

Operational Plan

2021 - 2022

Southern Biosecurity Group

PO Box 292

0484 932 447

Ravensthorpe WA 6346

sbg.execofficer@gmail.com



Consent Statement

SBG will set its budget to remain as close as practicable as previous years – therefore we have budgeted \$189, 030 for 2021/22.

We are basing this amount on previous years. For 2020/21, we have been advised by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development it is estimated that **\$94,515** (excluding GST) will be raised through the determination of rates in the Southern Biosecurity Group’s prescribed area. The total amount raised is matched by State Government funding. This means it is forecasted that an amount of **\$189,030** will be available to SBG for the 2020/21 year. We will maintain this rate for 2021/22.

Please note, the figure raised through the determination may be lower than the estimated figure and may vary due to a number of factors, including but not limited to, property subdivisions, changes in unimproved land values, pensioner postponements under the BAM Act or any other applicable exemptions, as determined on a case-by-case basis by the Commissioner of State Revenue.

Southern Biosecurity Group by submitting the Group’s 2021/22 operational plan consents to the transfer of \$189,030 (ex GST) from the Declared Pest Account to the Southern Biosecurity Group for the control of declared pests on land in the Local Government area of Ravensthorpe.

Disbursement Financial Year 21/22

Suggested payment schedule as follows:

1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter
1 July 94,515		1 January \$50,000	1 April Remainder of DPR received

Introduction

This plan sets out the activities for Southern Biosecurity Group (SBG) for the 2021 – 2022 financial year. Activities identified in this plan are aimed at achieving strategic priorities set out in SBG’s strategic plan (2019-2022) and informed by Biosecurity Management Strategy for the Ravensthorpe Shire and “Pesty Guide”. Due to administrative constraints in the DPR system (DPIRD and Office of State Revenue) SBG cannot confirm the total amount that will be invoiced to landholders. The operational plan and budget are reviewed when DPIRD has advised of the amount paid and matched. The timing of this is beyond the Southern Biosecurity Group’s control.

About us

Southern Biosecurity Group is a subgroup committee of the Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN) mandated to coordinate control of declared pest species in the Shire of Ravensthorpe. SBG began operating in 2002 as the Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group and in 2022 will have achieved 20 years of community-based local decision-making and pest management. A celebration and review of the impact of the ongoing commitment of the community is planned. In the beginning, our role focussed on wild dog control in the shire. Over the years it has grown to prioritising a range of declared pests. We believe declared pests can be better managed by a coordinated approach between community, industry and government and work to support landholders through coordination and collaboration across tenure. In 2017, SBG requested Recognised Biosecurity Group status through the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007 (BAM Act) to allow community funds raised through the Declared Pest Rate to be matched dollar for dollar by the state government, enabling us to provide coordinated and targeted control of declared pests within the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

Southern Biosecurity Committee

Southern Biosecurity Committee members for 2020/21 are:

Karyn Tuckett

Gemma Walker

Jennifer Chambers

Reece Laycock

Chenae Cooper

2021/22 budget

The operational budget for 2021/22 will be \$189,030.

This includes the anticipated landholder rate of \$94, 515 and the matching funds from the WA State Government. There is no change in the rate from 2021/22. A detailed budget is attached.

Key programs

Southern Biosecurity Group will focus on the following key areas that address strategic objectives set out in the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan and Biosecurity Management Strategy for Ravensthorpe shire.

- Wild dogs
- Rabbit, fox and cat control
- Strategic weeds (bridal creeper, prickly pear and apple of Sodom)
- Governance and administration
- Community engagement and education

A more detailed description of the strategies and actions are provided in the attached table.

Most funding for activities is via the Declared Pest Rate annual budget however where possible this is supplemented by additional external funds.

In 2021/22 SBG will continue to administer and focus on accessing a range of additional funding opportunities to continue activities including: Industry Fund Scheme (Sheep and Goat), Federal Drought funding (in partnership with the Shire of Ravensthorpe and RAIN); State NRM funds; various ongoing Australian Government funds.

