

in this issue >>>

- Declared Pest Rate Priorities
- Wild Dogs p.7
- Foxes p.2
- Rabbits p.5
- Feral Cats p.6
- Bridal Creeper p.4
- Drooping Pear p.3
- Apple of Sodom p.5
- 2022 Survey Results p.2

To all Landowners in the Shire of Ravensthorpe

Annual Landowner Newsletter

2023 Edition

About us

Introducing Michelle Grobler to the Ravensthorpe Community!

We are delighted to introduce the newest member of the Southern Biosecurity Group (SBG) team, Michelle Grobler, who has joined us as the Executive Officer.

Michelle hails from South Africa and has been settling in wonderfully in Ravensthorpe since her arrival in March 2022, alongside her supportive family. Her husband, Renier, contributes his valuable knowledge of the agriculture industry through a local outlet.

As a passionate individual, Michelle brings a wealth of enthusiasm and dedication to her role of managing declared species within the Ravensthorpe Shire. Her commitment to protecting our native fauna and flora being affected by declared species is truly commendable, and she aspires to make SBG a household name within the Shire, fostering community engagement and collective efforts toward biosecurity control.

Since joining the team, Michelle has already made significant strides in enhancing our communication efforts. She has been diligently updating our website, ensuring it serves as a reliable source of current and past SBG activities. Michelle's aim is to create a platform that keeps our community well-informed and aware of the critical work we do.

We encourage you to connect with Michelle for any queries regarding declared pests on your property. Please note that she works part-time, and her availability may vary daily. You can reach her directly at 0484 932 447 or send an email to sbg.execofficer@gmail.com for prompt assistance.

Under the leadership of our current Chairperson, Karyn Tuckett, we look forward to achieving even greater milestones in our mission of managing declared species within the Ravensthorpe Shire.

Together, we can make a positive impact and create a thriving, bio secure community.



Recognized Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are community-based groups formally recognized under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act). They each operate within a prescribed area. Currently there are 14 RBGs in Western Australia with their combined areas covering most of the State.

Join the Southern Biosecurity Management Committee and Make a Difference!

Are you passionate about preserving the ecological wonders of the Ravensthorpe Shire? If so, we invite you to be part of our mission by joining the SBG Management Committee.

To apply, simply send a letter to sbg.execofficer@gmail.com expressing your interest in becoming a valued member. Include your basic details, contact information, and tell us why you'd like to join our organization. Let us know how your unique skills and passion for biosecurity will contribute to our group's operations.

As a management committee member, you'll actively engage in quarterly meetings, collaborating with like-minded individuals to provide direction, formulate policies, and ensure effective governance compliance for safeguarding our natural heritage.

Your role as a management committee member will involve asset management, stakeholder consultation, financial planning, and communication, giving you the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the ecological health and resilience of the Ravensthorpe Shire.

Application deadline: Submit your application to sbg.execofficer@gmail.com by end of September 2023.

Join our management committee of individuals who currently consist of Karyn Tuckett (Chair), Jennifer Chambers, Reece Laycock and Gemma Walker. The members are committed to preserving the environment and maintaining the financial viability of the agricultural industry within the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

Declared Pest Rate Priorities

Wild Dogs

Wild dog control has remained a key focus for SBG with Gavern House, Managing Director of Alpha Pest Animal Solutions (LPMT) contracted to provide support to landholders until 30 June 2024.

*If you should have any stock losses from a wild dog attack you can contact Gavern directly on **0499 304 307** who can provide a rapid response for any reported Wild Dog attacks.*

more on Page 7 >>>

Reporting of Sightings/ issues >>>

Please remember to contact Gavern House directly to report any wild dog sightings, as your immediate assistance is vital in our efforts to manage the pest populations effectively.

To report sightings of any other declared species, whether animals or weeds (Include Photo and GPS co-ordinates), we kindly request that you contact SBG directly through the following channels:

- Email: sbg.execofficer@gmail.com
- Phone: 0484932447

We greatly appreciate members of the community reporting these issues to us through the mentioned channels, as it allows us to address them promptly and effectively.

