

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC.



ANNUAL REPORT 2020 / 2021



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



natural resource
management program



ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS



Rangelands NRM
Western Australia

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1. INTRODUCTION

About the Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association

The CRBA is a not for profit association formed under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*, providing declared pest control services for land managers throughout the Shires of Shark Bay, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Murchison and Upper Gascoyne with additional pastoral leases in the Shire of Northampton and City of Greater Geraldton (locality of Mullewa). The associations' primary purpose is the control of declared pests using funding from Declared Pest Rates paid by landholders on pastoral stations. These Declared Pest Rates funds are matched dollar for dollar by the WA Government to reflect the public benefit of controlling declared pest animals and weeds. The association is formally recognised by the Hon Minister for Agriculture and Food as a recognised biosecurity group (RBG).

Membership of the Association

Full membership of the Association is open only to ratepayers within the area subject to rule 19(3) of the groups constitution, and full membership is automatically bestowed upon the individual or entity in whose name the relevant Declared Pest Rate assessment is issued, provided also that the relevant assessment is paid in full within 12 months of its issue date.

The association is managed by a committee of volunteers who spend a considerable amount of their time in managing the operations and compliance of the CRBA on an annual basis.

Committee of management members (as at 30 June 2020)

Position	Name	Member Station/organisation	Term Expiry
Chair	Justin Steadman	Wooramel Station	26 October 2022
Vice-Chair	Tim Higham	Meedo Station	26 October 2022
Secretary / Treasurer	Ross Collins	Glenburgh Station	30 October 2024
Member	Harry McKeogh	Carey Downs Station	5 December 2021
Member	Alister Gordan	Cooralya Station	30 October 2024
Member	Andrew Whitmarsh	Byro Station	30 October 2021
Member	Greydon Mead	Bullardoo Station	30 October 2021
Member	Cameron Tubby	Wahroonga Station	26 October 2022
Member	Roger Davies	Eudamullah Station	26 October 2022
Associate Member	Gavan Mullan	Dept Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	30 October 2024
Associate Member			
Executive Officer		Krystie Bremer	

How the group is funded

The association's main source of funding is from declared pest rates paid by pastoral lease holders that are matched equally by the State Government. Additional grant income has been received this financial year from the Interim Wild Dog Action Plan (WDAP) funding, with funding for the WDAP2 announced in December 2020 and secure for 2021/22 only; State National Resource Management (State NRM); Rangelands National Resource Management (RNRM); Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Mesquite Case Study, DPIRD Dry Seasons and Australian Wool Industry (AWI). The CRBA has also received funds from the Shires of Upper Gascoyne, Murchison and Shark Bay to allow for additional operations to be undertaken across those shire areas.

The CRBA has specific obligations under the BAM Act regarding the transfer of funds from the Declared Pest Account, which are detailed in sections 170 of the BAM Act. When available the group also attracts funds from other sources such as Federal and State Government, although over recent years access to additional funding has become more difficult and harder to obtain, limiting some programs which aren't the key focus of concern for our members.

2. CRBA AIMS AND AREA OF OPERATIONS

Aims

The Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association (CRBA) aligned its aims directly to its objects in the group's constitution. These are:

- Foster the *control of declared pests* throughout the Area, via the formulation, implementation, and review of appropriate *management plans* and programs.
- Encourage *integration, coordination, and general collaboration* of all Area stakeholders in pest management matters.
- Promote the adoption of *sound biosecurity practices* throughout the Area.

High priority declared pests

Wild dogs - continue to have a major impact across the region, particularly for areas bordering Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and Reserves/National Parks and Exclusive Native Title properties and those properties in the north of the CRBA region.

There has continued to be an increase in numbers across the region with a higher number of reported sightings and stock losses, damage. Numbers controlled by Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) and landholders have increased this year with some regions being significantly impacted.

Weeds of National Significance (WONS) including Mesquite and Parkinsonia - There are currently twelve pastoral leases, two areas of UCL and a reserve around Carnarvon townsite with known infestations. These infestations are mostly found along the Gascoyne, Lyons and Murchison Rivers.

Before the significant rainfall in 2021, work had been undertaken in control of these invasive weeds through external grant funding awarded to the group. Concerns remain that further spread may occur after this year's rainfall, flooding events and the growing season that has followed.

LPMTs and landholders continue to monitor those areas of control, along with reporting new infestations that are found through the CRBA region.

Large Feral Herbivores (LFH) including Donkeys and Camels – are of growing concern across the region with known populations within the Shires of Carnarvon, Murchison and Upper Gascoyne. At present they are found on approximately twenty seven pastoral leases, Exclusive Native Title properties and DBCA managed land within our region. LFH have been sighted as far south as the Murchison Region Vermin Cell (MRVC) fence.

Coral Coast Cactus – continues to be a weed that pastoralists and CRBA Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) around the region are finding. The CRBA is lucky that several known large infestations had considerable work undertaken by the Lyndon LCDC and are now a source of the biological control (cochenil) which is being used to treat new infestations as we become aware.

