



July 2021 – Newsletter #6

February Committee Meeting

The committee held a Zoom meeting in February to discuss the 2021/22 Operational Plan and Budget[^] with official details of the Wild Dog Action Plan 2 funding for the CRBA moving into the new year. This was welcome news which allowed the budget to continue eight LPMT contractors each for 200 days, along with the Spring community baiting.

Discussions also included project updates, LPMT reviews and planning of the LFH project planned for March 2021.

[^] Significant changes are required to this document due to announcements by DPIRD on the reduction of funding (as outlined in the Financial Update provided to all members in July 2021)

June Committee Meeting

Chair Justin Steadman Update from Committee Meeting:

Justin Steadman provided the committee with an update on what has been happening with DPIRD the last few weeks, with the Department showing 'true colours'. There are significant changes occurring due to the objections to the Pastoral Lease Rents that were adopted this year (2020/21). We are unsure at this stage the impact these objections and the expected additional ones before 30th June 2021 will have on Pastoral RBGs. We do know that dependant on the area will depend on the impact.

RBGs have pointed out to DPIRD that we didn't cause the issue and it is something that they or the state need to fix. DPIRD aren't able to tell Pastoral RBGs what affect it will have on each group.

Justin said that we are stuck with the budget for 2021/22 until we have confirmation on what impact these changes will have on income for 2021/22 and the impact changes will have on already spent funds in 2020/21.

DPIRD sent Pastoral RBGs an 'update' after our meeting last week which has received direct responses from not only the CRBA (myself) but also the chair of the MRBA.

If DPIRD do not come to the party to support RBGs through this process we will need to assess how we move forward into the future, we are in limbo however until the real outcome is known.

These changes also impact the promised funding from Shire of Upper Gascoyne as they (all Local Shires) are also impacted by the objections to the Pastoral Lease Rents. SUG advised Krystie that they should know Wednesday 23rd June which way council will vote with regards to their expected shortfalls.

In summary:

- Meetings with DPIRD have left us now the wiser on anything
- DPIRD not prepared to keep us openly informed
- DPIRD expect RBGs to foot the bill for the shortfall changes to Pastoral Lease Rents will have and the impact this will have on overall operations
- Hopeful to have answer from SUG this week

Justin also said that Pastoral RBG Chairs are in the process of drafting a letter directly to the Minister advising of the meeting with DPIRD and around liability being a state responsibility.

Since the June meeting a Financial Update has been sent to all CRBA members from Chair Justin Steadman.

Summary of July Financial Update from Chair

What is the financial impact to the CRBA for 2021/22?

There is an overall blow to the CRBA budget of \$630,994 between monies to be paid back and loss in operational income for this year. Over and above this, the Shire of Upper Gascoyne has also cut their contribution to activities across their shire by \$70,000.

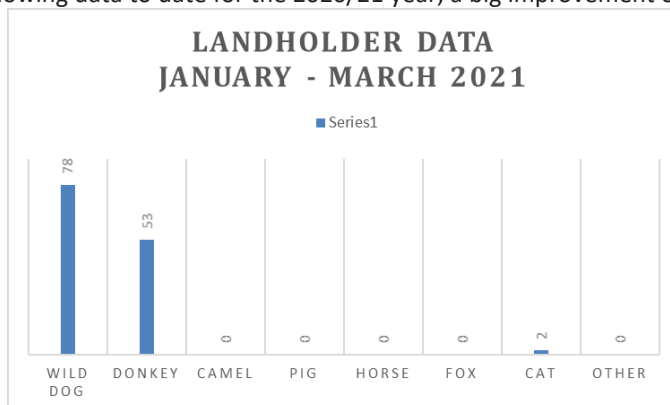
A breakdown of this is as follows:

- Prior to consultation of the rates for the 2020/21 year the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) was decreased to reflect the significant increase in VEN across the CRBA area. It went from 5.963c to 3.573c (meaning our total operating budget was the same as planned and didn't increase with these VEN increases).
- According to initial figures received from DPIRD late last week the CRBA is looking to have to pay back/credit those who objected a total of \$291,552 for the 2020/21 year, these funds have already been spent.
- Due to the decrease in VEN and our now reduced cents in the dollar DPR the operating budget for the CRBA for the 2021/22 year is now 55% lower than planned being only \$352,249.
- DPIRD will also be using the funds held in the CRBA Declared Pest Account (DPA) which is formed from outstanding rates paid and has been available for us to draw down additional funds each year for operations.
- Based on our submitted operational plan spending we are short over \$400,000.

