

Operational Plan 2022-2023

Southern
Biosecurity Group



PO Box 292
Ravensthorpe WA 6346
0484 932 447
sbg.execofficer@gmail.com

PESTS AND WEEDS

YOUR ENVIRONMENT

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

YOUR LEGACY

Disbursement Financial Year 22/23

Suggested payment schedule as follows:

1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter
1 July 2022 \$96,009 WA Government Matching Funds amount of DPR	1 October 2022 \$Nil	1 January 2023 \$50,000 (or funds collected)	1 April 2023 Remainder of DPR received or available in DPA

Table of Contents

Disbursement Financial Year 22/23	2
Introduction	4
About Us	4
Southern Biosecurity Group Committee	5
Aims and Objectives	5
Communication and Engagement	5
Community Survey	5
Proposed 2022/2023 Budget	6
Declared Pest Rate (DPR) for the Southern Biosecurity Group Area	6
Appendix 1 - Key action areas for SBG for 2022/23	7
Appendix 2 - Communications and engagement calendar	10
Appendix 3 – Proposed Budget for 2022/23	11

Introduction

This draft Operational Plan sets out the activities for Southern Biosecurity Group for the 2022/23 financial year.

Activities identified in this Plan are aimed at achieving strategic priorities set out in SBG’s Strategic Plan. The ‘Biosecurity Management Strategy for the Ravensthorpe Shire’ was used to inform these activities.

