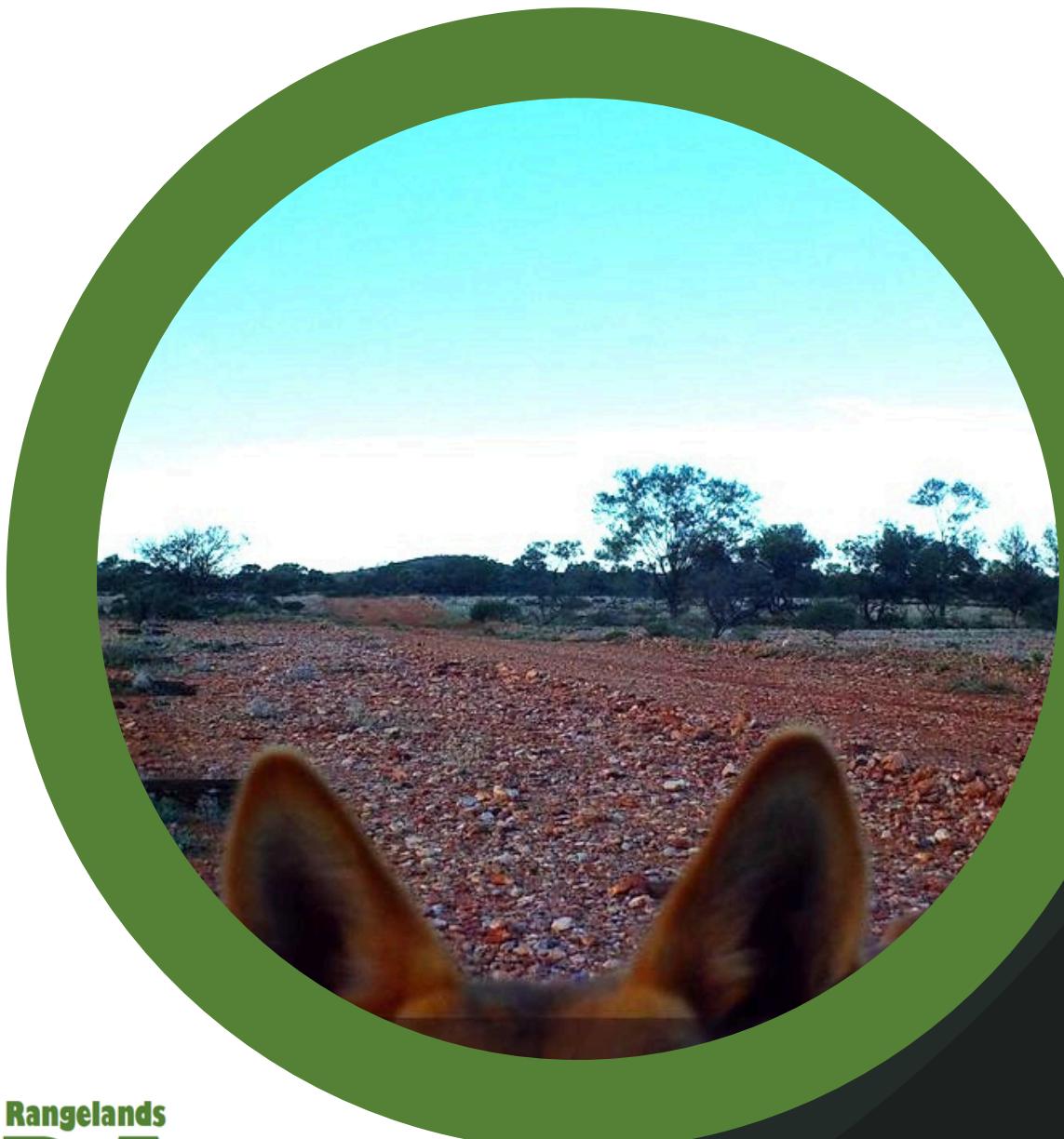


OPERATIONAL PLAN

2025 - 2026



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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 HISTORY

Declared Pest management has been a longstanding practice in the pastoral regions of Western Australia since the inception of the industry. Initially, this management fell to the individual pastoralists before falling under the purview of the Agricultural Protection Board (APB), with the subsequent establishment of Zone Control Authorities (ZCA) in the 1950s, each focusing on specific geographical areas. These ZCAs collaborated with pastoral land managers to specifically mitigate the impacts of wild dogs # on livestock.

In 2007, with the enactment of the Biosecurity Agriculture Management (BAM) Act, efforts to establish Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) commenced. RBGs replaced the ZCAs in 2010, with the Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association (CRBA) being one of five pastoral RBGs established during this time. The RBG model offers a more adaptable framework capable of addressing declared pest issues at a landscape scale.

1.2 ABOUT THE CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASS.

The Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association (CRBA) is a not-for-profit association formed under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, providing assistance in the management of declared pest plants and animals to land managers throughout the Shires of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Murchison, Shark Bay and Upper Gascoyne, along with those pastoral leases below the State Barrier Fence in the Shire of Northampton and City of Greater Geraldton (locality Mullewa).

The CRBA serves as a crucial partner in aiding landholders in managing declared pests on their respective properties. The work undertaken by the CRBA adds value to pest control efforts undertaken by individual landholders, striving to provide a coordinated, landscape-scale approach to declared pest management. Utilising local insights and knowledge.

Our association collects Declared Pest Rates from all Pastoral Leases within this jurisdiction to facilitate and coordinate control measures targeting vertebrate pests, including feral pigs, foxes, and wild dogs, as well as large feral herbivores and declared weed species. We collaborate across both public and private lands to implement these control activities, with the overarching goal of achieving comprehensive landscape management of these invasive species to mitigate total predation pressure and assist in total grazing pressure management.