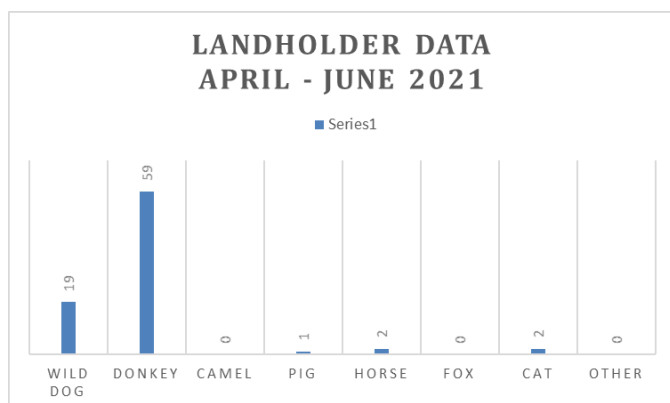
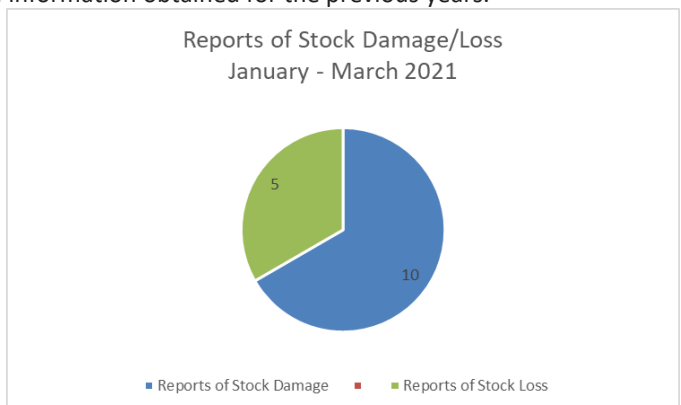
The committee will now work on a total revision of the Operational Plan and budget inline with the massive reduction in funding. Once this has been submitted to DPIRD a copy will be provided to all members.

Landholder Data

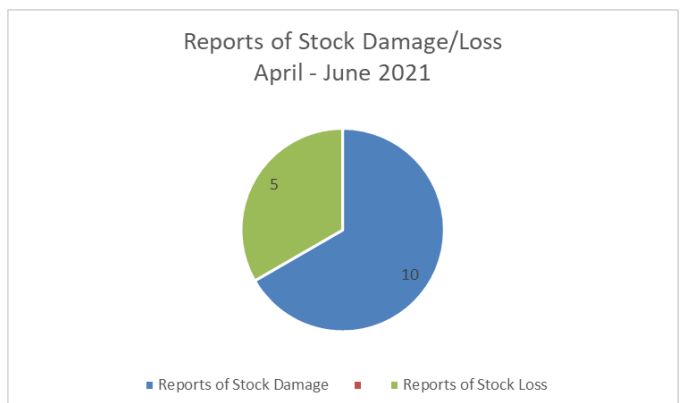
The Committee would like to thank those members who have provided responses to our data surveys. We have received the following data to date for the 2020/21 year, a big improvement on information obtained for the previous years.



Responses for January – March 2021 is based on responses from 31 landholders.



April – June 2021 is based on responses from 10 landholders.



LPMT Contractors & Coordinators for 2021/22

There are a few changes to our contractors and areas moving into the 2021/22 year. The committee has carefully considered all changes and made them to ensure coverage by LPMTs is consistent across the region.