Declared pest rate Objectives for the Southern Biosecurity Group

Funds raised by the DPR and the government co-contribution will support the commercial, environmental and social values of the Ravensthorpe shire through:

- Improved animal welfare by preventing wild dog and fox attacks on livestock and native animals
- Add to land values by improving the viability of current and new livestock enterprises
- Strengthen economic return when selling or leasing land suitable for the running of livestock
- Safety of locals and tourists enjoying local amenities including walking, sightseeing and horse riding in bushland areas. Wildflowers are an ongoing tourist attraction that can be put at risk due to rabbit damage to habitats.
- Reduce fox numbers by uptake of baits via wild dog baiting programs
- Impact on fox and rabbit numbers from coordination of annual community shoot and integrated rabbit control including release of the biological control RHDV1K5 rabbit virus
- Provision of equipment to trap pests impacting on urban areas
- Use of biological controls to manage Bridal creeper in the Hopetoun township and foreshore.
- Support endangered species conservation, e.g. local populations of numbats and malleefowl
- Prevent the establishment of a wild dog populations within national parks, reserves and urban residential areas

The following motion was tabled at the RAIN 2020 AGM.

Southern Biosecurity Group requests and recommends to the Minister for Agriculture and Food to determine a Declared Pest Flat Rate (fixed sum) on freehold land in the local government district of Ravensthorpe that is described as urban farming or urban residential or urban vacant or urban miscellaneous, on the non-rural valuation roll and rural freehold on the rural valuation roll maintained under the Valuation of Land Act 1978 as follows;

Hectare range	Flat rate (\$)
50ha or less	\$24
>50 – 200	\$39
>200 – 500	\$75
>500 – 1000	\$141
>1000 – 2000	\$200
>2000 – 3500	\$377
>3500 – 5000	\$528
>5000 – 7500	\$698
>7500 – 9000	\$848
>9000	\$1107

The rate for the 2021/22 financial year will remain unchanged, with the rates in the above table to be applied to all properties: residential, urban and rural freehold across the Ravensthorpe Shire.

Communications and engagement

In 2020 COVID 19 impacted globally and has changed our world and how we relate to it.

A draft calendar of communications and engagement activities has been provided in the attached communications and community engagement calendar.

This is an indicative annual calendar and does not include ongoing activities aligned to creating community awareness that may occur throughout the year. Dates for these activities will be set in collaboration with presenters and the community and will be subject to COVID19 influences beyond SBGs control.

Regular updates and Information will be shared through the SBG website (southernbiosecuritygroup.org.au), the RAIN e-newsletter and the Community Spirit. Other channels, such as social media, will be used as needed.

Key Stakeholders

SBG will continue to work, partner and collaborate with identified key stakeholders.

These include:

- Local communities within the Shire of Ravensthorpe
- Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)
- Shire of Ravensthorpe – including support of Drought funding projects
- Shire of Kent – Lake Magenta wild dog activities
- Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
- Feral Cat regional management group
- Neighbouring RBGs including the Esperance Biosecurity Association
- Esperance Weed Action Group
- State Natural Resource Management Office
- South Coast NRM
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions – Regional offices of Esperance, Albany and Merredin
- Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development – ongoing support with RBG, Wild dogs, Rabbits, RCCPs and Cactus program.
- Industry Funding Scheme (Sheep and Goat) Committee
- Biosecurity Council of WA

Community Survey

The Annual priority survey is utilised to provide an opportunity for community input and to inform the operational plan. The survey was first created in 2018 and remains similar each year to allow SBG to track changes and identify any trends from the initial baseline data captured.

The survey was mailed to all landholders with the annual landholder letter in August 2020.

Survey Monkey was also used to create a digital version of the survey and promoted through RAIN e-news, Community Spirit and SBG website (homepage). This year, the RAIN Spring Field Day booklet included an insert and with flyers available at the Wildflower Show display.

A total of only 27 responses were returned. The majority were hard copy as unfortunately there were issues with the Website.

Key priority species continue to be wild dogs, foxes, rabbits, feral cats and increasingly weeds.

There were suggestions that more still needs to be done and positive comments about achievements. Responses from residential landholders have increased.

The summary of the 2020 and previous surveys are available on the SBG website.