The association is formally recognised by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Food as a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG).

1.3 MEMBERSHIP

The CRBA membership eligibility criteria is as follows and subject to rule 5.1 (a)(b) of the group's constitution:

Full Member

Full membership of the Association is open to individuals who own or occupy a Pastoral Lease within the CRBA designated area, and are subject to rule 19.3, or likely to be issued a declared pest rate notice, or has a responsibility to manage pests.

Associate Member

Subject to rule 5.2 and 19.3, associate membership of the Association is available to legal organisations that control or manages land within the CRBA region, or that are conducting significant activities on lands within the region. Represented by an authorised person.

There is no charge to being a CRBA member, with the advantage being participation in CRBA declared pest management programs along with the ability to be part of the groups governance processes. The CRBA is not able to automatically bestow membership due to privacy laws preventing access to pastoral leaseholder information within the region.

The CRBA encourages land managers to become members as it allows them to have greater engagement in the community and the groups annual operations for declared pest management. The association is managed by a volunteer committee that spends a considerable amount of its time in managing the operations and compliance of the CRBA.

1.4 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

POSITION	NAME	MEMBER STATION/ORGANISATION	TERM EXPIRY	TERMS
Chairperson	Andrew Whitmarsh	Byro & Ballythuna Stations (<i>Murchison</i>)	25 October 2028	2
Vice Chairperson	Gina McKee	Minilya Station (<i>Carnarvon</i>)	28 October 2026	1
Secretary / Treasurer	Dannielle Ackroyd	Edaggee Station (<i>Carnarvon</i>)	25 October 2028	1
Full Member	Harry McKeogh	Carey Downs Station (<i>Upper Gascoyne</i>)	29 October 2025	3
Full Member	Roger Davies	Eudamullah Station (<i>Upper Gascoyne</i>)	28 October 2026	2
Full Member	Greydon Mead	Bullardoo Stations (<i>Murchison</i>)	25 October 2028	2
Full Member	Simon Thomas	Marron Station (<i>Carnarvon</i>)	28 October 2026	1
Full Member	Ray Hoseason-Smith	Dairy Creek Station (<i>Upper Gascoyne</i>)	28 October 2026	1
Full Member	Ben Dorrell	Mia Mia Station (<i>Carnarvon</i>)	25 October 2028	1
Member	Vacant			
Member	Vacant			

The committee of management consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer and no less than four and no more than eight other members. The positions of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer must all be held by a full member of the association.

The CRBA also contracts the services of a part-time Executive Officer to assist in the day to day operations and compliance of the group.

2. ANNUAL AIMS

The Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association (CRBA) aligns the aims of this annual Operational Plan directly to its objectives in the group's constitution.

- Foster the *management and control of declared pests* throughout the Area, via the formulation, implementation, and review of appropriate management plans and programs;
- Focus on improving further *integration, coordination, and general collaboration* of all Area stakeholders in pest management matters;
- Promote the adoption of *sound biosecurity practices* throughout the Area; and
- Work with non-pastoral landholders to manage land and biosecurity issues that impact heavily on business and non-business entities operating within the landscape

The CRBA will achieve these aims by:

- Continuing to try and attract additional resources;
- Establishing systems and processes to enable the CRBA to continue operating effectively;
- Actively encouraging and working with all land managers (not just pastoral properties) to be engaged and participate in biosecurity matters; and
- Openly communicating with ratepayers and key stakeholders in the business of the CRBA.

This will lead to:

- Resources being provided by non-rate paying land users;
- Increased ownership & active participation by all landholders; and
- Continued assistance with control of declared pests in the region to encourage livestock production increases (due to effective actions of CRBA).

This plan deidentifies activities required to be undertaken over the coming year to ensure the hard work of previous years, specifically on vertebrate pest management, given the continued threat these have on members' businesses. Cost associated with the day-to-day operations, particularly given the general high-cost nature of pest management continue to make delivery of activities across such a vast landscape difficult.

This annual operation plan will continue to assist CRBA members in meeting their legal responsibilities under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act).

Achieving success will help CRBA pastoral businesses become robust and viable through improved production, reduced variable costs, and reduced labour costs.

The CRBA remains focused on mitigating the impacts of declared pests species across the region to minimise the impacts on agriculture, community, and the environment.

Through our annual operations, the CRBA undertakes our activities each year focused on Collaboration, On-ground assistance, Training, Education & Awareness to meet the group's aims. The group remains focused on high-priority declared pests as directed by CRBA members through the committee of management.

Vertebrate Pests continue to cause the greatest concerns across the region for land managers. The greatest impact on pastoral production comes from foxes and wild dogs#, attacking sheep, goats, and young cattle. Not only do these vertebrate pests cause direct stock losses, but they also cause income losses through injury and attack with damage to livestock (sheep and cattle) devaluing livestock when taken to market, along with excluding them from others. The greatest asset in the management of these vertebrate pests continues to be the community-wide baiting programs both ground and aerial, and LPMTs working across the landscape. The CRBA is mindful that the effort undertaken on these pests within our region assists surrounding RBGs by significantly decreasing the move south to the agricultural region of the state of these vertebrate pests. Feral Pigs are destructive pests causing remnant vegetation and water course damage within a high-value water catchment for the Gascoyne. Feral Pigs are also a concern in a small pocket in the eastern part of the CRBA region. These vertebrate pests are also known for their ability to spread disease across the landscape, an ongoing concern for all industries in Western Australia with costs of control given in isolated spread of these pests.