We kindly urge you to refrain from posting negative comments on local social media platforms and instead utilize the provided contact information to ensure our attention to the matter.

Foxes

It is common knowledge within our community that, much like numerous other shires in the State, the Shire of Ravensthorpe is home to a significant fox population. Each fox claims a home range, which typically spans from 280 to 1600 hectares in size. However, during the breeding season, foxes reduce their roaming activities and tend to return consistently to the same den.

Foxes engage in annual breeding, usually in June or July, and their cubs are born in August or September in a dry and sheltered den. The male parent, known as the dog fox, assists the nursing vixen by providing food for her and the cubs. After weaning the cubs start venturing outside the den at around 10 weeks of age. During this period, the dog fox, and sometimes non-breeding 'helper' vixens, hunt for food to sustain the vixen and cubs until the cubs become independent enough to be left alone for longer periods at approximately six weeks old. At that point, the vixen resumes hunting for herself and the cubs.

Please ensure that all sightings are logged directly via the feral scan application (Download from your app store Android and Apple compatible). It is essential to contact SBG promptly with information about fox sightings rather than relying on social media posts.

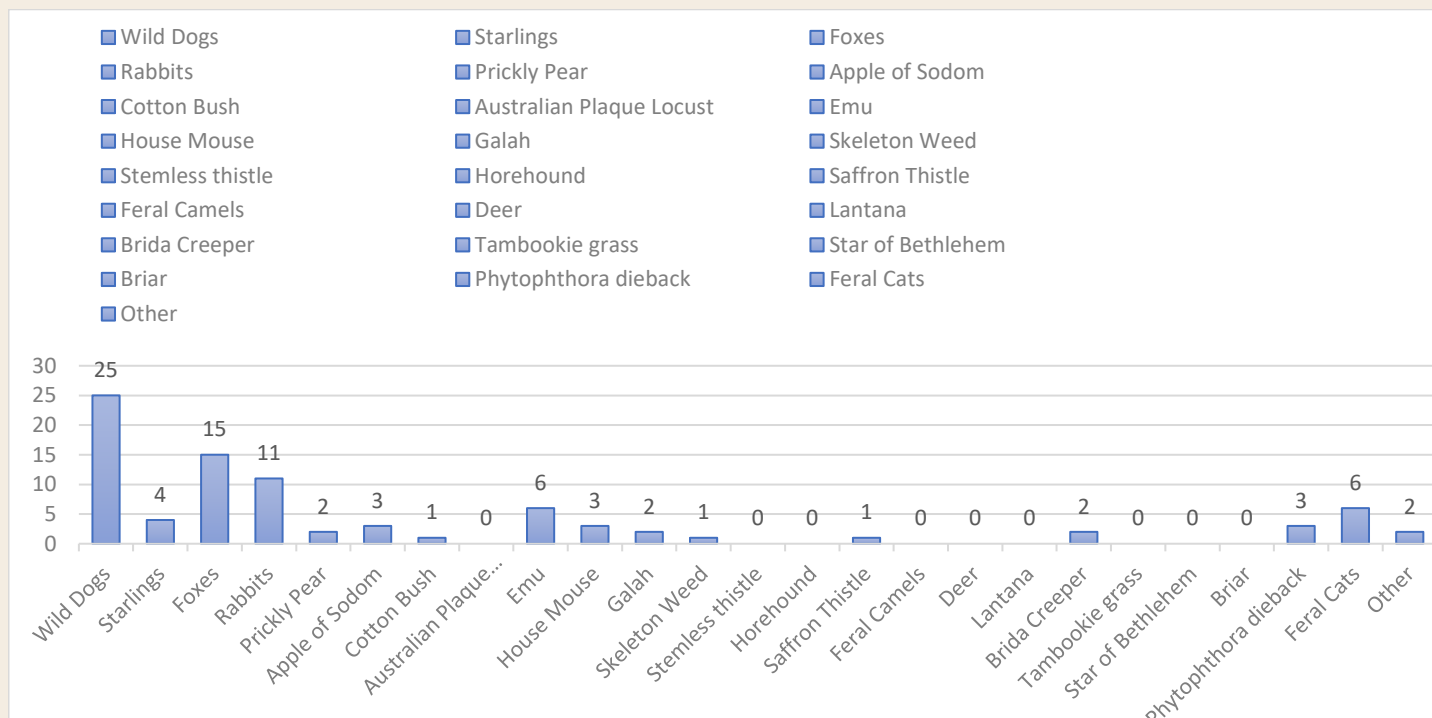
Foxes are known for their cunning nature and large roaming areas, making it difficult to respond in a timely and effective manner based solely on social media reports.