Declared Pest Species	Number of respondents	Percentage of response priority
Foxes	16	59.26
Rabbits	13	48.15
Other (specified below)	13	48.15
Feral Cats	10	37.04
Wild dogs	9	33.33
Bridal creeper	7	25.93
House mouse	5	18.52
Phytophthora dieback	5	18.52
Emu	4	14.81
Skeleton weed	3	11.11
Briar	3	3.7
Starlings	1	3.7
Apple of Sodom	1	3.7
Australian plague locust	1	3.7
Lantana	1	3.7
Prickly pear	0	0
Cotton bush	0	0
Galah	0	0
Stemless thistle	0	0
Horehound	0	0
Saffron thistle	0	0
Feral camels	0	0
Deer	0	0
Tambookie grass	0	0
Star of Bethlehem	0	0
Total Respondents: 27		

Other species identified were: African Boxthorn (6) others were only individual mentions.

SBG proposed Operational Budget for the 2021/22 financial year

INCOME	DPR / DPA	Other Sources
Declared pest rate	94,515	
DPIRD matching funds	94 515	
AWI Training Funding Year 2 (\$38,571.43 total)		\$20,000
IFS State Barrier Fence Monitoring project Year 2		\$18,011
IFS Shire of Kent funding (6 months) Total 2021 \$18,149		\$9,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$189, 030	\$47,011
EXPENSES		
Program 1 – Wild Dogs (Foxes)		
LPMT Contract ¹	60,000	
Insurance SBF public liability dogging activity	900	
RCPD applications (subsidised for Landholders in priority areas)	1,000	
IFS Shire of Kent funding (6 months) Total 2021 \$18,149 LPMT		\$9,000
IFS State Barrier Fence Monitoring project Year 2		\$18,011
Program 2 - Complementary Integrated Pest Management		
Rabbit biological control and bait contract / landholder uptake	24,500	
Fox Bait Program	6,000	
Feral cat project – loan cat traps, trial Eradicat baits	4,000	
Annual Fox Shoot Community event	2260	
Program 3 – Priority Declared Weeds		
Targeted control of priority weeds.	27,500	
Ongoing review of existing control areas.		
Survey and reporting of weeds in Ravensthorpe		
Program 4 – Governance and Administration		
Executive Officer	50, 000	
Other – Audit, Stationery, Equipment	3,900	
Meeting expenses, teleconference / zoom costs/face to face	2500	
Honorarium committee	1,000	
Operational contingency	10,000	
Carryover to DPA	20,000	
RAIN Administration including finance and office expense share	7,800	
RAIN 1/3 rd share of insurances (increase request RAIN)	1,200	
Insurance Workers Compensation (Executive Officer)	900	
Equipment replacement account/new technologies	1,070	
Program 5 – Community Engagement/Operations/Advocacy		
Biosecurity event 20 Year celebration incorporating Pest Forum	3,000	
AWI Funding Pest workshops, landholder/LPMT networks		20,000
Group activities – advertising, sponsored FB posts	1,500	
Annual mailout letter to landholders	3,000	
Maintain electronic presence – information hub development on website etc.) as part of Communications strategy	3,000	
Promotional information brochures, booklets, stands, banners	2,000	
Travel allowance	2,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$189,030	\$47,011

¹ LPMT contract is for 100 days of control works – to be reviewed annually

SBG Forecast Operating Budget 2021 – 2022

INCOME	DETAIL/NOTES	DPA/DPR	Other Sources
Rate revenue		\$94 515.00	
Govt matching		\$94 515.00	
Additional DPA		\$ 0-	
Reserve fund			
Carryover	2020-2021 estimated	\$from June quarterly	
Interest		- N/A	
	Total DPA/DPR	189, 030.00	
Subscriptions			
AWI			20,000
Grants	IFS SBF Monitoring Project		
	IFS Shire of Kent Magenta Project		18,011
Sales	N/A		-
Carryover	DPA		-
Interest	N/A		-
	Total- Other sources		47,011
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			\$
	plus Expected Carryover	20,000	

Once the individual Operational Budget program is agreed and approved by committee, I will be able to complete the tables above, format and forward to RAIN for sign off and submit before Christmas.

Karyn, there is also a letter for you to complete and send with the Operational plan.