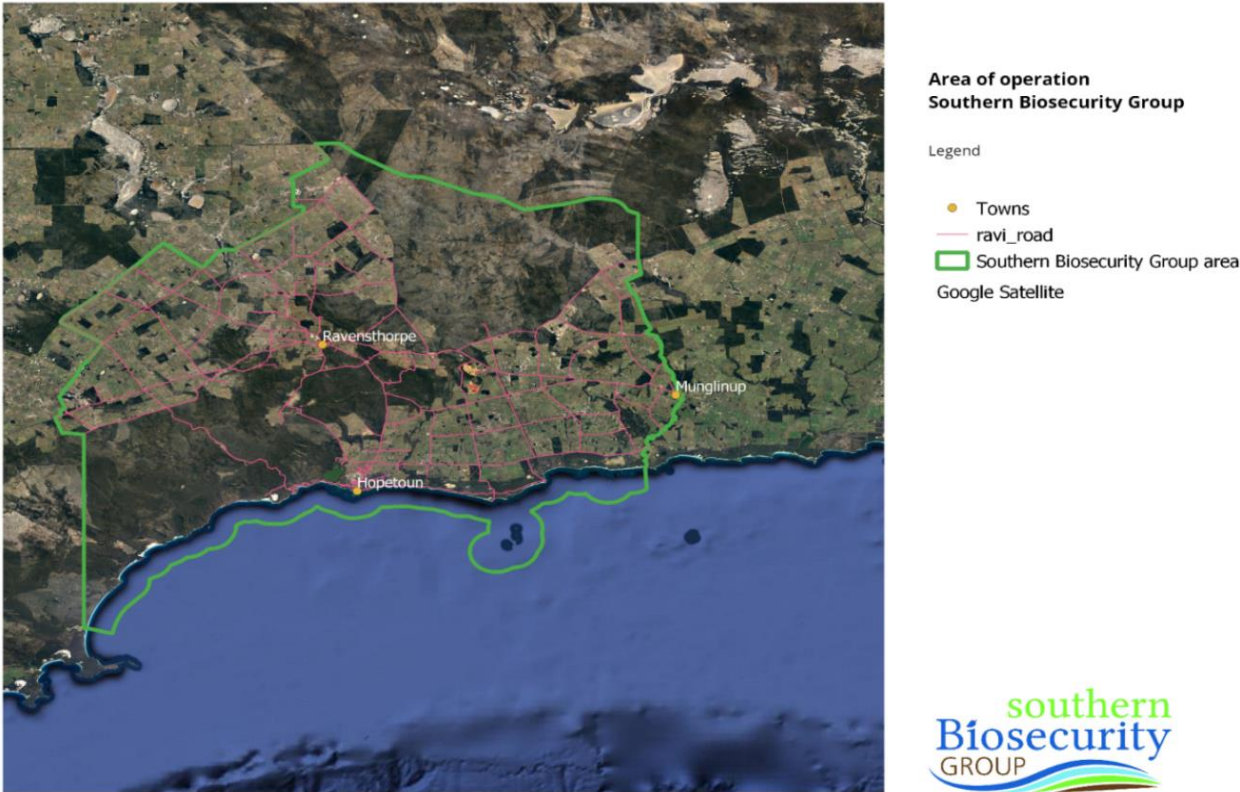
About Us

Southern Biosecurity Group (SBG) is a subgroup committee of the Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN) mandated to coordinate control of declared pest species in the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

We first began operating in 2002 as the Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group. At that time, our role involved coordinating wild dog control in the shire. We achieved good control of wild dog numbers through a range of activities including dispersing of 1080 baits, trapping and shooting.

We believe declared pests can be better managed by a coordinated approach between community, industry and government.

This belief has led us to become a Recognised Biosecurity Group through the *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) which is currently in a review stage. This means that community funds raised through the Declared Pest Rate are matched dollar for dollar by government enabling us to provide coordinated and targeted control of declared pests within the shire. The area of operation is shown below.



Southern Biosecurity Group Committee

Southern Biosecurity Group Committee members are:

- ▶ Karyn Tuckett
- ▶ Gemma Walker
- ▶ Jennifer Chambers
- ▶ Reece Laycock
- ▶ Chenae Cooper

Aims and Objectives

The Southern Biosecurity Group's draft Operational Plan is to focus on the key areas listed below that address strategic objectives as set out in the SBG Strategic Plan. These are:

- ▶ Declared animal species -wild dog, fox, rabbit and feral cat;
- ▶ Declared weed species – Apple of Sodom, Cactus and Bridal Creeper;
- ▶ Governance;
- ▶ Administration; and
- ▶ Community engagement.

A more detailed link of the strategies and actions is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Communication and Engagement

A draft calendar of communication and engagement activity options has been provided in **Appendix 2**. It is important to note that this is not a full list as it does not incorporate community activities to increase landholder awareness. Dates for these activities will be set in collaboration with presenters and the community. Other activities will be delivered throughout the year; however, dates have not yet been established (e.g. community fox shoot).

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

Community Survey

As part of developing the Operational Plan a priority survey was distributed in September 2021 with our annual newsletter to landowners to gain community input. The survey was promoted in the 'Community Spirit' Newsletter, RAIN eNews and on the SBG website. MailChimp was used to create a digital version of the survey which was promoted in the SBG Newsletter, on the SBG website (homepage) and on local community Facebook pages.

Due to a delay in being provided landholder mailing information, the closing date had to be extended to 14 October 2021. An update on responses was provided at the RAIN AGM held on 8 October 2021. To date only 16 responses have been received, with the following Priority species identified:

- ▶ Rabbits
- ▶ Wild dogs
- ▶ Foxes
- ▶ Apple of Sodom
- ▶ Feral Cats
- ▶ Bridal Creeper
- ▶ Phytophthora Dieback
- ▶ Prickly Pear

A key message from this survey is the need to provide education and workshops, also access to free baits.

Proposed 2022/2023 Budget

The projected operational budget for 2022/23 will be \$173,233. This includes the landholder rate of \$96,009 and the matching funds from the WA State Government (less 20% for unpaid rates), in addition to \$417 interest on funds in the Declared Pest Account.

There is no change in the rate from 2021/22. A detailed budget is provided in **Appendix 3**.

