

# Carnarvon Rangelands CRBA Biosecurity Association Inc.

## January 2022 – Newsletter #7

### Committee Update

#### January 2022

The start to 2022 has been tumultuous for some of our members, with the tragic loss of Archer Steadman on the 30<sup>th</sup> December. The CRBA committee and broader community offer our deepest condolences to the Steadman Family on their loss.

Our south Gascoyne community was then faced with uncontrolled fires impacting several properties in early January. These resulted in several properties losing considerable chunks of productive properties, along with significant loss of livestock. It is anticipated that these fires will see movement of feral pests in the area change considerably.

#### AGM – October 2021

The CRBA Annual General Meeting was held at the Gwoonwardu Mia Cultural Centre in Carnarvon on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021. After adopting the 21/22 Annual Report the committee positions were filled. There is still one position vacant on the committee following the AGM, with the committee again needing to forward plan for 2022 with a change in executive required, along with a number of positions due to expire.

Changes to the committee are beneficial: due to term expiry, fresh ideas to keep the dream alive and constitutional change requirements.

Your CRBA committee members for 2022

NAME	OFFICE HELD	DATE APPOINTED TO COMMITTEE	EXPIRY DATE OF TERM
Justin Steadman	Chairperson	2014	26 October 2022
Tim Higham	Vice Chairperson	2014	26 October 2022
Jox Collins	Treasurer/Secretary	2020	30 October 2024
Harry McKeough	4. Full Member	2013	29 October 2025
Cameron Tubby	5. Full Member	2018	26 October 2022
Roger Davies	6. Full Member	2018	26 October 2022
Alister Gordon	7. Full Member	2020	30 October 2024
Greydon Mead	8. Full Member	2020	30 October 2024
Andrew Whitmarsh	9. Full Member	2020	30 October 2024
Gavan Mullan, DBCA	10. Associate Member	29 Nov 2016	30 October 2024
	11. Vacant		
Krystie Bremer	Executive Officer		

## Committee Meeting – October 2021

Immediately preceding the AGM the committee meeting occurred. As always, a large range of topics were discussed, with a key focus on the funding changes in the 2021/22 year and how best to plan for the 2022/23 year.

LPMT data collected during Quarter 1 has shown that across the region there has been an increase in wild dog activity, with a significant increase on the same time period the previous year. The committee discussed the growing numbers of LFH in other areas of the region and how best to assist landholders in the management of these moving forward.

Rebecca Rees from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) was at the meeting and provided an update on what has been happening in an RBG space within DPIRD.

*Rebecca talked to the project 'Strengthening RBGs', talking about the roundtable held in July in Bunbury, along with the two-day forum held in September in Perth. The focus of the September workshop was on the DPIRD-RBG relationship.*

*There was also a presentation regarding the up-and-coming changes to the Workplace Health and Safety laws and the impacts this will have on RBGs. Process works have been engaged by DPIRD to develop templates that will assist RBGs in this space moving forward, ensuring the requirements under the new legislations are met. These documents are designed to protect the RBG committees and Executive Officers.*

*Rebecca advised that discussion were also had regarding the Ministerial paper that was presented by RBGs at the roundtable in July (please contact Krystie Bremer if you would like a copy) and an outcome of this and the two recent events is that an RBG focus group has been established, of which Krystie is a member.*

*Rebecca discussed the pest management or biosecurity curve, advising where RBGs sit within that curve. That pest management has always been an issue and the same questions are being asked now as they were back in the 40's. Questions around is the State doing enough to manage pests on the lands they are responsible for.*

*It was pointed out by Justin that landholders contribute far more than just their DPR. They are also providing at least 1/3 more financially with things like plane time, fuel and time spend directly on pest management. This doesn't even include those that hold volunteer positions within the RBG.*

*Rebecca talked specifically to the Strengthening RBG project and that there were large complaints received around the RBG/DPR model in the southwest of the state, with a large number of rate payers not paying their DPR. Farmers in the SW feel that RBGs are being driven by the wrong people, hence the issues in that area. It appears that the northern RBG are being driven by production.*