EXPENDITURE	DETAIL/NOTES	DPA/DPR	Other Sources
	Program 1 – Wild Dogs		
	RCP Permits	\$1 000.00	-
	LPMT Contract SBG	\$60,000.00	
	IFS LPMT Contractor Shire of Kent		\$9,000
	IFS SBF Monitoring project		\$18,011
	Insurance	\$900.00	
	Total Program 1	\$ 61, 900.00	\$27,011
	Program 2 – Fox, rabbit, feral cats		
	Total Program 2		-
	Program 3 – Priority Weeds		
	Total Program 3		-
			-

	Program 4 – Governance and		
--	-----------------------------------	--	--

	Administration		
Total Program 4			
	Program 5 - Community Engagement/Operations/Advocacy		
Total Program 5			
TOTAL COST		\$169,030.00	\$47,011.00
<i>Contingency allocation for DPR non-payment</i>		\$20,000.00	
GRAND EXPENDITURE		\$236,041	-
OUTCOME		\$20,000.00	

Key action areas for SBG for 2020/22 with annual review

Wild dogs

OUTCOME: Reduce the impact of wild dogs in the Ravensthorpe Shire by creating a buffer zone of 20km.

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
<p>Implement actions outlined in the wild dog section of the Biosecurity Management Strategy for the Ravensthorpe Shire.</p> <p>Support and collaborate with activities identified in the WA Wild Dog Strategy 2021-2025.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBG Committee • Local landholders • Broader community • Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development • Licensed Pest Management Technician • Other groups involved in wild dog control in Western Australia (particularly adjoining RBGs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to coordinate wild dog management activities (e.g. baiting, shooting and trapping) • Encourage Landholders to actively support through baiting programs • Licensed pest management technician is contracted to June 2022. Review and advertise contract March 2022. • Target areas reviewed annually via roundtable with key stakeholders- Landholders, Committee, DBCA, DPIRD and LPMTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of 100 days of wild dog control activities delivered in the region • Dog sightings and attacks are minimised.
Record impacts of wild dogs in the Ravensthorpe Shire through the use of Feralscan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pestsmart • LPMT • SBG Committee • Local landholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All data for the financial year recorded and reviewed annually through Feralscan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All wild dog data collected by Southern Biosecurity Group in Feralscan
Liaise with other groups that have interest in wild dog control for joint maintenance, reporting and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with other EOs through regular teleconferences and face to face meetings • Promote wild dogs as a state issue in collaboration with other RBGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in regular meetings with other RBGs and groups involved in wild dog control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of meetings participated in
Provide support for the maintenance of the State Barrier Fence and access roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBG Committee • Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report fence conditions to DPIRD and SBF manager and encourage strategic maintenance (as required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of fence condition reports provided to DPIRD and response
Encourage UCL track maintenance to access the State Barrier Fence, buffer zone and rock holes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to liaise with relevant departments about the need to maintain strategic track in the UCL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable
Continue to raise awareness of the impacts of wild dogs, the need and reporting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local landholders • Broader community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication plan developed by 30 June 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 plan completed

Rabbits

OUTCOME: Reduced impact of rabbits across the shire of Ravensthorpe through coordination and collaboration

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
Continue to release the RDHV1 K5 virus and any other biological controls at key sites across the Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of interest process for release sites • Liaise with Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network regarding the release and options for collaboration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EOI process (August 2020 and February 2021) • Two releases of the virus (October 2020 and April 2021) • Continue to provide information on protecting pet rabbits from the virus (ongoing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of EOIs received • Number of releases • Number of articles
Maintain information on local effective and preferred integrated control methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote rabbit control methods through key community engagement events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control information updated (June 2022) • Promote control options (August 2020 and February 2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates completed. • Website hits • Feedback via annual survey
Promote the need for rabbit control in the Ravensthorpe shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the Southern Biosecurity Group website with information on the impacts of rabbits in the Ravensthorpe Shire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website updated quarterly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of updates
Feasibility of local monitoring program to determine the abundance of rabbits and effectiveness of the virus release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with relevant research groups with expertise in this area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility assessment completed by 30 June 2021 implemented where possible 30 June 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of feasibility assessments

Foxes

OUTCOME: Reduced number of foxes and increased landholder activity in management and community engagement

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
Community fox shoot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver 1 community fox shoot • Liaise with the Hopetoun Clay Target Club regarding the fox shoot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fox shoot (Feb/March 2021/22) • Event wrap up article in the Community Spirit (March 2021, 2022), SBG Website and RAIN e-news 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 event held • Number of people participating • Number of foxes, rabbits and feral cats humanely destroyed • Number of articles
Continue to trap and bait for foxes as a component of the wild dog control program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local landholders • LPMT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fox control data entered into Feralscan by 30 December 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data entry completed