To address the challenges posed by heavy fox populations or fox-related issues with stock, it is imperative to ensure timely reporting of specific sighting locations within the community.

This information helps determine probable fox routes, enabling the setting up of surveillance cameras and, ultimately, leading to effective trapping measures.



Results from the 2022 Priority Pest Survey



A total of 87 responses were received.

Responding to surveys is of utmost importance as it allows us to address and resolve issues more effectively.

So please, get involved! Declared Pest Management is every landholder's legal responsibility.

Drooping Tree Pear (*Opuntia monacantha*)

*Drooping tree pear (*Opuntia monacantha*) also known commonly as the 'prickly pear' is a fast-growing succulent shrub that will grow up to 6 m tall. It blooms in summer with yellowish to deep orange flowers that are large, up to 8 cm long, and 10 cm wide. The large fruit is reddish-purple and ripens in the fall.*

Prickly Pear is a captivating succulent shrub that thrives in various environments. Known for its rapid growth, this species can reach impressive heights of up to 6 meters. Native to South America, although once popular as an ornamental choice due to its hardy nature, this plant has now been listed as a declared species and should not be grown for decorative purposes.

During the summer months, Prickly Pear graces its surroundings with a spectacular display of yellowish to deep orange flowers. These vibrant blossoms are large, measuring up to 8 centimeters in length and 10 centimeters in width.

Following the blooming period, Prickly Pear produces large reddish-purple fruits that ripen in the fall. These sizable fruits, often referred to as "pears," add an additional element of visual interest to the plant. Their rich hues and plump appearance make them a standout feature, particularly against the backdrop of the plant's fleshy green pads.

While Prickly Pear may possess aesthetic appeal, it is essential to note its potential for invasiveness. In certain regions, such as Western Australia, it is considered a "Declared Pest" due to its ability to rapidly spread and outcompete native plant species. Its adaptable nature allows it to thrive in a variety of habitats, posing a significant threat to local ecosystems, introduction onto agricultural land and tourist hot spots.

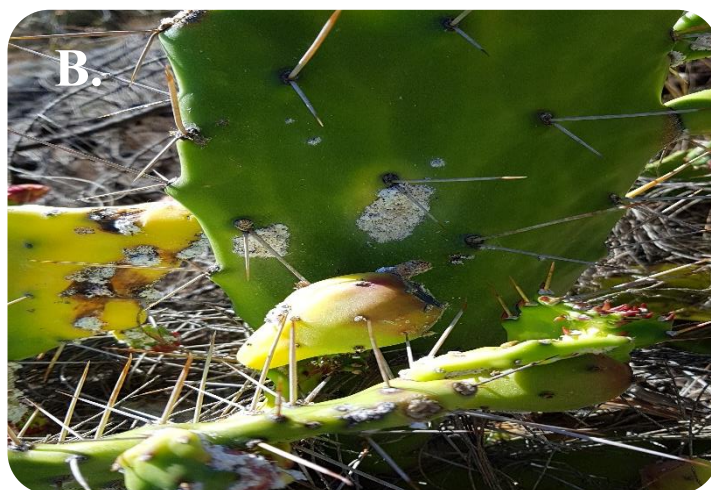


Figure 1. Before treatment A and after treatment B.