Large feral herbivores continue to be present across the CRBA region, with population movements seeing them appear in areas previously reporting minimal to no numbers. Notable donkey and camel numbers continue to be reported, along with an increasing number of horses seen as far south as the bottom of the Kennedy Ranges, north of the Gascoyne River, along with other concentrations in the Shires of Carnarvon, across the Shire of Murchison and the Shire of Upper Gascoyne. Control of LFH continues to be part of the day-to-day activities undertaken by the LPMT contractors work across the CRBA region, alongside the land managers who work on these pests throughout the year.

Weeds in the CRBA catchment, include Mesquite, Parkinsonia, and Coral Coast Cactus. The CRBA remains focused on controlling these invasive weeds, specifically Mesquite as a declared Weed of National Significance (WONS). It out-competes native vegetation and reduces the productive grazing capacity of pastoral lands. It also exposes topsoil along riverbanks to water and wind erosion, damages infrastructure, and greatly increases the operating costs of pastoral holdings throughout the region.

Coral Cactus continues to be a focus of day to day operations due to the ability and easy access to the cochineal bug. This is beneficial due to the easy spread of this cactus by native fauna and livestock.

*#The term wild dog is used to describe pure-bred dingoes, feral/escaped domestic dogs and their hybrids. Both dingoes and wild domestic dogs are the same species, *Canis familiaris*. Wild dogs are a major pest species impacting on grazing industries across mainland Australia.*

3. AREA OF OPERATION

The CRBA area of operation takes in the Shires of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Murchison, Shark Bay, and Upper Gascoyne. Along with additional pastoral properties below the state barrier fence within the Shire of Northampton and the City of Greater Geraldton (locality of Mullewa) also forming part of the CRBA area of operation. There are over 100 pastoral leases covering some 14.5 million hectares, with approximately 20% small stock carrying properties; multiple Exclusive Native Title properties covering approximately 1.3 million hectares and approximately 2.1 million hectares of land under the control of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation, and Attractions (DBCA).

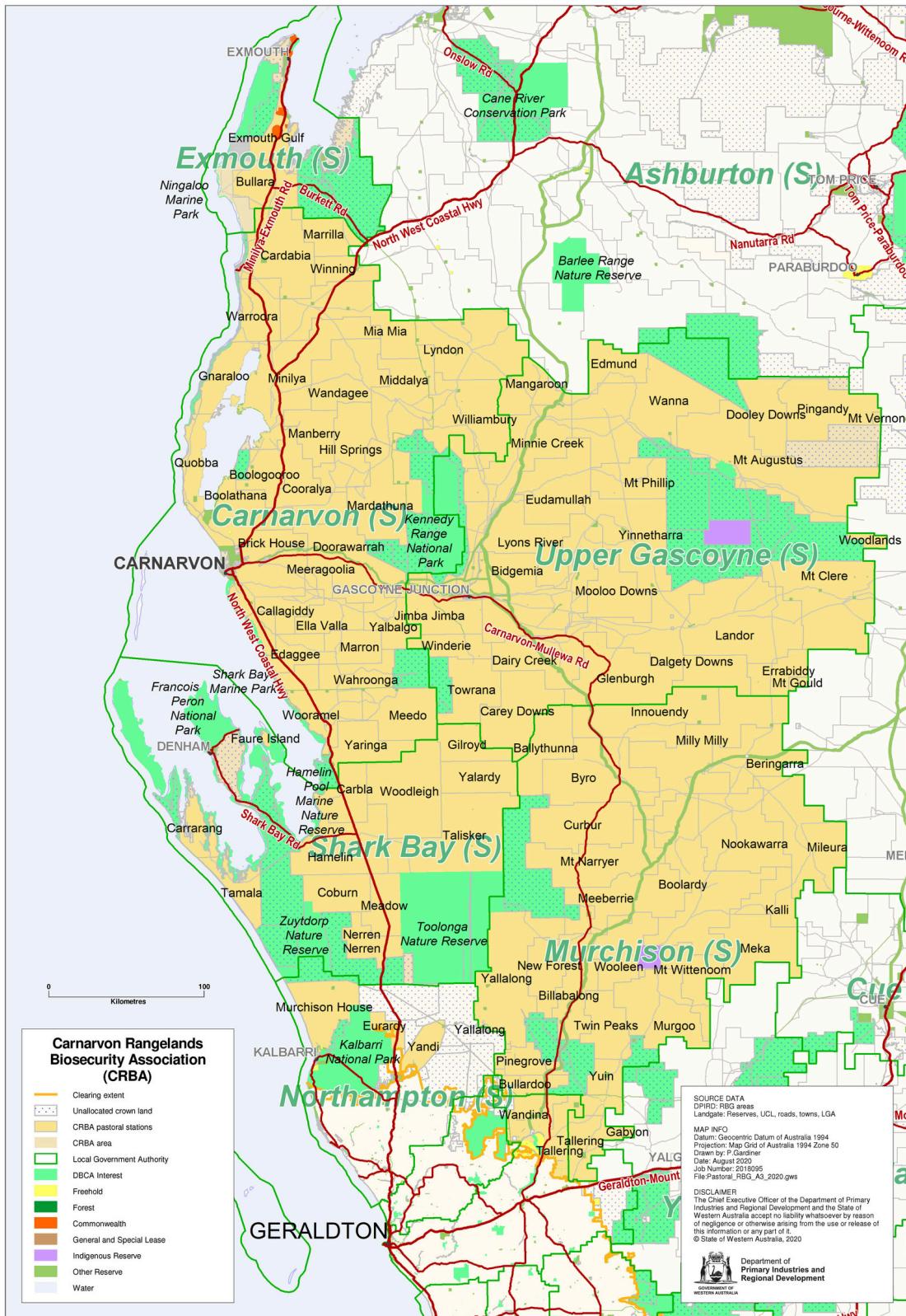
The population of the CRBA area is approximately 9,600, with this number and numbers across the CRBA region increasing exponentially during the tourism season, more notably in the past few years. Our largest town is Carnarvon, with a population of approximately 5,500 residents. Carnarvon is the regional service centre for the whole Gascoyne-Murchison area.