Declared Pest Rate (DPR) for the Southern Biosecurity Group Area

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

- ▶ Improved animal welfare by preventing wild dog 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 walking, sightseeing and horse riding in bushland areas;
- ▶ Reduce fox numbers by uptake of baits via wild dog baiting programs;
- ▶ Impact on fox and rabbit numbers from coordination of annual shoot and release of RHDV1K5 rabbit virus;
- ▶ Provision of equipment to trap pests impacting on urban areas;
- ▶ Support endangered species conservation, (e.g. numbats and malleefowl); and
- ▶ Prevent the establishment of wild dog populations within national parks, reserves and urban residential areas.

The rate for the 2022/23 financial year will remain unchanged from the previous year, with the following rates to be applied to all properties:

Hectare Ranges	Flat Rate (fixed sum) \$
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

Appendix 1 - Key action areas for SBG for 2022/23

Program	Strategy	Actions	Timeframe
1. Declared Animal Species - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wild Dog ○ Fox ○ Rabbit ○ Feral cat 	1.1 Implement the actions outlined in Section 6.2: Wild Dog Management, 'Biosecurity Management Strategy for the Ravensthorpe Shire'.	1.1.1: Update Section 6.2: Wild Dog Management, 'Biosecurity Management Strategy for the Ravensthorpe Shire' ensuring consistency and alignment with the declared pest action plan formats and the National Wild Dog Action Plan 2020-2030.	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing As per Calendar Ongoing Ongoing
		1.1.2: Continue to coordinate wild dog management activities (e.g. baiting, shooting and trapping).	
		1.1.3: Contract services of a licensed pest management technician to carry out control works.	
		1.1.4: Liaise with other groups who have an interest in wild dog control for joint maintenance, reporting and community engagement.	
		1.1.5: Maintain open communications with DPIRD on the issue.	
		1.1.6: Continue education of the community through e-news and other methods.	
		1.1.7: Work with other groups (e.g. EBA, EWBG) to collectively promote the issue.	
		1.1.8: Promote wild dogs and other animal species as a state-wide issue.	
	1.2 Provide support for the maintenance of the State Barrier Fence and access roads.	1.2.1: Report fence conditions to DPIRD and SBF Manager and encourage strategic maintenance.	Ongoing
		1.2.2: Continue minor fence maintenance activities by LPMT.	
	1.3 Encourage UCL track maintenance to access the State Barrier Fence, buffer zone and rock holes.	1.3.1: Develop a business case articulating the pest and fire control benefits of strategically graded access tracks, outlining the SBG contribution to pest management and recommending strategic works.	April – June 2023
		1.3.2: Present the business case to DBCA, FESA and the Shire of Ravensthorpe for incorporation into their Work Plans.	
	1.4 Reduce the numbers and impacts of feral cats and foxes	1.4.1: Develop complementary (to Western Shield) feral cat and fox control measures on private and other lands in the Ravensthorpe Shire.	December 2023
		1.4.2: Support research and improved understanding of the ecological interactions between foxes, feral cats and wild dogs to optimise controls.	
	1.5 Reduce the impact of rabbits	1.5.1: Support the continuation of the RHDV1-K5 rabbit virus release program and other control techniques.	March-April 2023
1.5.2: Develop an objective understanding of rabbit population and distribution fluctuations, impacts on agricultural production, and efficacy of control measures in the Ravensthorpe Shire.			
1.5.3: Establish project areas for pest animal works and liaise with adjoining public and private landholders to implement an integrated and coordinated program.			
1.5.4: Develop information on local effective and preferred control methods.			
1.5.5: Support research into the ecological role of rabbits.			