*The project was developed due to these issues but also as a result of the Auditor General report from 2019. This review process also includes the review of the BAM Act, including the funding model. From all accounts it appears that RBG model is working well in the Rangelands (Pastoral regions). The mechanisms that are in place are strong, with a requirement for some small changes to meet compliance.*

*Justin did ask why not separate the pastoral and farming models. Not only are they different geographically but also in terms of DPR. Pastoral being leasehold and farming being freehold? Rebecca said that Pastoral – Agricultural – South West are all very different and that the RBG model was pushed out quickly through the state. It now means that conversation's need to happen about the RBG/DPR model.*

*Concurrently to the current work there is also a requirement to increase accountability. DPIRD internally haven't been consistent in what is required.*

*Rebecca said that the landholder survey undertaken by DPIRD did show good support in the north for the current RBG/DPR model. Alongside this survey Rebecca also advised that there is a review being undertaken of the DPR and how it is raised. There were discussions on other potential funding models, what other states are doing and how op plans are formed. It was suggested that looking at other countries who have multi use, multi tenure lands would likely also be beneficial.*

*Discussions moved to the potential requirement to increase rates to what they were for the 2021/22 year for the CRBA before the changes to the land tenure. Rebecca said that our estimates seemed reasonable. Rebecca advised that DPIRD were looking at different funding modelling, based on UV (current) and flat rate (land size). Regardless sizable increases will*

*require consultation and it is hoped that DPIRD will work with RBGs to develop the consultation letter and send to all landholders by the end of this year. Indications show that if there aren't complaints to the increases the Minister will be supportive of restoring DPR in the rangelands.*

*Further discussions took place around flat rate based on land size, with Rebecca advising this had been required by some of the groups to investigate. Justin advised that it would send businesses broke, as some of those that have larger sized properties don't actually have the full property as serviceable. It was noted that the CRBA committee was not supportive of moving to this model (DPR based on land size).*

As outlined in the email send to all members on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 the committee discussed at length the group's current financial position and our position moving into future years.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 a letter was received from the Ministers offices which provided the CRBA with the following:

*'.. In short, the McGowan Government will provide the previously agreed funding notwithstanding the reduction of the industry contribution. This is by way of an ex-gratia payment. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will need to review and approve the revised budget in your Operational Plan. This funding has been allocated on a once off basis.'*

The committee would like to thank the Hon. Minister MacTiernan for the work undertaken by her office in securing this one off payment, which has helped to improve the long term financial position of the group. The committee discussed plans for 2022/23.

Discussions took place around recent changes to land tenures with some managed by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation Attractions (CRBA) within the Shires of Carnarvon and Upper Gascoyne now becoming Exclusive Native Title, meaning access to assist with the control of declared pest has been removed.

A budget meeting was scheduled for December 2021, but the committee was unable to get a quorum together. This meeting has been delayed until February 2022.

### **Declared Pest Rates 2022/23**

A draft budget for the 2022/23 year has been submitted with the committee to finalise and approve in February 2022 (subject to change). The budget has been decided based on the following information:

- 2021/22 DPR was originally set at an amount of \$386,313.16
- 2021/22 DPR finished at an amount of \$249,107.00

The significant changes were due to the change in pastoral land values following 2019 rent reviews.

The current consideration by the committee as per previous communications is to set the Declared Pest Rate at \$387,955.55 with the ad valorem rate being 5.885c approximately. This will see the CRBA able to maintain the following operations into 2022/23:

- One community baiting region wide
- Small quantities of bait meat available in shire freezers
- 8 Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs)
- Small Large Feral Herbivore (LFH) program
- Standard CRBA overheads, governance and administration costs