The CRBA region includes the Shark Bay & Ningaloo World Heritage Areas; Cape Range, Kennedy Range, Mount Augustus, Nyinggulara (Ningaloo), and Pimbee National Parks; multiple nature reserves, exclusive native title, and former pastoral leasehold properties.

The types of land tenures and access to them continue to change annually, with the CRBA working closely with the three DBCA regional offices that are responsible for the management of these and other such properties within our region to ensure, where possible access is granted and pest control activities are undertaken. This assistance ensures minimal impact on neighbouring pastoral properties and assists all land users in meeting their obligations under the BAM Act.

There continue to be ongoing and region-wide changes regarding land access due to different identified responsible parties, along with different priorities across the different land tenures in the CRBA region.

The CRBA shares its northern boundary with the Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group (PRBG), the eastern boundary with the Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association (MRBA), and the southern boundary with the Northern Biosecurity Group (NBG) which includes Kalbarri National Park and a significant amount of unallocated Crown Land (UCL).



NOTE: There have been considerable land tenure changes since this map was developed. Including the change of ex-pastoral around Kennedy Ranges and Mt Augustus now being under Exclusive Native Title possession.

4. REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions

The CRBA continues to work with the two DBCA regions - three District Offices to gain support, assistance, and access for LPMTs to undertake control of declared pests on land under their management. Through the Native Title determination process, along with the establishment of Joint Management Bodies (JMB) access to some of this estate continues to be challenging. Throughout 2023/24 access was returned for between 3 months and 3 years to some estate, taking considerable effort on both sides of this partnership.

Midwest Regional Office - Gascoyne District (Shark Bay)

After a considerable time with limited access to lands through the Gascoyne District Office, the announcement in August 2023 of the expansion of Kennedy Range National Park to encompass the ex-pastoral estate surrounding it and the gazetting of Pimbee National Park the CRBA welcomed the opportunity to provide a presentation to the JMB in October 2023. This provided the CRBA with a two-month access permit to these two locations, with work within the Kennedy Range National Park, particularly the west side being critical to landscape scale management within the CRBA region, aiding in movements from known hotspots to small stock properties in the south.

Further discussions and presentation by Executive Officer Krystie Bremer at the Yinggarda Joint Management Body meeting in March 2024 allowed the CRBA to provide a history of the CRBA, and the work previously undertaken before the Native Title determination in 2018. Subsequently, access was granted to the Kennedy Range and Pimbee National Parks until March 2025 for groundwork and aerial baiting.

Mid-West Regional Office (Geraldton)

The CRBA welcomed returned access to some lands in the Murchison over the course of 2023/2024 year, allowing LPMTs in this area to assess movement across the entire landscape and undertake control activities when needed.

Pilbara Regional Office - Exmouth District (Exmouth)

The CRBA continues to work with the district office to maintain and improve access for LPMTs within this region. Access to the eastern side of Cape Range National Park, ex-Exmouth Gulf was returned for 2023/2024, along with ex-Gnaraloo Coastline (now a reserve). There continue to be concerns over limited access to the estate that surrounds Coral Bay with reports of wild dogs received through early 2024 of wild dogs in the townsite, something that has not occurred in more than five years.

The CRBA recognises the unique challenges of each of the DBCA offices that we work with and the need to consider all viewpoints on the management of declared pests at a landscape scale. We look forward to continuing to work with DBCA and JMBs to find common ground and mitigate the impacts of declared pests on livestock and native fauna, along with overall management of total grazing pressure.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Work with the Office of RBG continues to ensure the CRBA meets all our funding obligations during the year. This partnership continues to evolve with a shared understanding of not only the obligations of RBGs through our funding but also the need for DPIRD to ensure a seamless process, with funding being released quicker than in previous years and the undertaking of a DPIRD audit of the Declared Pest Account to ensure the accuracy of our group's finances. The Office of RBG also organised the Annual RBG Forum on the 14th and 15th of February 2024 in Perth is a key opportunity for key stakeholders and RBGs to connect and come together.

CRBA Executive Officer, Krystie Bremer also works with DPIRD, sitting on the State DPIRD-RBG Advisory Group. This group meets bi-monthly online to allow for two-way communication and understanding between RBGs and the department. A key platform amidst the reviews of the BAM Act, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act, Firearms Reform, and S7 Chemicals code of practice review.

The CRBA also continues to work with Tracey Kreplins, a Research Scientist on several projects across the region, including 1080 bait research, wild dog/cow movement relationships, camera monitoring and wild dog# diet.

Rangelands NRM

Whilst there are currently no direct delivery of Rangelands NRM projects, the CRBA continues to work with them to assist in the conservation of the key natural assets within our region including the two World Heritage Areas of Ningaloo & Shark Bay.

Local Government

Our long-standing relationships with three shires in our prescribed area sees the CRBA able to provide key services to those landholders within those areas to ensure that the impacts of declared pests are managed within our limited capacities.