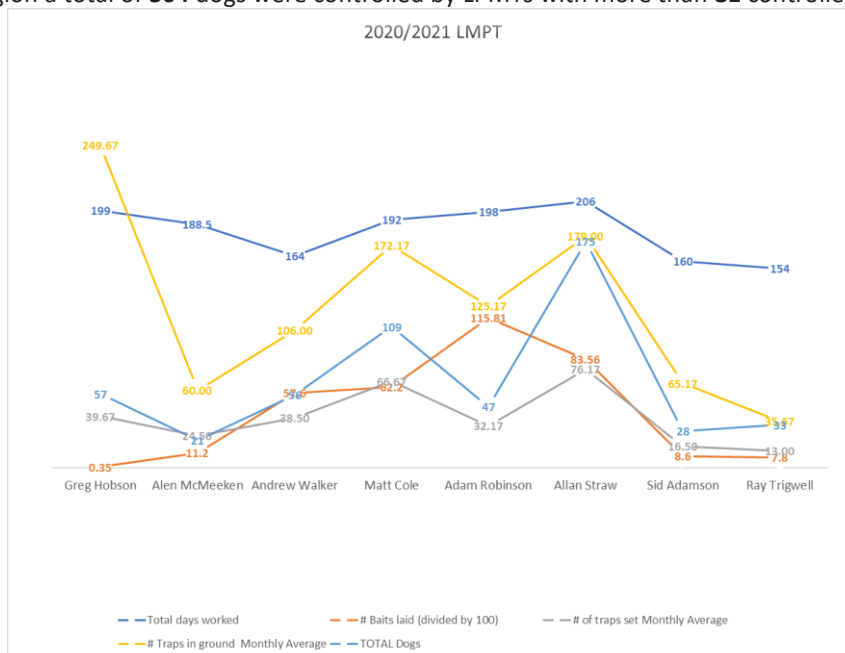
The committee would again like to thank our volunteer LPMT Coordinators for their contribution to the community.

LPMT	LPMT Coordinator	LPMT Regions	Properties
Greg Hobson	Jim Dorrell	#1 North West Carnarvon	Exmouth Gulf, Ningaloo, Bullara, Warroora, Giralda, Mia, Minilya, Cooralya, Booloogoroo, Wandagee.
Jim Rousenvell	Tim Higham	#2 Shark Bay, South Carnarvon	Carrarang, Tamala, Pimbee, Coburn, Nerren, Meadow, Carbla, Wooramel, Meedo, Yaringa, Woodleigh, Talisker, Yalardy, Gilroyd, Carey Downs, Towrana, Winderie and Wahroonga.
Andrew Walker	Andrew Whitmarsh	#3 North Murchison	Ballythunna, Byro, Curbur, Mt Narryer, Meeberrie, Wooleen, Innouendy, Milly, Beringarra, Boolardy, Kalli and Mileura.
Mat Cole	Johnno Percy	#4 North East Carnarvon	Middalya, Lyndon, Williambury, Cardabia, Winning, Marrilla, Mangaroon, Minnie Creek and Eudamullah.
Adam Robinson	Tim Meecham	#5 Carnarvon	Boolathana, Quobba, Gnaraloo, Brickhouse, Callagiddy, Edaggee, Ella Valla, Marron, Yalbalgo, Mardathuna, Mooka, Jimba and Kennedy Range National Park.
Allan Straw	Greydon Mead	#6 South Murchison	Yallalong, New Forest, Pinegrove, Bullardoo, , Billabalong, Twin Peaks, Yuin, Tardie, Murgoo, Yandi, , Mallee, Mt Wittenoom, Murchison House, Eurardy, Woolgorong, Twin Peaks, Narloo, and Coolcalalaya.
Sid Adamson	Ray Hoseason-Smith	#7 South Upper Gascoyne	Lyons River, Mooloo Downs, Bidgemia, Dairy Creek, Glenburgh, Dalgety Downs, and Errabiddy.
Allan Smith	Matt Wright	#8 North Upper Gascoyne	Edmund, Wanna, Dooley Downs, Mt Augustus, Mt Phillip, Landor and Yinnetharra.

Wild Dog Control for 2020/21

LPMT data for 2020/21 shows that numbers have remained consistent across the region for the past 12 months, in fact some areas have observed a significant increase in number of animals controlled. Not only by the LPMTs but by landholders.

Across the entire CRBA region a total of **504** dogs were controlled by LPMTs with more than **81** controlled by landholders.



LPMTs alone, will not control pests within the region.

Coral Coast Cactus

After our LPMT gathering in mid-2020, each contractor has been monitoring and reporting back any weed infestations they observe on the properties they cover. Through these observations and with assistance from Tim Meecham we have been able to collect Cochineal Bugs from Quobba Station and distribute them to four other infestations within the CRBA region.