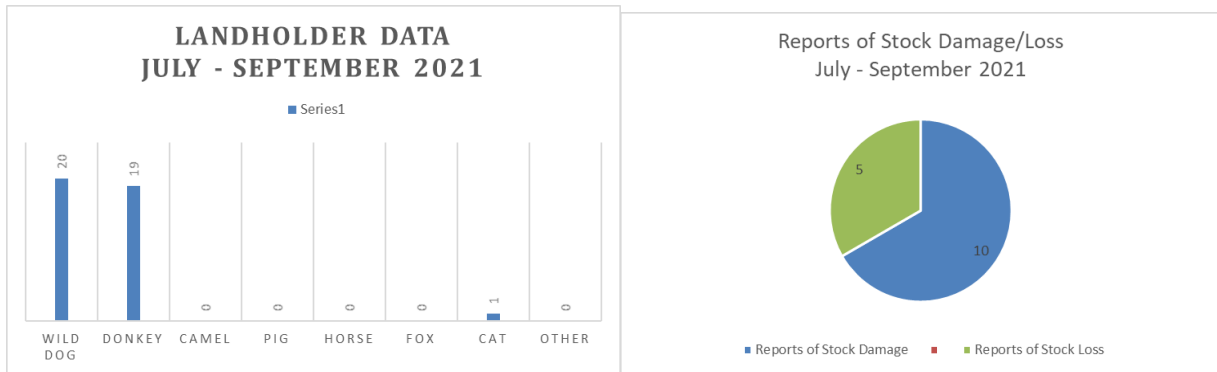
This plan is based on the CRBA receiving continued support from the Wild Dog Action Plan 2 (WDAP2) which funds approximately 355 LPMT days, along with funding from shires.

A formal consultation process will be undertaken by DPIRD in the coming months but should you have any feedback or comments please contact a member of the committee or email [eo@crba.org.au](mailto:eo@crba.org.au)

**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 2021/22 year, a big improvement on information obtained for the previous years.

*A link to the survey for the October – December 2021, quarter 2 2021/22 can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3ZLK377>*