Grower Group Alliance

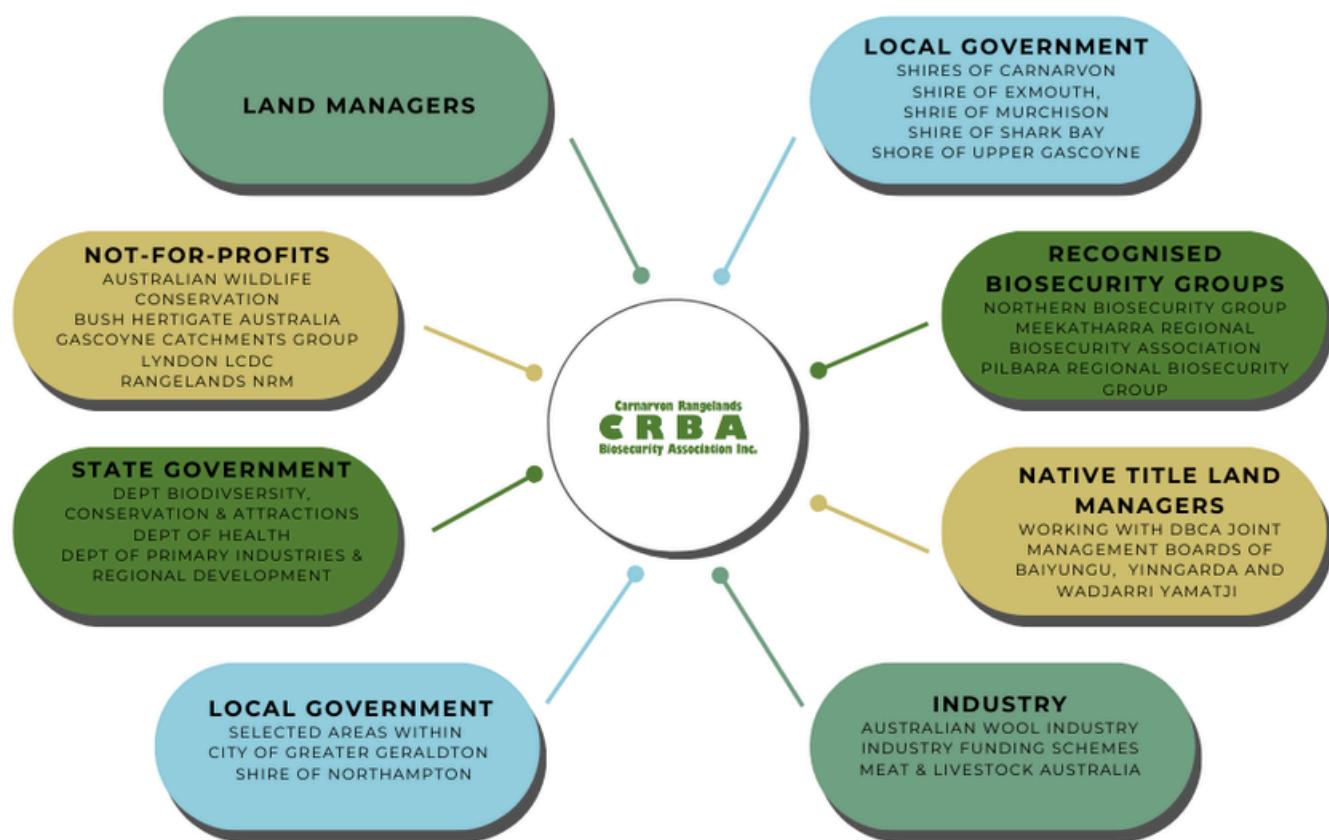
The CRBA is an associate member of the Grower Group Alliance (GGA). GGA provides opportunities for capacity building, along with providing visibility of the CRBA.

RBG's

The CRBA shares its boundaries with the Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group (PRBG) to the north, Meekatharra Regional Biosecurity Association (MRBA) to the east and Northern Biosecurity Group (NBG) in the south. Our association also works with the other RBGs to share timely information, updates, and insights related to the challenges associated with declared pest management. This collaboration and coordination amongst RBGs allows for opportunities to explore joint initiatives across the state.

S7 Retailers

The CRBA appreciates the ongoing roles of Elders Carnarvon in storage of our S7 Chemicals.



Dingoes are an introduced canid from Asia that have become naturalised in Australia over the past ~5000 years (Jackson et al. 2017, 2019). Their ability to adapt to Australian environments, along with their co-occurrence with humans, has led to their widespread distribution.

5. CRBA FUNDING

5.1 DECLARED PEST RATE

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

The CRBA requests the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Food approve the 2025/2026 ad valorum Declared Pest Rate (DPR) of was gazetted as 7.1196 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of pastoral land leases in the local government districts that make up our prescribed areas.

RBGs play a crucial role in declared pest management and deliver valuable services to local communities in our regions. In December 2023 the BAM Act Review Panel submitted the final review paper to the Minister, which after the Stage 3 discussion paper continues to cause concern for the CRBA committee and members. We believe that the current RBG system under the current Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act overall is sufficient. We acknowledge the need for some improvement to better meet the evolving needs of our community, while recognising the imperfections, we feel it is crucial to explore ways to enhance the existing system rather than resorting to the creation of a new levy/rating system or establishing new bodies or removing control of declared pest management to other groups or to a competitive funding model. By focusing on improving coordination, increasing resources, refining, and improving government processes, and enhancing stakeholder engagement, we can address the gaps and inefficiencies within the current framework.

