.

YTD update on activities and outcomes achieved (e.g. number of activities/pests controlled,

-----Funded Activities (4)

Funded Program

Pest Plant Program

This question is read only.

Name of Program, e.g. Feral Pig Program

Planned Program Activities & Measures

Activities to target Apple of Sodom, Bridal Creeper and Cacti including scheduled pesticide treatment and manual removal, with follow-up site assessments, outcomes recorded via photo monitoring.

Measures include number of treatment sites and assessment of outcomes from treatment.

This question is read only.

What activities will be done and how will success be measured?

Update on Activities & Results YTD for 2025-26

Projects to commence End of March and run till May. Planned projects include Cacti control within the Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun townsite, Bridal Creeper control at the Hopetoun foreshore and greater Hopetoun area and apple of Sodom control within the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

YTD update on activities and outcomes achieved (e.g. number of activities/pests controlled,

-----Funded Activities (5)

Funded Program

Communications and Community Engagement

This question is read only.

Name of Program, e.g. Feral Pig Program

Planned Program Activities & Measures

Activities including newsletters, Biosecurity event participation, community surveys, and updates to the website.

Measures include number of communication and community engagement activities undertaken.

This question is read only.

What activities will be done and how will success be measured?

Update on Activities & Results YTD for 2025-26

Since 1 July 2025, the Southern Biosecurity Group has continued to maintain an active communications and community engagement program aimed at increasing awareness of declared pests, promoting community participation in control activities, and providing updates on biosecurity initiatives across the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

Regular updates have been provided to the community through the Southern Biosecurity

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Group website and social media platforms, where information regarding ongoing pest control programs, seasonal control activities and project outcomes has been shared. These platforms have also been used to encourage community reporting of pest sightings, including requests for information regarding rabbit activity and sightings of declared pest plants such as cacti within the region.

Community engagement has also occurred through direct communication with landholders, providing guidance and coordination opportunities for pest management activities including wild dog, fox and rabbit control programs. Landholders have been encouraged to report pest activity and participate in coordinated control efforts to ensure landscape-scale management outcomes.

In addition to landholder engagement, the group has maintained communication with key partner agencies and organisations, including the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), and the Shire of Ravensthorpe. These partnerships support coordinated pest management activities, particularly in areas of shared interest such as conservation reserves and Crown land.

Following the recent Fitzgerald River fire events, communication has also focused on sharing information with stakeholders regarding planned predator and rabbit control programs in unburnt refuge areas to assist with protecting wildlife populations and supporting ecological recovery.

Community engagement will continue throughout the remainder of the funding period through ongoing updates, targeted information campaigns, and promotion of upcoming seasonal control programs, including the Autumn fox and rabbit control activities. These efforts aim to strengthen community participation and ensure landholders remain informed and involved in biosecurity management across the region

YTD update on activities and outcomes achieved (e.g. number of activities/pests controlled,

-----Funded Activities (6)

Funded Program

Governance and Administration

This question is read only.

Name of Program, e.g. Feral Pig Program

Planned Program Activities & Measures

Activities including contractor management, asset upkeep, insurance, board administration, group operations, and landholder engagement.

This question is read only.

What activities will be done and how will success be measured?

Update on Activities & Results YTD for 2025-26

Since 1 July 2025, the Southern Biosecurity Group has continued to maintain strong governance and administrative oversight to support the delivery of funded pest management activities and ensure compliance with all relevant funding agreements and regulatory requirements.

Administrative operations have focused on the coordination and management of pest control programs, including contractor engagement, scheduling of field activities, processing of invoices and financial record keeping associated with the Declared Pest Rate Funding Scheme. Records of pest management activities, including baiting programs and control reports provided by Licensed Pest Management Technicians, have been maintained to support reporting requirements and program monitoring.

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Governance support has been provided to the Southern Biosecurity Group Committee, including preparation of meeting documentation, progress updates on operational activities, and coordination of decision-making processes relating to pest management priorities and program implementation. Regular communication has been maintained with committee members to ensure transparency and oversight of program delivery.

Compliance with funding and legislative requirements has also been a key focus during this period. Administrative tasks have included maintaining accurate records of activities and expenditure, ensuring insurance requirements remain current, and preparing documentation required for reporting under the Declared Pest Rate Funding Scheme.

Engagement with key stakeholders and government agencies has also formed part of the governance and administrative role. Ongoing liaison with DPIRD, DBCA, contractors and local landholders has supported the coordination of pest control activities across the region and ensured that programs continue to align with best practice biosecurity management.

These governance and administrative functions have supported the effective delivery of operational programs and will continue throughout the remainder of the funding period to ensure the Southern Biosecurity Group remains compliant, accountable and responsive to regional biosecurity priorities.

YTD update on activities and outcomes achieved (e.g. number of activities/pests controlled,

Budget (GST Exclusive)

The table below details the total anticipated budget included in your DPRFS Application Form.

Please complete the **Actual Expenditure** column to detail the actual values which have been expended on activities from 1 July 2025 to the date of this report.

Only include funding from the Declared Pest Rate and State matched funding.

All amounts should be GST exclusive.

Please **do not add commas** to figures - e.g., type \$1000 not \$1,000 - this will ensure your figures for each table total correctly.

Funded Program	Anticipated Expenditure (Ex GST)	Actual YTD 2025-26 Expenditure (ex GST)	Notes
Name of program, e.g. Wild Dog Program.	Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	Use this to advise of any changes in budget item expenditure.
Wild Dog Program	\$32,085.00	\$21,390.00	
Fox Program	\$16,416.00	\$8,208.00	
Wild Dogs & Foxes Program	\$8,280.00	\$6,500.00	
Rabbit Program	\$11,509.00	\$8,200.00	
Pest Plant Program	\$21,217.00	\$0.00	
Communications and Community Engagement	\$10,666.00	\$4,860.00	

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Governance and Administration	\$98,791.00	\$69,856.00	
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Budget Totals

The values below are auto calculated based on the values entered in the Budget Table.

Anticipated Expenditure Total (ex GST)	\$198,964.00	Actual Expenditure Total (ex GST)	\$119,014.00
	0		0
	This number/amount is calculated.		This number/amount is calculated.

If relevant, please attach any documents to support the achievement of Funded Activities

No files have been uploaded

Including minutes from meetings, photographs, social media posts etc.

2025-26 Operational Plan

Has your RBG published your 2025-26 Operational Plan on your website? *

Yes No

Variation

If required, this is an opportunity for you to formally request a variation to your 2025-26 Funding Agreement.

This is your final opportunity to request to use any *unplanned unspent* DPA funds from the previous year by adding them to your 2025-26 budget and funding agreement.

An amount equal to the value of any unplanned unspent funds not covered by a variation will be deducted from the planned second transfer, returning the funds to the RBG's DPA account for future use.

After this point, variations requesting the transfer of additional DPA funds (if available) can be submitted until mid-June.

Does your RBG require a variation? *

Yes No

Declaration & Certification

*** indicates a required field**

Declaration

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This section must be completed by the Chairperson, or appropriate delegate, on behalf of the Recipient organisation.

Once this form is submitted via SmartyGrants, it will be deemed as authorised by the below signatory, despite no signature provided.

By submitting this application, I acknowledge that:

- The information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.
- If any personal details of a third party are included, the third party has been made aware of, and given their permission for, those details to appear in this Progress Report.

I Agree *

Yes

Organisation Contact

Name *

Mrs Michelle Grobler

Position *

Executive Officer

Email *

eo@southernbiosecuritygroup.org

Must be an email address.

Date *

08/03/2026

Must be a date.