In our ongoing efforts to control larger Prickly Pear, SBG coordinated a control program using the Cochineal biological virus method, which has shown remarkable success.

Utilizing Cochineal insects is a practical solution for treating larger cacti, while smaller plants are preferably manually removed through hand pulling. The outcomes achieved with the Cochineal method have been remarkable as seen with current and previous projects.

These insects consume the cacti until there is absolutely nothing left, making it impossible to tell where the plants once stood.

Our Licensed Weed Technician has experienced tremendous success in treating cacti along the Oldfield River corridor and other identified sites within our Shire utilizing these control methods under the project guidance of SBG.

As we continue our commitment to combating Prickly Pear invasions, we stand by the effectiveness of the Cochineal method.

It serves as a testament to our dedication and innovative approaches in preserving the ecological integrity of the affected areas.

Together, we are making a positive difference in our community and safeguarding our natural environment.



Figure 2. Cacti affected by Cochineal 1 year after initial treatment. (Oldfield River)

Tackling Bridal Creeper's Onslaught: Progress Along the Hopetoun Foreshore

Native to Eastern and Southern Africa, Bridal Creeper (Asparagus asparagoides) found its way to Australia during the 1870s as a popular ornamental garden plant.

Admired for its delicate allure, it adorned hanging baskets and was even a coveted choice for bridal bouquets, thus earning its common name. However, this once-beloved plant has now become one of the most significant threats to native biodiversity across WA, and has been recognized as a declared species.

The resilience of Bridal Creeper lies in its perennial root system, forming an extensive network of underground tubers that obstruct the establishment of other plants. These tubers serve as water and nutrient stores, allowing the weed to endure droughts and rapidly produce new shoots in autumn. Bridal Creeper is frost tolerant and boasts the capacity to yield over 1000 berries per square meter, with birds serving as key agents for seed dispersal.

As birds feed on the berries and subsequently excrete the seeds, the weed has spread along roadsides, woodland edges, and infiltrated native vegetation patches within the Ravensthorpe Shire. The dispersion is further facilitated by pest animals such as rabbits and foxes, which consume the fruit.

The persistence of Bridal Creeper in the landscape poses a grave threat to native understory plants and disrupts the ecological balance of both disturbed and undisturbed bushland systems.

Its ability to smother and alter the structure and floristic composition of affected areas demands swift action.



Figure 1.
Before and
after photos
A and B
within the
treated
area.



To address this significant issue, the Southern Biosecurity Group (SBG) took decisive steps, allocating funding for a project targeting 4.6 hectares of Bridal Creeper control along the Hopetoun foreshore.

This area was deemed a high priority due to its visual exposure, public access, and adjacency to the RV camping area, as well as other remnants of coastal vegetation and mallee communities.

SBG enlisted a team of two licensed weed management technicians who employed a light hand spray method over three days in October.

An herbicide spray was used to initiate knock-down. Mindful of environmental considerations, the application was selectively hand sprayed at a very low dosage, well below the recommended dose for targeting vascular plants.

To enhance visibility, a red dye was incorporated into the solution, and signage was utilized to caution people against entering the treated area.

In a bid to combat Bridal Creeper, SBG coordinated with the licensed pest technician to introduce the naturally occurring biological control agent, 'rust fungus' (*Puccinia myrsiphylli*), within the targeted area.

This method has shown promise in previous trials and aims to initiate the spread of the rust fungus throughout the district.

Initial observations have demonstrated a notable reduction in visible Bridal Creeper presence within the treated area. This achievement is particularly significant considering the plant's capacity to produce up to 1000 seeds per square meter, which remain viable for up to four years within the soil.

Moreover, Bridal Creeper's formation of dense underground tuber mats, constituting over 90% of its biomass, impedes the germination of native plants. Although the viability of corn remains unaffected, the ongoing control efforts aim to decrease corn viability and prevent subsequent weed germination. It's important to note that around four years of consistent control measures are necessary to effectively reduce tuber viability.