The DPR approach allows for a more cost-effective and streamlined solution that aligns with the community's needs and priorities without introducing unnecessary new complexity or burden. RBGs offer efficient administration and outcomes, ensuring ownership of declared pest control for widespread and established pests. They fill knowledge gaps, promote shared responsibility under the BAM Act, and provide vital services to communities. This service could be lost through the adoption of some of the opportunities being explored in the BAM Act review.

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

5.2 OTHER FUNDING & GRANTS

Royalties for Regions - Wild Dog Action Plan 2

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) advised during 2024/25 that funding for the WA Wild Dog Action Plan (WDAP) would be secure for this operational plan. This announcement recognised the State's obligation to manage pests on vast lands they are responsible for within our region, aiding in a landscape-scale approach to declared pests management. Further allowing the CRBA to aid pastoral land managers in the management of total predation pressure and providing a beneficial buffer zone to known regional hotspots which often occur on state-managed lands.

The CRBA continues to see value for the state in funding support through the state's Wild Dog Action Plan in the pastoral regions, which provide a buffer to the higher populated areas of the state. Whilst it is believed that wild dogs have no impact on cattle businesses, the CRBA continues to support our members in the management of these animals, which due to the development of stock waters have easy access to food and water sources across the state and remain in high numbers.

2025/26 the CRBA will receive \$200,000 which will be used towards the costs associated with contracting 2 Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) for a total of 285 days (1.4 FTE), with the CRBA covering all other associated costs with these two contractors.

The CRBA continues to work with DPIRD, providing valuable insight into the impacts of predators across our landscape, to continue financial support received through this plan into its next iteration.

Shire of Murchison

The CRBA continues to welcome the contributions made by the Shire of Murchison to declared pest control. A direct financial contribution of \$10,000 is anticipated but has not been factored into the budget, these funds will go towards key aims identified by members within the Shire. The Shire also continues their in-kind contribution related to the bait meat freezer and their own programs.

Shire of Upper Gascoyne

The CRBA continues to welcome the yearly contribution by the Shire of Upper Gascoyne towards our operations. This support involves a direct financial continued of \$50,000 towards extending operations within the shire-wide and an in-kind continued of approximately \$15,000 for the costs associated with the CRBA bait meat freezer at the Shire depot in Gascoyne Junction.

5.3 VOLUNTEER SUMMARY

The CRBA counts on the local knowledge of our volunteers and members to manage declared pests across our vast landscape. The CRBA committee estimates that our volunteers contribute upwards of 3,000 hours each year to the group and its operations, a value of more than \$200,000 in-kind. The CRBA depends on volunteers within the community to assist with various roles/activities that are required to ensure the smooth running of our operation.

These roles include:

- Participation on the Management Committee;
- Attendance and participation in meetings with outside stakeholders;
- Review of vast correspondence received by the CRBA;
- Time and fuel commitments by members to attend training days, workshops, industry and government meetings, and liaisons. Given the vast area the CRBA covers this is a big commitment by our committee with often more than 600km round trips required to attend face-to-face meetings.;
- Local Rack Coordinators – who coordinate local pastoralists to attend bait preparations racks to inject, dry, and bag meat baits ready for baiting programs;
- LPMT Coordinators – local pastoralists who are responsible for supervising and guiding local LPMTs who operate across a defined network of pastoral properties. Coordinators are also involved in contract reviews and reviews of monthly reports and invoices before payment;
- Assistance with wild dog baiting programs, including helping with loading baits and providing fuel into the contracted charter plane ;
- Negotiating and developing partnerships with DBCA, local Shires, and other key stakeholders; and
- Pastoral stations that make airstrips available for the aerial programs to use, along with providing meals and overnight accommodation for the pilots, and ground staff during various declared pest programs including aerial baiting, LFH, and weed control.

Over and above the volunteer contribution made by CRBA leaseholders is the additional the financial cost of managing the state's pests with land managers undertaking their control the programs (including operation of aircraft such as helicopters and planes), providing meat for baiting programs and even fuel for contractors.

6. CRBA PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The focus of the 2025/2026 Operational Plan will be on assisting pastoral leaseholders in meeting their obligations under the BAM Act 2007, along with assisting surrounding Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), Vacant Crown Land (VCL), Exclusive Native Title (ENT) and those lands under DBCA and Joint Management in the management of declared pests where relevant permits and access has been granted by the relevant managing body.

To undertake this work the CRBA will use all of the tools and technologies available to them, including seeking alternative methods and working with research organisations in best practice management.

6.1 PROGRAM 1: LARGE FERAL HERBIVORES

Large Feral Herbivores (LFH) continue to be present across pockets of the CRBA region, with population movements seeing them appear in areas previously reporting minimal numbers. Notable donkey numbers continue to be reported, along with an increasing number of horses seen as far south as the bottom of the Kennedy Ranges, north of the Gascoyne River, along with other concentrations in the Shires of Carnarvon, across the Shire of Murchison and Upper Gascoyne.

Control of LFH continues to be part of the day-to-day activities undertaken by the LPMT contractors that work across the CRBA region, alongside land managers who work on these pests throughout the year. The CRBA is working with key regional stakeholders on a broadscale control program, particularly in the Murchison where populations have significantly increased over recent years.

The CRBA committee continues to be mindful that to maintain the results achieved during our program from 2018-2023 we will need to work with these key stakeholders to secure additional funding.

Management of these large declared pests is imperative in assisting members in overall management of total grazing pressure across the landscape.