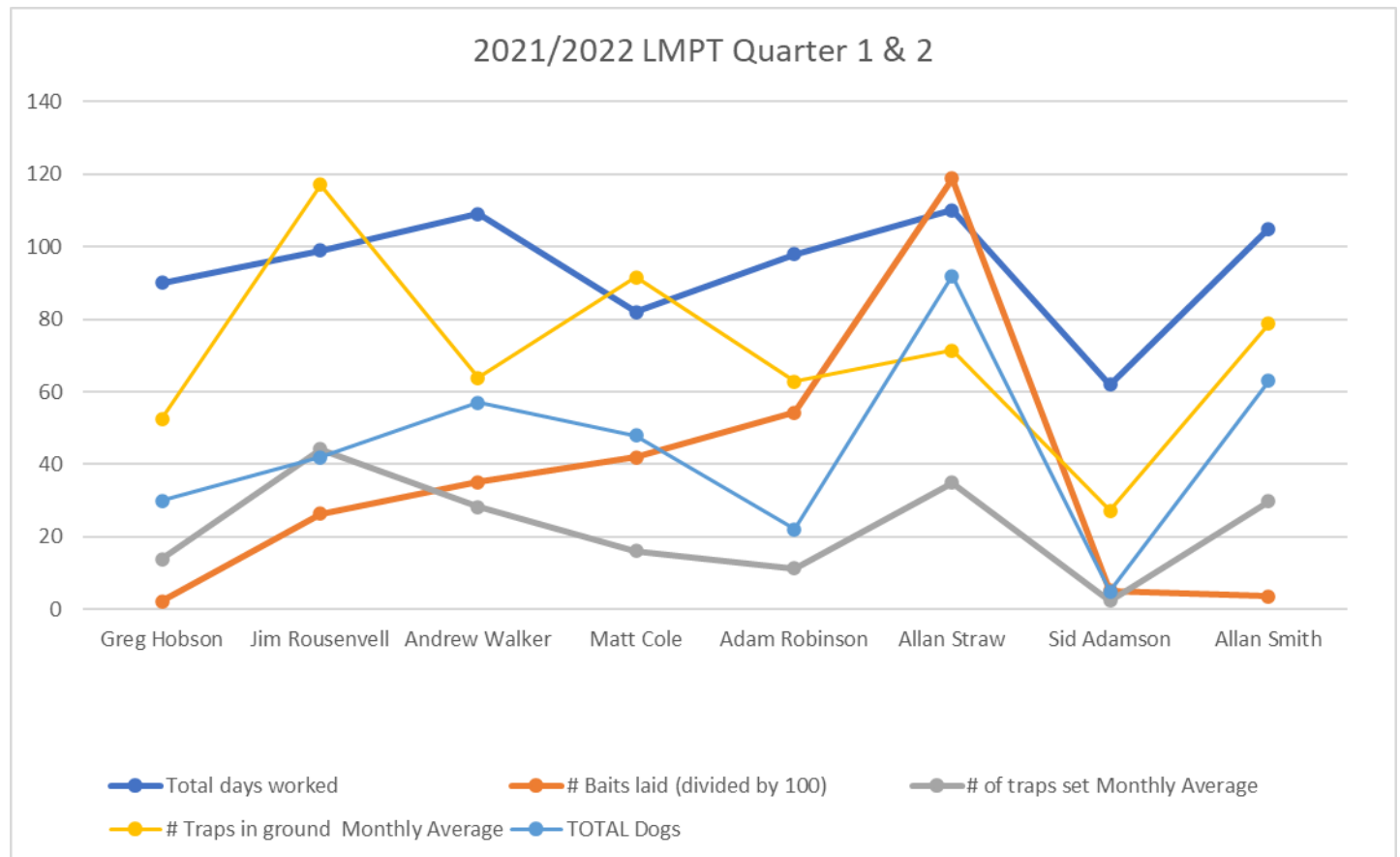


July – September 2021, Quarter 1

**Wild Dogs**

LPMT data for the first six months of 2021/22 shows we are still working hard to manage these declared pests across the region, with a significant increase in the number of sightings, damage and losses reported by both LPMTs and landholders alike. This is in part due to the good season in 2021 but also due to the LPMTs the committee currently have on contract.

Across the entire CRBA region a total of **359** dogs were controlled by LPMTs with more than **28** controlled by landholders\*.



*\* data only for those that have shared in recent months, survey to be completed for Q2*

***LPMTs alone, will not control pests within the region.***

## **DPIRD Wild Dog Research – Tracey Kreplins**

With several research projects being undertaken across the CRBA region, Tracey presented a summary to the LPMTs at a recent gathering.

### - Bait trail

Tracey Kreplins continues to work across three properties tracking bait movements utilising mini-pill GPS trackers. These have been deployed with assistance from CRBA LPMTs and are being monitored by 60 cameras, which have collected some great images of wild dogs and even LFH in the region.



### - State Barrier Fence

An update was provided on the State Barrier Fence and the research work that Tracey is undertaking in that area. Cameras have been installed and grids, gates and current holes in the fence to see what movements can be recorded. Squawker boxes or dingo beepers are being used and monitored, something the CRBA plans to trail in areas on the cell fence being constructed in the south around small stock properties.

### - CRBA DNA Samples

CRBA LPMTs continue to collect and send Tracey DNAs, with dogs covering all colours of the rainbow. So far in 2021/22 six LPMTs have sent off 148 samples. With more than 260 processed by Tracey since the CRBA started collecting samples for her, surprising there is an average of 90% dingo and approximately 5% Hybrids.

### - Wild Dog impact on Cattle

Tracey, alongside Jim Miller and CRBA LPMTs are working towards the capture and release of at least one wild dog on a property in the north of the CRBA region. This wild dog will be released with a tracking collar and it is hoped that the information will allow Tracey to research the impacts dog movements have on the already tagged cattle. This work is happening not only within the CRBA but also GNRBA and MRBA.

The CRBA again thanks Tracey for her efforts and including our group in these activities.

## **Coral Coast Cactus**

CRBA LPMTs continue to work together to distribute Cochineal Bugs on known infestations within the region. To date bugs have been distributed in locations throughout the Shires of Shark Bay and Carnarvon. CRBA LPMTs continue to monitor their progress and keeping their eye out for any new infestations.

If you have Coral Coast Cactus on your property and are interested in the biological control, please contact the CRBA Executive Officer Krystie Bremer, [eo@crba.org.au](mailto:eo@crba.org.au) or speak to your local LPMT.



### **Bait Meat Freezers**

As part of the one-off payment advised in October 2021 the CRBA has been able to order a small quantity of bait meat to put into the three shire freezers. A purchase order for this has been given to the supplier and it is hoped that supplies will be made available in March/April 2022.

2022/23 will see the return of the Spring Community Baiting program, with meat being ordered for this in coming months to ensure supply and availability when it is required. Further details on this community baiting will come via rack coordinators in coming months.