Encouraging active participation from landholders to undertake control measures on their own property will produce the best outcomes for the Shire and is of paramount importance to curtail the further spread of this invasive fruit and its disruptive effects on the ecosystem. Before and after photos (Figure 1) depict the notable progress achieved.

Further attention is now directed toward the Bridal Creeper Rust Fungus (*Puccinia myrsiphylli*). This natural control agent impairs leaves and stems, redirecting nutrients away from healthy tissue and depleting energy reserves stored in underground tubers. The rust fungus prompts premature leaf drop and limits fruit production. Its visibility becomes apparent on plants from early autumn, and during winter, it spreads via wind-borne spores. Infected leaves can be harvested and introduced to other Bridal Creeper patches to aid in control efforts.

As we persevere in the battle against Bridal Creeper, the SBG remains steadfast in its commitment to mitigating its impact.

The progress made along the Hopetoun foreshore serves as a beacon of hope, driving us toward a future where the invasive grip of this weed is loosened, enabling the restoration of our precious natural ecosystems.

Rabbits: A Costly Threat to Agriculture and the Environment

Rabbits have long been recognized as Australia's most expensive pest animal, inflicting an annual cost exceeding \$215 million.

The damage they cause to agriculture amounts to an estimated \$600 million each year.

Their detrimental impact extends beyond agriculture, as they contribute to erosion problems, hinder native vegetation regeneration, ravage domestic gardens, and undermine farm structures.

Despite previous control efforts, landholders in Hopetoun continue to report ongoing rabbit activity on their properties, with sightings of extensive warrens and damage to trees.

The impact of rabbits extends beyond agricultural concerns, posing a significant threat to over 320 threatened species across Australia, making them the most impactful invasive species.

Rabbit control remains an ongoing task, with the RHDV1 virus employed in Australia to mitigate the impacts of the introduced European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) on agricultural production and the environment.

While the RDHV1 virus has shown notable success in controlling rabbit populations on the East Coast, its effectiveness in Western Australia appears limited. Unlike its performance on the East Coast, the virus seems to exhibit effectiveness primarily in the localized areas where it has been released in WA, without displaying substantial landscape spread.

Interestingly, an alternative solution with a more significant impact is available;

however, securing it has been hindered by supply shortages.

However, during the 2022/2023 financial year, control efforts faced a setback due to a nationwide shortage of the available RDHV1 virus.

Despite this challenge, the Southern Biosecurity Group's Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMT) managed to obtain a few vials for a targeted control project in Krystal Park, focusing on the Shire verges.

The project was originally scheduled for late June to early July, the project was postponed to August due to unfavorable weather conditions, with hopes of better conditions for its implementation and to still adhere to the recommendation to release the virus while the average daytime temperature is below 24°C.

As we continue our fight against rabbits, we encourage your assistance by reporting rabbit hotspots.

Please send an email to the Executive Officer at sbg.execofficer@gmail.com or utilize Feral Scan (www.feralscan.org.au) to lodge your sightings.

By gathering information on rabbit activity, we can ensure the strategic release of the virus in areas where it can have the maximum impact on rabbit populations.

Together, we can work towards mitigating the economic and environmental damage caused by rabbits and safeguarding our agricultural and natural landscapes.



Apple of Sodom >>>

Continued Efforts to Control Apple of Sodom in the Hopetoun/Ravensthorpe Area

Raised concerns regarding the spread of the invasive Apple of Sodom (*Solanum linnaeanum*) in the Hopetoun/Ravensthorpe area have prompted ongoing actions by local landholders.

Recent sightings of this declared species in the Hopetoun region have been duly recorded, further emphasizing the urgency of the situation.

Recognized as a declared species under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (WA), the Apple of Sodom is eligible for dedicated pest funds to coordinate activities to mitigate its expansion.

To ensure effective control and swift action, we urge all residents to report any sightings of the Apple of Sodom directly to the Southern Biosecurity Group.