Above images show before release of bugs in early 2021



Above images show after release of bugs

If you have Coral Coast Cactus on your property and are interested in the biological control, please contract the CRBA Executive Officer Krystie Bremer.



Landholder/Manager Training Program

With thanks to Australian Wool Industry (AWI) Funding the CRBA will be running a series of training sessions to assist all pastoralists and managers.

Two training sessions took place in March 2021, one in Carnarvon and the other in the Murchison. Great attendance was recorded at both. There are now an additional 16 members of the community who are able to assist at community bait racks. A great outcome!



A special thanks goes out to **Grot** from Murchison Settlement who stepped in and helped on the day. Not sure the day would have run as smoothly had she not been there to assist.



We are hoping to hold a third training sessions before the end of 2021 for those landholders who couldn't make the last two. If you would please register your interest as soon as possible by emailing Krystie Bremer crba_eo@iinet.net.au , again spaces are limited and we hope to include as many new landowners/managers across the region to ensure community baiting coverage is maintained across the CRBA.

Community Baiting - Bait Meat Freezers

Due to the current financial constraints, outlined to members in the Financial Update emailed on the 27th July 2021 no bait meat will be ordered for the normal Community Baiting programs in 2021/22 unless alternative funding can be secured.

With this in mind and the current budget implications faced by the CRBA there is currently **NO** bait meat available for individual landholder operations. Should you wish to access any meat from the three CRBA freezers, please call and discuss with Krystie Bremer to ensure there is bait meat free for your usage.

The Committee would again like to thank the Shires of Carnarvon, Murchison, and Upper Gascoyne for providing the location and ongoing running costs of these freezers.



Rangelands NRM – LFH Control for Ningaloo World Heritage Region

The second phase of the 2020/21 program took place in March across the North Carnarvon/Upper Gascoyne and across the Murchison. It was another well-run program, which had great results.

Across the entire area covered a total of **612** animals were controlled. Including ferrying time, a total of **54.8** hours were utilised. There were **3** wild dogs controlled and **609** LFH. A very successful and financially viable program.



natural resource
management program



WONS – Mesquite Control

The much welcomed wet started to 2021 has seen progress on the WONS project stalled due to running rivers and wet access roads. 2022 is the final year for this project and we are on track to have provided initial and follow up treatment to not only those properties initially included in the project but additional properties.

DPIRD Wild Dog Research – Tracey Kreplins

Tracey Kreplins has a number of research programs planned across the CRBA during the 2021/22 year. Those being:

- Continuing to work with our 8 LPMT contractors to collect DNA samples. This work has shown some interesting results, not just within our region but with animals controlled in the CRBA being related to animals as far south as northern agricultural zone.
- Tracey is working alongside Mat Cole to catch and collar wild dogs to see the correlation between movements of stock and dogs. This is proving difficult and they are planning to try again in October/November this year. These collars will in no way stop Mat from undertaking control work on the properties involved but it is hoped that some data is collected prior to them being controlled.
- The Ceres tags have arrived to track cattle alongside wild dogs. These will be attached to the cattle when mustering starts.



- There are three properties within the SUG involved in a bait trial. This trial has seen field cameras put out already with a bait run happening late August (it has been delayed multiple times due to rain). These baits will have small GPS trackers put into them, with them being tracked to see if they move, how far and by what animals.
- Lastly a controlled CPE project will also commence with August. The point of this trial is to see the effectiveness of the chemical over time and will take place over the next 12 months.

If you would like further information on any of these projects, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Officer to discuss.

2021 Meeting Schedule

Late August 2021 – unsure if this will be Zoom or Face to face

October 2021 – Carnarvon AGM & Committee Meeting

December 2021 – Zoom (if required)

Should you have any biosecurity concerns you wish to raise with DPIRD, please contact our area's Biosecurity Officer Jim Miller on 0477 728 091 or james.miller@dpird.wa.gov.au

Newsletter contributions relating biosecurity are always welcomed.

Please send submission for the next newsletter to

CRBA Executive Officer Krystie Bremer.

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Contact us: Executive Officer – Krystie Bremer - crba_eo@iinet.net.au or 0417 183 705