### **Training Program**

With thanks to Australian Wool Industry (AWI) Funding the CRBA held a LPMT training day at Winderie Station on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. All eight LPMT contractors attended along with Vice Chair Tim Higham, Tracey Kreplins and Jim Miller from DPIRD.

The day covered off on research being undertaken in the region by Tracey, new technologies available including 4G sensor cameras and satellite traps. Both of which are now being trailed by two LPMTs within the CRBA region, hopefully great tools which can assist into the future. Tim provided an update on what was happening with the CRBA, including covering off on concerns that had been raised by landholders and any that LPMTs might have had.



The day ended with LPMTs working to match camera images, these images have been captured as part of the bait trail being undertaken on three properties within the Shire of Upper Gascoyne. By undertaking this LPMTs make it easier for Tracey to work out unique dog sightings vs the same dog being captured on camera.

Planned landholder 1080 training was planned for November, but due to lack of availability it was cancelled.

***1080 Landholder TAFE training will be occurring 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 in Carnarvon.***

This will be the last training available at no cost as part of this program. Should you wish to participate or have a staff member to participate please email [eo@crba.org.au](mailto:eo@crba.org.au)



CENTRE FOR  
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

#### **CISS Communications Grant**

The CRBA was provided with a small grant from CISS to increase communications on our RBG. After discussions at the committee meeting it was decided that these funds would be utilised to create a website [www.crba.org.au](http://www.crba.org.au) and information flyer.

After considerable work by the CRBA Executive Officer Krystie Bremer, the website is now live and allows members easy access to current information relating the group. You will find documents such as Annual Reports, Operational Plans , AGM minutes and additional resources.

If there is anything you would like to see included on the website, please email Krystie with your suggestions [eo@crba.org.au](mailto:eo@crba.org.au)



Rangelands NRM

#### **Rangelands NRM – LFH Control for Ningaloo World Heritage Region**

A program was undertaken in December 2021 across the North Carnarvon and Upper Gascoyne. It was another well-run program with numbers showing our continued efforts are assisting with the control of these declared pests.

Across the entire area covered a total of **613** animals were controlled. Including ferrying time, a total of **31.7** hours were utilised. There were **1** wild dog controlled and **612** LFH (Camels, Donkeys and Horses). A very successful and financially viable program.

Our follow up program will be undertaken in March 2022 utilising funding from Rangelands and other sources.

Since the inception of this program (and utilising other funding sources) a total of over 3200 LFH have been controlled in the past 3 years.



natural resource  
management program

#### **WONS – Mesquite Control**

The CRBA engaged the services of Westerly Contractors to undertake the next stage of work undertaken on Brickhouse, Boolathana and Bullara as the projects main contractor was not available (although will be undertaking the final stages of works in the first part of 2022).

The work was undertaken through September, November and December 2021 over the 12 days the contractor sprayed a total of **14,000** mesquite plants varying in size from established flowering trees, to small trees and saplings. The rainfall over 2021 was noted as allowing the seed bank to start development, along with some previous controlled larger plants needing spraying again as they had showed regrowth.

A considerable effort was put in and thanks need to go to all of the landholders who provided the team with the diesel required to undertaking the spraying, again allowing the project to cover more area than originally planned.



### LPMT GPS Safety Devices

At the recent LPMT meeting in October, it was discussed that we should include the details for the Garmin in-Reach safety devices utilised by our LPMTs. These devices were purchased with grant money two years ago and are much more reliable than our previous devices, allowing for a more accurate location and also for two-way messaging.

These devices operating using decimal degrees minutes seconds and put a decimal after the degrees when searching their positions.  
Eg -25.30205, 115.116549

The datum being :WGS84.

### 2022 Meeting Schedule

21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 (Zoom) – Review of 2022/23 Operational Plan & Budget

9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (Zoom) – Executive & LPMT Coordinator Zoom

20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 (Face to Face) – General Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (Carnarvon) –AGM & General Meeting

*Newsletter contributions relating biosecurity are always welcomed.  
Please send submission for the next newsletter to  
CRBA Executive Officer Krystie Bremer.*

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[www.crba.org.au](http://www.crba.org.au)

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