6.2 PROGRAM 2: VERTEBRATE PESTS

Vertebrate Pests, continue to cause the greatest concerns for land managers across the CRBA region. The greatest impact on pastoral production comes from foxes and wild dogs attacking cattle (young), goats and sheep. Not only do these vertebrate pests cause direct stock losses, but they also cause income loss through injury and attack damage to livestock that devalues them when taken to market, along with often excluding these animals from others. This is why, particularly wild dogs remain a high priority for the CRBA members. The greatest asset in the management of these vertebrate pests continues to be community wide baiting programs and Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) working across the CRBA landscape.

Feral Pigs are also of a concern on a small pocket in the eastern part of the CRBA region along the Gascoyne River. Feral Pigs are destructive pests causing remanent vegetation and water course damage within this high value water catchment for the Gascoyne region. These vertebrate pests are also known for their ability to quickly spread disease across the landscape.

To mitigate the impacts of these pests the CRBA will contract 7 Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) focused on total predation and overall vertebrate pressure across the region.

These LPMTs will work with CRBA land managers to provide assistance in the management of vertebrates pests.

Wild Dogs

During 2025/2026 the CRBA undertook the following wild dog-specific programs across the region:

- One community-wide baiting program;
- One aerial baiting program, focusing on providing landscape-scale assistance in managing movements for region-wide benefits;
- Supporting land managers in individual control programs;
- Monitoring of wild dog movements; and
- Contracting 1,190 LPMT days to undertake targeted baiting, trapping, and shooting (day & night)

These operations undertaken across our region play a key role in minimising the risk to the State's agricultural industry. This region-wide approach relies heavily on pastoral leaseholders playing active roles in the management of declared pests and planning for their properties.

Feral Pigs

LPMTs will undertake monitoring in known feral pig locations to monitor movements and population numbers. They will work to utilise newly purchased pig trap gates to control feral pigs when seasonal conditions and population numbers call for it. These LPMTs will work with affected landholders on these control programs to ensure cost effective control is undertaken.

6.3 PROGRAM 3: DECLARED WEED PROGRAM

Mesquite & Parkinsonia

These woody weeds continue to be an invasive weed of concern for the CRBA and land managers across the region. These weeds out compete native vegetation and reduce the productive grazing capacity of pastoral lands. They also expose topsoil along riverbanks to water and wind erosion, damage infrastructure, and have a long seed life. The CRBA remains focused on controlling these invasive weeds, specifically Mesquite as a declared Weed of National Significances (WONS).

The CRBA will continue to encourage impacted land managers to manage these weeds, to continue the work undertaken in past years on these invasive weeds. LPMTs will continue to monitor known infestations and funding is available work on their control.

The extent of these invasive weeds across the pastoral region and ongoing, meaningful control is simply outside of the RBGs capacity given they have been found across the landscape for decades, management comes at a high cost, labour intensive control is required for the control of these woody weeds.

Coral Coast Cactus

Monitoring and reporting of this weed will continue into the new operational plan. LPMTs will actively work together to move cochineal bugs to a new locations to improve control in known weed areas.

6.4 PROGRAM 4: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CRBA will continue to consult with our members on their key priorities for the region, seek feedback on what they would like to see offered to aid in the management of declared pest plants and animals throughout the year.

Planned events in 2025/2026 include:

- A survey of member priorities and areas of concern;
- Requests for regular landholder data, including declared pest movements/ numbers, and individual control programs/activities;
- Maintain open lines of communication between the committee and community; and
- Collation of monthly LPMT reports.

6.5 PROGRAM 5: GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Executive Officer

The CRBA will continue to contract a part-time Executive Officer (EO), as an integral part of ensuring the CRBA meets all of its obligations, to both funders and land managers. Our Executive Officer spends considerable time dealing with the increasing pressure put on the volunteer committee by outside stakeholders. Ensuring the day-to-day operations of the group, working with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions on pest management issues faced by the region, Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development, and other regional stakeholders.

The work undertaken by our Executive Officer ensures that the good work undertaken by the CRBA isn't missed and we are actively included in discussions relevant to our region.

Restricted Chemical Permits

The CRBA will assist landholders in accessing or renewing their chemical permits, this will include permits for state-managed lands which require considerable time and effort to send for processing. This assistance involves providing landholders with their obligations under the code of practice, encouraging training, providing maps, and assistance in completing the application form.

These permits are vital in providing the CRBA access to the tools required to manage pests across our vast landscape.

Planned events in 2025/2026 include:

- Providing a financial update to all members (as required);
- Holding regular committee meetings, at different locations within our region including via electronic means;
- Provide electronic copies of the CRBA Annual Report, Operational Plan and budget;
- Offering training days (as required);
- Holding LPMT training/information days (open to all members);
- Provide a bi-annual newsletter; and
- Regularly updating the CRBA website.

7. 2025/2026 DPA BUDGET

7.1 DECLARED PEST RATE

The CRBA committee has put forward a recommendation to the Minister of Agriculture and Food that the declared pest rate for 2025/2026 be set at 7.1196 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of pastoral land leases in the local government districts that make up our group.

7.2 DECLARED PEST ACCOUNT BUDGET SUMMARY

Through the development of this operational plan and budget, the CRBA is seeking to draw a total of \$873,850.28 from our Declared Pest Account and have a predicted carryover of \$80,000.00 from 2024/2025.