Program	Strategy	Actions	Timeframe	
2. Declared Weed Species– <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apple of Sodom ○ Bridal Creeper ○ Cactus 	2.1 Control weed species to reduce seed set and plant vigour	2.1.1 Better coordinate efforts with DBCA, Shire of Ravensthorpe, DPIRD and MRWA management teams. 2.1.2 Encourage reciprocal weed information sharing and reporting. 2.1.3 Promote awareness of current relevant pest issues through displays, e-news, newspaper and meetings. 2.1.4 Encourage community weed surveillance and action on private land including reporting to the SBG. 2.1.5 Investigate innovative user-pays services or offers that the SBG could provide to community members at a subsidised rate for declared or non-declared pests (e.g. arrange LPMT services).	Ongoing	
	3.1 Maintain a vibrant and well supported committee	3.1.1: Identify and attract possible new members for the SBG Committee.	Ongoing	
	3. Governance	3.2 Establish clear planning and reporting processes for the SBG's strategic direction and operations	3.2.1: Undertake a Strategic Plan prioritisation process annually.	August to October 2022
			3.2.2: Develop an annual Operational Plan and an associated Budget for RAIN AGM and DPIRD.	
			3.2.3 Develop an Annual Report including audited report for RAIN AGM and submit to DPIRD. 3.2.4: Maintain a Risk Management Plan/Register. 3.2.5 Maintain a Conflict-of-Interest Policy and Register.	Ongoing Ongoing
3.3 Produce clear and simple procedures and templates for the EO role and responsibilities	3.3.1: Maintain job description forms for key roles (Committee, EO and LPMT). 3.3.2: Maintain a procedures guide to capture key business processes and best practice pest management.	Ongoing		
3.4 Implement an OH&S Workplace and Contractor Policy and supporting documentation required for compliance	3.4.1 Obtain template documents from DPIRD and/or DMIRS to meet the new OH&S Legislation scheduled to be introduced in early 2022. 3.4.2 Distribute to all LPMT's an information sheet and Consent Form for compliance with all related policies and procedures.	Feb – March 2023		
4. Administration	4.1 Successfully access a diverse range of funding sources	4.1.1: Develop and maintain a Funding Register of potential funding sources and available grants (Landmark, Elders, Federal Govt, DPIRD, SCNRM, SNRM, AWI, MLA, DBCA, Shires, Indigenous groups, MRWA, Galaxy, FQM) and update as and when required.	Ongoing	
		4.1.2: Access a wide range of funding newsletters for potential opportunities.		
		4.1.3: Maintain SBG Funding Handbook / Filing System of necessary information to assist with efficiently writing funding applications.		
		4.1.4: Continue to develop investment partnerships to implement declared species actions within the Ravensthorpe shire.		

Program	Strategy	Actions	Timeframe
5. Community engagement	5.1 Ensure that there is landholder input into declared species priorities	5.1.1: Seek landholder input into operational declared pest priorities.	August 2022
	5.2 Provide tangible value for landholders and community members	5.2.1: Promote awareness of current relevant pest issues through displays, e-news, newspaper and meetings.	Ongoing
		5.2.2: Promote group achievements and outcomes from group activities.	
		5.2.3: Encourage community pest surveillance and reporting to the SBG.	
		5.2.4: Hold a community biosecurity event annually.	
		5.2.5: Develop practical tools to assist in the control of declared species (e.g. glove-box guides, apps).	
	5.3 Collaborate with the Shire of Ravensthorpe on their Weeds and Pest Policy	5.2.6: Investigate innovative user-pays services or offers that the SBG could provide to community members at a subsidised rate for declared species (e.g. loan traps).	August 2022
		5.2.7: Develop a prospectus on the SBG's spend on biosecurity and achievements, and communicate these to stakeholders.	April 2023
	5.4 Develop strong lines of communication with the DPIRD Biosecurity Team	5.3.1: Articulate the Shire's need to manage pests and weeds on their reserves, camping areas and roadsides and the impacts on their budget.	January 2023
		5.3.2: Engage with the Shire to develop a Weeds and Pest Policy.	
5.3.3: Identify areas for collaboration and seek funding to match SBG in-kind contributions.			
5.3.4: Develop an MoU to solidify the relationship.			
5.3.5: Encourage reciprocal weed information sharing and reporting.			
5.5 Improve coordinated efforts with DBCA and MRWA management teams	5.4.1: Establish direct lines of access to information regarding biosecurity and RBGs.	Ongoing	
	5.4.2: Promote better dissemination of potential funding opportunities to groups and increased collaboration with other RBGs.		
	5.4.3: Establish an MoU including a clear communication protocol.		
5.5 Improve coordinated efforts with DBCA and MRWA management teams	5.5.1: Continue to collaborate on the timing of baiting and coordination of efforts through open communication of works schedules.	Ongoing	
	5.5.2: Encourage reciprocal weed information sharing and reporting.		
	5.5.3: Develop MoU's for recurrent funding of control activities.		