Your vigilance and prompt reporting will enable us to coordinate timely treatment measures and intensify our efforts in mitigating the spread of this declared weed.

Notably, projects funded by the Declared Pest Rate have been initiated in the past year, targeting areas where the plant has been identified.

Collaborating with stakeholders, we are working diligently to ensure the removal and treatment of the Apple of Sodom on private properties.

Together, let us remain proactive in combatting the Apple of Sodom and safeguarding the ecological balance of our region.

Your participation and engagement play a pivotal role in our ongoing mission to effectively control and manage this invasive plant species.

As we strive to curb its impact, it's worth noting that control efforts from landholders are particularly crucial if the weed is present on their property before it has a chance to produce seeds.

By proactively taking measures, you make a substantial contribution to safeguarding local agriculture and ecosystems, while also preserving the overall health of the region's biodiversity.



Managing the Menace: Strategies for Feral Cat Control

Feral cats pose a significant threat to native wildlife and can cause extensive damage to ecosystems.

As natural predators, feral cats hunt and prey upon a wide range of native animals, including small mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

Their presence contributes to the decline of vulnerable and endangered species, disrupting the delicate balance of the local environment.

Moreover, feral cats can also spread diseases to both wildlife and domestic animals, posing a health risk to the community.

One of the most significant concerns is their role in the transmission of zoonotic diseases, which are infectious diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans.

Examples of zoonotic diseases associated with feral cats include toxoplasmosis, a parasitic infection that can cause flu-like symptoms in humans; cat scratch disease, caused by the bacteria *Bartonella henselae* and transmitted through scratches or bites; and rabies, a viral disease that affects the nervous system and can be fatal if not treated promptly.

Feral cats can also carry and spread other diseases, such as feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and feline leukemia virus (FeLV), which can be devastating for domestic cats.

These diseases not only pose a risk to the health of other animals but also raise concerns about public health and the need for effective management strategies to control feral cat populations and reduce the spread of infectious diseases.

Recognizing the impact of feral cats, the Shire of Ravensthorpe has implemented a cat policy to promote responsible cat management.

This policy outlines rules and regulations for cat ownership within the Shire, emphasizing the importance of keeping cats indoors or in a secure enclosure, sterilization to prevent population growth, and identification through microchipping.

By adhering to these guidelines and practicing responsible cat ownership, landholders can contribute to minimizing the negative impacts of feral cats on native wildlife and support the conservation efforts within the Shire.



Reporting a declared species?????

When reporting your sighting, please ensure to provide as much information as possible, including the precise location (preferably with GPS coordinates), details of the pest observed, a thorough description of the pest, and the specific date and time of the sighting. Your comprehensive input will greatly assist us in accurately assessing and addressing the situation.



Wild Dogs

Wild dog management in Australia has received a significant boost with the recent allocation of a \$640,000 Federal Government grant for the National Wild Dog Action Plan administered by Australian Wool Innovation (AWI).

This funding comes as part of a larger \$31.6 million allocation to several organisations, including AWI, the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions, Australian Pork Limited, and Invasive Animals Limited (trading as Centre for Invasive Species Solutions). The primary objective of this funding is to address and mitigate the detrimental impacts caused by feral pigs, deer, cats, foxes, and wild dogs. By investing in targeted management strategies and initiatives, this funding will contribute to reducing the negative ecological and economic effects of these invasive species, ensuring the preservation of Australia's biodiversity and agricultural industry.

The funding allocation for the National Wild Dog Action Plan includes funds to carry out various activities outlined in the National Wild Dog Action Plan, which aims to reduce the impact of wild dogs on Australia's agricultural production and the environment.

Part of the Australian Wool Innovation administered funding has also been specifically allocated to support key roles essential for the successful implementation of the National Wild Dog Action Plan. These support roles include the Action Plan Implementation Manager and Communications officer who support the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator.