This drawdown is based on the following declared pest account income sources:

Declared Pest Account Income	Budget
State DPR matching 2025/26	\$ 457,694.60
DPR revenue (80% payment)	\$ 366,155.68
Drawdown of funds available in CRBA DPA	\$ 50,000.00
Total DPA Income	\$ 873,850.28
Predicted carryover from 2024/25 for Q1 2025/26	\$ 80,000.00
TOTAL PREDICTED AVAILABLE DPA FUNDING	\$ 953,850.28

Activities within the operational plan will expense \$956,999.30 from the CRBA DPA from 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026. A summary of these expenses is as follows:

DPA Expenses Summary	Budget	%
Program 1: LFH		
Program 2: Vertebrate Pests	\$ 738,199.30	80.32%
Program 3: Declared Weeds		
Program 4: Community Engagement	\$ 3,000.00	0.34%
Program 5: Governance & Administration	\$ 135,800.00	13.75%
TOTAL PREDICTED DPA 2025/26	\$ 876,999.30	
Carryover for Q1 operations 2026/27	\$ 80,000.00	5.60%
TOTAL PREDICTED DPA EXPENDITURE	\$ 956,999.30	

This operational budget includes funding carryover for quarter one operations in 2026/2027 to ensure continued operations into the new funding cycle. There is no emergency funding included in this forecast should urgent issues arrise.

7.3 2025/2026 WHOLE OF BUSINESS BUDGET

		SUBMITTED JAN 2025 10% INCREASE	
		2025/26 BUDGET DRAFT - October 2024	
REVENUE		2025/26	2025/26
		7.1196	
Declared Pest Account Income			
DPIRD matching \$ for \$ for rates notices issued		457,694.60	
DPR rate based on 80% payment		366,155.68	
Contribution of CRBA funds held by DPIRD (\$155,669 as at Q4 23/24)		50,000.00	
Quarter 1 Carryover for 2024/25 Operations		80,000.00	
Committed Carryover			
Uncommitted Carryover			
DPR Towera		5,000.00	
Reserved Funds			
TOTAL Declared Pest Income		958,850.28	-
Proposed Other Income			
Shire Contributions			
Shire of Upper Gascoyne Contribution			50,000.00
DPIRD - WDAP 2 - UNCONFIRMED FOR 2025/26			200,000.00
Rangelands NRM			
CSIRO Contribution - No longer rated - UNCONFIRMED FOR 25/26			16,995.00
CSIRO Contribution - LFH			
Other Income & Interest			
Grant Cash on Hand			
Other Accumulative Cash on Hand			200,000.00
TOTAL Other Income		466,995.00	
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		1,425,845.28	

	SUBMITTED JAN 2025	
	10% INCREASE	
	2025/26 BUDGET	
	DRAFT - October 2024	
	2025/26	2025/26
EXPENDITURE	2024/25	2024/25
Program 1: LFH		
LFH Control		
SUG		
Rangelands NRM		
Other		
TOTAL Program 1	-	-
Program 2: Vertebrate Pests		
Transfer of rates for Mt Clere Station	11,044.30	
Aircraft hire	28,800.00	
Support	1,250.00	
Avgas	8,400.00	
Community Baiting (meat)	81,000.00	
* 1080	3,000.00	
* Chemical associated costs		
1080 Oats		
* Strychnine	8,000.00	
Safety supplies (PPE, gloves)	500.00	
Baiting supplies (buckets, bags, etc)	500.00	
Rack/Freezer Maintenance		
Traps		12,000.00
Advertising of program in West Australian etc	1,500.00	
1080 Signage		
LPMT #1 South Murchison (GH 180 days)*		129,600.00
LPMT #2 Shark Bay / South Carnarvon (JF 160 days)*	44,800.00	70,400.00
LPMT #3 North Upper Gascoyne (JH 180 days)	104,600.00	25,000.00
LPMT #4 North East Carnarvon (MC 180 days)	129,600.00	
LPMT #5 North West Carnarvon (AR 180 days)	129,600.00	
LPMT #6 North Murchison (JH 130 days)*	74,005.00	16,995.00
LPMT #7 South Upper Gascoyne (JR 180 days)	104,600.00	25,000.00
LPMT #8		
LPMT Previous Financial Year		
* LPMT Safety & Misc Expenses	7,000.00	
WDAP Thermal Project		
LPMT Research		
LPMT Other		
Feral Cats		
Quarter 1 2025/26 funding requirements ^	80,000.00	
TOTAL Program 2	818,199.30	278,995.00

SUBMITTED JAN 2025	
10% INCREASE	
2025/26 BUDGET	
2025/26	DRAFT - October 2024
2025/26	2025/26

Program 3: Declared Weeds		
Declared Plant control (Mesquite, Parkinsonia and Cactus)		
SUG		
WONS		
Other		
	TOTAL Program 3	-
Program 4: Community Engagement		
* Community Engagement	500.00	
Website & Database Hosting Fees (email back up annually, storage/hosting 5 years, website 2 years)	1,000.00	
* 1080 & Strychnine trapping signage		
* RCP Applications	500.00	
Meeting Expenses including catering	1,000.00	
Members travel and accommodation		
	TOTAL Program 4	3,000.00
Program 5: Governance & Administration		
Executive Officer	78,000.00	
Executive Officer travel & office	7,000.00	
Insurance - CRBA Broad Form Liability Insurance	1,500.00	
Volunteers Insurance	1,300.00	
Management Liability Insurance	3,000.00	
Professional Indemnity	4,000.00	
Workers Compensation Insurance	35,000.00	
WHS process implementation & associated costs		
Financial Audit / Monthly Accounting Software Fee	6,000.00	
DPA Washout (covered by 'other reserve funding')		
	TOTAL Program 5	135,800.00
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURE	956,999.30
		278,995.00
	TOTAL INCOME	958,850.28
	TOTAL EXPENSES	956,999.30
	PREDICTED REMAINING FUNDS BY SOURCE	1,850.98
		188,000.00
	TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$ 189,850.98