Appendix 2 - Communications and engagement calendar

Month	Activities
January	- Paddy's Market – Hopetoun
February	- Community Spirit – article - RAIN e-news – article - advice of ongoing baiting for wild dogs, foxes, rabbits
March	- Quarterly newsletter - RAIN e-news -article
April	- RAIN e-news -article
May	- RAIN e-news -article
June	- Quarterly newsletter - Community Spirit – article - RAIN e-news -article
July	- RAIN e-news -article
August	- RAIN e-news -article - Finalised Budget and Operational Plan uploaded to website - Dowerin Field Day – Information stand
September	- Community Declared Pest Priorities Survey to be distributed to Landholders - Quarterly newsletter / Annual letter to be distributed to Landholders - Community Spirit – article - RAIN Spring Field Day – community consultation - RAIN e-news -article - Display at Ravensthorpe Wildflower Festival - Sponsorship of Junior Arts Award
October	- Draft Operational Plan, Annual Report, Audited Report and Budget for approval at the RAIN AGM - Annual Report (incl. audited financial report) to be provided to DPIRD - Community Workshop on Rabbit control - Community Spirit – article - RAIN e-news -article
November	- Community Spirit – article - RAIN e-news -article
December	- Quarterly newsletter - Community Spirit – summary article of the year's events/updates - RAIN e-news -article

Appendix 3 – Proposed Budget for 2022/23



SOUTHERN BIOSECURITY GROUP FORECAST OPERATIONAL BUDGET 22/23 (GST EX)

INCOME	Detail notes	2022/23
		Budget
Rate revenue		76,807
Govt matching	<i>DPIRD advice figure</i>	96,009
Interest DPA account	<i>from April-June 2021 YTD Q1 report</i>	417
	TOTAL INCOME	173,233
Additional funding	<i>draw down from DPA balance-covers 20% liability unpaid rates</i>	19,202
	TOTAL INCOME DPA/DPR	192,435
Unspent funds previous yr	<i>received year 19/20</i>	16,063
	<i>received year 20/21</i>	50,508
	FUNDS AVAILABLE	125,864
EXPENDITURE	Administration	
	Contract Executive Officer	69,000
	Office, phone, internet	600
	RAIN finance administration	5,120
	RP application fee	800
	Stationary-postage (excl annual letter)	100
	Subscriptions-memberships	300
	Professional Development	1,000
	Travel-accommodation allowance	3,000
	Total Administration	79,920
	Communication	
	Advertising	1,000
	Annual newsletter landholders(incl post,print)	3,600
	Biosecurity event/awareness incl market day	2,000
	Promotional(brochures,booklets,stands,banner)	800
	Website	1,500
	Total Communications	8,900
	Governance	
	Accountant-audit	3,200
	Committee honorarium-expenses	1,300
	Insurance SBG pub liab(dogging)	870
	Insurance workers compensation EO	3,500
	Insurance RAIN 1/3rd share various	1,300
	Teleconference/zoom meeting costs	300
	Total Governance	10,470
	Declared animal species	
	wild dogs	36,300
	foxes	13,845
	rabbits	11,000
	feral cats	-
	baits, poison, biocontrol etc.	8,000
	signage	1,500
	Total Declared animal species	70,645
	Declared plant species	
	cactus	11,000
	apple sodom	4,500
	bridal creeper	5,000
		-
		-
	materials-herbicide, biological control	-
	Total Declared plant species	20,500
	Operations	
	Equipment purchase-replacement	2,000
	Total Operations	2,000
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	192,435