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
Encourage the use of fox traps in areas that are unable to be baited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop up a process for the safe and humane use of the traps Liaise with Rangers at the Shire of Ravensthorpe about the possibility of humanely destroying any trapped foxes' Promote the process and options for humane disposal of trapped foxes. Liaise with Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network about the process for managing the traps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process for safe and humane use of traps developed by 1 February 2021 Monitoring sheet developed to go with the traps so people can report their efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 process for safe and humane use of fox traps developed Number of requests for traps 1 monitoring sheet developed
Promote the impacts of foxes in the Ravensthorpe Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the Southern Biosecurity Group website with information on the impacts of foxes in the Ravensthorpe Shire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website updated quarterly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of updates

Starlings

OUTCOME: More landholders aware of the process and need for reporting suspected starling sightings

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
Raise awareness of starlings in the Ravensthorpe community and ensure that people can identify starlings and report sightings to DPIRD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at community days to promote the impact of starlings and the process of reporting infestations Maintain a section on the website relating to starlings, their impact and how to report suspected sightings. Include information on their possible economic and environmental impact in the Shire of Ravensthorpe. Promote impact of starlings and the need to report sightings through Community Spirit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paddy's Market Day presence (Jan 2021) Web page update (ongoing) RAIN Crop Updates (Mar 2021) 2 Community Spirit articles (Sep 2020 and April 2021) – pre- and post-trapping period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence at community events Number of community inquiries Number of website hits Number of articles
Collaborate with and support DPIRD in the reporting and eradication of local infestations of starlings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with DPIRD on support required at a local level. Additional actions to be identified as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before the beginning of trapping program 	

Feral cats

OUTCOME: Reduced number of feral cats and understanding of the devastating impact on biodiversity

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
Community trapping of feral cats and introduction of Eradecat when available via DBCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the availability of cat traps for loan Develop up a process for the safe and humane use of the traps and disposal. Liaise with Rangers at the Shire of Ravensthorpe Maintain a section on the Southern Biosecurity Group website on the impacts of feral cats and the distinction between feral and domestic cats. Encourage and support DBCA in the use of Eradecat on lands under their control Liaise with Feral cat groups to support and maintain best management practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase a microchip reader (if required) Ensure Process for safe and humane use of traps is implemented and regularly reviewed. Create and monitor data management of cat control reporting. Website updates (6 monthly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of cats trapped Number of traps loaned Number of cats humanely destroyed Number of website updates
Investigate options for broader landscape scale control of feral cats across the region and state through liaison with the WA Feral Cat Strategic group (Peel Harvey Catchment Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with PHCC and research scientists, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and others on integrated landscape scale cat control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a project and project brief for delivering broad scale cat control (August 2021) and seek external funding where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide input into the WA Feral cat strategy (PHCC) Project brief developed

Bridal creeper

OUTCOME: More landholders aware of the control options to limit the spread of bridal creeper and reporting the extent

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
Promote options for control of bridal creeper and include funding for strategic demonstrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at community day to promote control options Maintain a section on the website relating to bridal creeper control Promote control options through local media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual control article in the Community Spirit Webpage updates seasonally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence at community events Number of community inquiries Number of website hits

Prickly Pear (*Opuntia monacantha*)

OUTCOME: Increase awareness and reporting to reduce the area of infestation of prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*) and any identified species of Opuntoid cacti in the Ravensthorpe Shire

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
Continue to deliver eradication effort in the Oldfield River corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with landholders along the Oldfield River to increase awareness of prickly pear and to promote sightings • Continue to promote prickly pear as a species to manage and report through community events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding to continue control activities in the Oldfield River corridor (ongoing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success of external funding applications
Raise awareness within the community of Opuntia and eradication successes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with broader community to promote the awareness of the impacts of cactus, the need for reporting and how to go about it. • Maintain the Southern Biosecurity Group website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media articles promoting cactus month in November 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 media articles about cactus and the need for reporting
Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of management actions to eradicate local populations of Opuntia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the outcomes of cactus control work in the Ravensthorpe Shire through a range of channels, including the Southern Biosecurity Group website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website updates (quarterly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of website updates

Apple of Sodom

OUTCOME: Reduce the area of infestation of Apple of Sodom (*Solanum linnaeanum*) and demonstrate control activities

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
Deliver economically feasible control actions to reduce the area of infestation of apple of Sodom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network to determine the extent of apple of Sodom infestations and the economic feasibility of eradication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and actions developed based on feasibility assessment completed (30 September 2020) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility assessment completed
Continue to promote control options for Apple of Sodom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the need for control and control options through a range of channels including the Southern Biosecurity Group website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website updates (quarterly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of website updates

Community engagement

OUTCOME: Landholders are providing input into declared species priorities and are seeing value in integrated pest management and DPR is being paid.