This National Wild Dog Action Plan funding is crucial in achieving the objectives of the Plan. Firstly, they will ensure the continued delivery of the Plan, which involves facilitating cross-tenure management, raising community awareness and capacity for humane and best practice management, and promoting the adoption of effective methods and systems. Secondly, the funding will assist the Plan to enhance stakeholder involvement in wild dog management and implementation of best practice management.

This includes fostering industry and stakeholder co-investment in the national program, achieving priority actions outlined in the Plan, promoting effective collaboration and ongoing investment in wild dog management.

By strengthening collaboration and investment in wild dog management, the funds will support the Plan to achieve comprehensive and sustainable outcomes. *Excerpt from the 'National Wild Dog Action Plan Newsletter #67'*

Shire of Ravensthorpe

The presence of wild dogs has also had a detrimental impact on the native wildlife and had a substantial impact on financial loss within the agricultural industry within the Shire of Ravensthorpe, endangering various species as they prey on small mammals, birds, and reptiles.

Implementing effective measures to control and manage the wild dog population is paramount in mitigating the harm inflicted on agriculture and conserving the biodiversity of Ravensthorpe's distinctive natural environment. Moreover, these efforts also provide safeguards for the tourism and mining industries, both of which benefit from wild dog control.

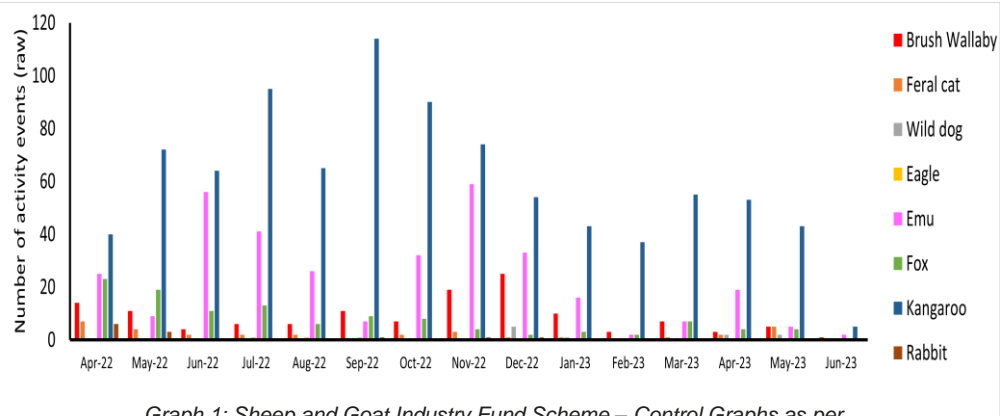
SBG coordinated comprehensive control efforts to address the wild dog issue, employing a strategy that involved deploying 758 baits and strategically placing 12 traps, resulting in the successful capture of 5 wild dogs.

It's important to note that while these measures have been effective in managing the wild dog population, accounting for deaths resulting from the bait update remains challenging due to the vast expanse of the landscape. The likelihood of locating deceased animals in such an expansive terrain is significantly low. Nevertheless, these combined efforts mark a significant step towards mitigating the impact of wild dogs within the Shire of Ravensthorpe's operations.

Coordinated control activities were delayed in the first quarter of 2023 due to new permit renewal processes, preventing SBG from conducting any dogging activities. Since receiving the restricted chemical permits in March, SBG resumed with the coordination of management projects for wild dogs within the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

Residents are encouraged to report any wild dog or track sightings, stock losses, or activity to facilitate a collaborative approach to pest management.

This collective effort aims to reduce the impact of wild dogs on native fauna and flora within our shire.



Graph 1: Sheep and Goat Industry Fund Scheme – Control Graphs as per remote sensing Camera surveillance along the state barrier fence

State Barrier Fence species movement project

Camera surveillance project in partnership with the IFS (Sheep and Goat - Industry fund scheme)

Monitoring species movements through three strategic gaps in the Esperance Extension of the State Barrier Fence to inform management interventions.

The project is currently underway, monitoring three gaps in the Esperance Extension of the State Barrier Fence, specifically the Oldfield, Young, and Lort rivers.