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
Annual landholder letter and priorities survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter and survey sent to all landholders in the Shire of Ravensthorpe updating on group's activities and providing the opportunity to input into the annual survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter and survey sent (July annually) Letter and survey made available through the website (July annually) Survey promoted through the Community Spirit and RAIN e-news Community Spirit article on the survey results annually when appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate and quality of survey responses (increase over time) Number of articles produced
Promote awareness of current relevant pest issues through displays, e-news newspaper, meetings and workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the communications and engagement calendar (see attached) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications and engagement calendar reviewed and implemented annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of articles produced Number of website hits
Promote group achievements and outcomes from group activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the communications and engagement calendar (see attached) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications and engagement calendar implemented (30 June 2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report produced and made available
Encourage community pest surveillance and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of the methods for reporting pest plant and animal sightings Investigate the option of establishing an SBG What's App group to allow for easy reporting of declared species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage My Pest Guide Reporter at any displays and events and encourage Feralscan reporting. Monitor and evaluate any social media in place with committee annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of times the guide is promoted Number of responses to RAIN Facebook page and SBG Whats App Group.
Keep watching brief and share practical tools to assist in the control of declared species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders are utilising tools
20-year Celebration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite community and key stakeholders to review and celebrate achievements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Year Celebration even 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well attended and appreciated event that showcases the achievements and the current best practice and research on declared species management in the Shire of Ravensthorpe

Governance and administration

OUTCOME: A vibrant and well supported and responsive committee with strong governance and transparent decision-making.

Activities	Stakeholder engagement	Milestones (timeframe)	Performance
Successfully access a diverse range of funding sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBG Committee • Broader community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access additional funding to deliver activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of applications and successful funding applications
Ensure generic information to assist with funding applications is available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBG Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information hub is regularly updated and base information current. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of updates • Number of landholders referred to funding opportunities • Number of hits on the website
Develop investment partnerships to implement declared species actions in the Ravensthorpe Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be identified as part of Strategic planning review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships developed and relationships maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of partnerships of value and additional outcomes and possible resources provided
Identify possible new members for the SBG Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage participation • Provide training opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New committee members identified by 31 December 2021 	
Annually develop Business and Operational Plan and associated budget that is informed by evidence and strategic planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an opportunity for all landholders to provide into priorities through the annual priority survey (see Community Engagement) • Review Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan developed for the 2022/23 financial year and submitted to DPIRD by December 2021 • Budget developed for the 2022/23 financial year and submitted to DPIRD by 30 October 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan submitted on time • Budget submitted on time
Maintain a Risk Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with SBG Committee for input into the plan and assessment of the risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan updated by 30 June 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and updated Risk Management Plan
Maintain job descriptions for committee members, executive officer and LPMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBG Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job descriptions reviewed by 30 June 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of updates
Maintain a procedures guide to capture key business processes and best practice pest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with SBG Committee to review business processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes reviewed annually by 30 June 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of review.
Update and maintain the Biosecurity Management Strategy for the Ravensthorpe Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBG Committee • Shire of Ravensthorpe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity Management Strategy reviewed annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of update

Risk Register December 2020

Risk	Existing Controls	Adequacy of Controls Excellent, Adequate, Weak, or Inadequate	Likelihood Rare (1), Unlikely (2), Moderate (3), Major (4), or Almost Certain (5)	Consequence Insignificant (1), Minor (2), Moderate (3), Major (4), or Catastrophic (5)	Residual Risk Rating Low, Moderate, High, or Extreme	Accept Risk Yes /No	Treatment / Mitigation Plan (if risk unacceptable) or noted for future consideration
Key species identified by local landholders not manageable or WA State priority	RBG DPIRD support	A	4	4	M	Y	Awareness and information on impact of Declared Pests Liaise with DPIRD on categories
Incident with Poison resulting in deaths of non-target species	Employment of professional LPMTs who adhere to Code of Practice	A	3	4	M	Y	<i>Annual review of licences, procedures and expectations</i>
Continued access to 1080 and strychnine	Educate	W	3	5	M	Y	Strong coordinated messaging-communications plan
Access to Public (UCL) lands for control	MOUs with DBCA	W	4	5	H	Y	Ongoing negotiations
Lack of capacity and interest in management committee -poor governance and accountability	Correct identification of groups and individuals involved. Training provided	A	3	4	M	Y	Re-visit initial groups and supporters
Groups suffer ongoing uncertainty due review of BAM Act/ State Election 2021	Maximise awareness, consultation and community engagement and specific declared pests	W	3	4	M	Y	Recognise and support urban areas. Strong communications and engagement strategy
Lack of guaranteed Matching funds (DPR) provided by the Government	National and WA strategy and BAMA. Existing groups with DPR implemented	A	1	5	L	Y	Strong governance with good impact on pests
Non - adoption of community coordinated approach	Communications strategy and evidence-base showing impact	A	2	3	M	Y	Database and Feralscan to show activities have impact

Risk	Existing Controls	Adequacy of Controls Excellent, Adequate, Weak, or Inadequate	Likelihood Rare (1), Unlikely (2), Moderate (3), Major (4), or Almost Certain (5)	Consequence Insignificant (1), Minor (2), Moderate (3), Major (4), or Catastrophic (5)	Residual Risk Rating Low, Moderate, High, or Extreme	Accept Risk Yes /No	Treatment / Mitigation Plan (if risk unacceptable) or noted for future consideration
Change in policy, strategies, alignment of programs /structure of DPIRD / DBCA other Govt Biosecurity Council	Biosecurity Council Goodwill of participants	W	5	4	MH	Y	Data management collection, determination and agreement of best practice, Biosecurity Officers support Structure to support RBGs
Alternate Funding opportunities Separate projects – Wild Dogs, Feral Pigs	Reduced perception for DPR need and increased inequities	A	5	3	H	Y	Overall better coordination in new structure.
Declared pest management is everyone's responsibility DPR tensions in other RBG areas	Increased messaging and understanding	W	3	2	M	Y	Corporate and local communications strategy
Administration burden. Timely information, support, expectations, reporting	Recognised in new structure with additional support including Office of RBG	W	3	3	H	Y	Identification of process going forward RBG Manual
Poor seasons/ New incursions/ COVID 19	N/A	A	2	3	M	Y	Maintain close relationships with Govt agencies and RBGs
Lack of input and action on National/ WA Wild dog program	Adhoc advocacy when in crisis/funding	W	4	3	M	Y	Strong advocacy by united state wide RBG
No partnership /MOU with DPIRD. Policy, process, information and research	Adhoc requests and provision of information	W	4	4	H	N	MOU and funding contract in place
No State strategy for data capture/sharing and evaluation	IFS funded Wild dog project	W	4	4	H	Y	Liaise and work with other RBGs/ Government

Communications and engagement calendar

Month	Activities
January	Seasonal hiatus
February	Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news – article Annual Community Fox Shoot in conjunction with Red Card for Red Fox
March	SBG newsletter / update RAIN hosted Crop Updates – LPMT attendance Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news -article
April	Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news -article
May	Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news -article
June	Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news -article
July	Annual landholder letter sent Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news -article
August	Annual report released Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news -article
September	Community priorities survey RAIN Spring Field Walk Display at Ravensthorpe Wildflower Festival Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news -article
October	Draft Operational Plan approved at AGM Annual report including audited financial report provided to DPIRD Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news -article
November	Cactus Month Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news - article
December	Seasonal hiatus Community Spirit – article RAIN e-news -article

Please note: Pest workshops and 20-year Pest Management Celebration are proposed however these will be contingent on seasonal and local community interactions that arise and provide a collaborative opportunity. AWI funding is yet to be included and no details are currently available from the WA Wild Dog Action 2021-25 plan.

Southern Biosecurity Group does not hold community bait rack days.

Many of the activities are designed to inform, engage and enhance landholder and stakeholder knowledge and understanding of specific pest management activities and integrated pest management.

The Southern Biosecurity Group’s website is developing into a Knowledge Hub and is key component of the strategy.