There were initial concerns within the farming community that these gaps would concentrate wild dog activity and have a detrimental impact on sheep farming.

To address these concerns, monitoring sites were established, and trail cameras have been placed alongside the fence to track the usage of these areas before, during, and after construction.

Consistent data collection from these cameras has facilitated the development of graphs that depict animal movement patterns along the fence. Notably, the remote sensing cameras recently streamline this process by autonomously transmitting data to a dedicated database. This automated data transfer enhances

efficiency and ensures seamless data availability for analysis, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of wildlife behavior in relation to the fence.

The project has been extended until 2025 to ensure comprehensive post-fence construction surveillance.

The collected information is being used to compile control charts (See graph 1 on previous page) for key species, including wild dogs, and to assess any changes in the ecosystem following construction.

This valuable data is being shared among the Southern Biosecurity Group, Esperance Biosecurity Association, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and local landholders to improve wild dog control strategies and provide confidence to farmers in the area.



Thank You

Southern Biosecurity Group (SBG) would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported the local volunteer Committee throughout 2022/2023 and those who have sought more information on the priority declared pests that SBG is assisting landholders to manage.



PO Box 292
Ravensthorpe, WA 6346
sbg.execofficer@gmail.com

The Declared Pest Rate remains unchanged for the operational plan of 2023/2024. SBG aims to generate approximately \$94,515 in funds (excluding GST), which will be matched dollar for dollar by the State Government which will bring our forecasted income to approximately \$189,030.

By coordinating efforts and targeting specific priority pests, collective action can make a meaningful impact. The SBG committee is currently focusing on developing the Operational Management Plan for the period of 2024/2025.

Your feedback is crucial in shaping this plan, and you can contribute by providing input through the Annual Priority Survey included with this Newsletter (Please scan and email, or mail back the hard copy by **30 September 2023**), or completing the newsletter via our website <https://southernbiosecuritygroup.org.au/> (survey link is on the Home page).

Please take a moment to let us know which Declared species you are concerned about in the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

This information helps us prioritize how the DPR funds will be allocated for the upcoming financial year. **It is important to note that DPR funds can only be utilized for managing Declared Pests within the Ravensthorpe Shire.**

Declared pest rate.

Under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) the State raises a Declared Pest Rate from landholders in specific areas, and matches the funds raised from the rate dollar-for-dollar.

The combined funds are made available to Recognised Biosecurity Groups who provide support to landholders to manage widespread and established declared pests.

The funds raised are used for controlling **declared pests** in prescribed areas. This rate is known as the Declared Pest Rate (DPR).

The DPR has been collected in the pastoral lease areas since 2014. Prior to 2014 and since the late 1970's, it was collected under the previous legislation, the Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976.

The rates are collected by Revenue WA. Rate assessment notices (invoices) are usually issued in September each year.

Rates are matched with WA State Government funds and transferred to the DPA which is administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). These funds are made available to recognised

biosecurity groups to manage declared pests.

How are rates determined?

The rate to be charged is determined by the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forestry, and Small Business following consultation with affected landholders.

The rate is set to raise money required by a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) to fund activities for the control of declared pests in its area of operation.

Prior to the Minister setting the rate, DPIRD reviews and approves plans submitted by RBGs on priority pest control activities and budgets. RBGs are responsible for the funds disbursed to them and are required to produce an annual progress report and audited financial statement each year.

Rates apply on the relevant land as owned at 30 June each year and a notice determining the rates is published in the Government Gazette each year.

Who to Contact regarding the Declared Pest Rate

Payment of Declared Pest Rate inquiries to Revenue WA
(08) 9262 1199, country callers WA 1300 368 364

Regional Biosecurity Group and Declared Pest Rate rationale to
Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD) via email talkingrbg@dpiird.wa.gov.au
(08) 9368 3070

Operational activity coordinated by the Southern Biosecurity Group
Contact the Executive Officer on 0484 932 447