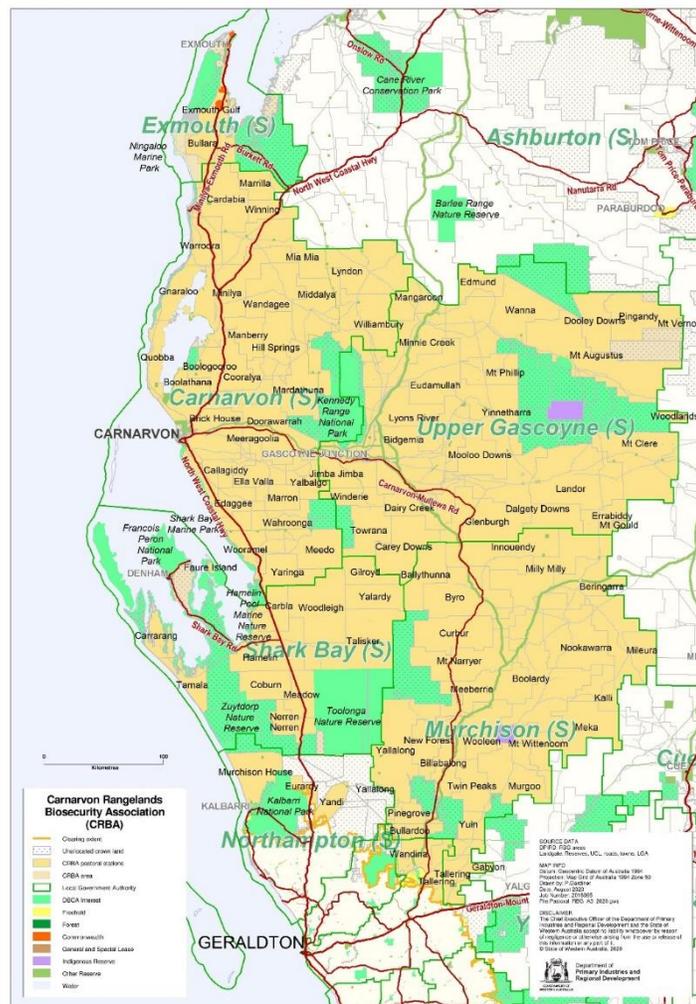
Area of operation

The CRBA area of operation takes in the Shires of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Shark Bay, Murchison and Upper Gascoyne. Along with additional pastoral properties below the state barrier fence within the Shire of Northampton and City of Greater Geraldton (locality of Mullewa) that also form part of the CRBA area of operation. There are over 90 pastoral leases covering some 14.5 million hectares, with around 25% small stock carrying properties; multiple Exclusive Native Title properties covering approximately 1 million hectares and approximately 3.5 million hectares of land under the control of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

The population for the CRBA area is approximately 9,500, with this number and numbers across the CRBA region increasing exponentially during the tourism season. 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 National Park, Mount Augustus and Kennedy Ranges National Parks, multiple nature reserves and former pastoral leasehold properties. The types of land tenures and access to them continues 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.

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 Northern Agricultural Region, now under the Northern Biosecurity Group (NBG) which includes Kalbarri National Park and unallocated Crown Land (UCL).



3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The CRBA committee and Executive Officer continued to work on ensuring operations ran smoothly throughout 2020/21. The region saw substantial rainfall through the last six months of the year, relieving pressure felt by our members in recent years and restricting access throughout the region for planned operations.

Activities:

- The CRBA welcomed back management of declared pests with in the Shire of Upper Gascoyne. Whilst there were some teething issues, the committee and shire have worked hard to ensure the migration went smooth and all landholder needs were meet.
- Regional community wild dog ground baiting was coordinated in late October, early November 2020 with the delay experienced due to shortage of bait meat. Our spring program saw aerial baiting funded by the Shire of Upper Gascoyne undertaken in that area, landholders provided the avgas, bombardier time and accommodation/meals. Alongside this program aerial baiting was undertaken in the Kennedy Ranges National Park (a well known problem area for the region), this was funded by DBCA with the CRBA providing the bombardier.
- Autumn baiting did not take place due to the rainfall experience across the entire region.
- Shires that have shown and committed to supporting the RBG:
 - Shire of Upper Gascoyne – \$120,000 was provided allowing an additional LPMT to operate across the shire area, along with aerial baiting and LFH control.
 - Shire of Murchison - \$15,000 which was utilised for Large Feral Herbivore (LFH) control and additional time for Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMT) across the shire's operation area.
 - Shire of Shark Bay – provided a \$5,000 contribution to the CRBA to assist our operations within the region.
- Additional leveraged funding was received from CSIRO to compliment the work undertaken with grant funds received from Rangelands NRM and DPIRD Dry Seasons, along with DBCA contributing to baiting costs for some for their properties in the Murchison.

Achievements:

- Welcomed four new LPMT contractors to the group.
- Implementation of quarterly surveys in the last two quarters saw a further increase in data collected from landholders.
- Significant rainfall and flooding events welcomed across the region meaning several programs were delayed, minimised due to access.
- LPMT contractors across the region started collecting DNA samples from controlled wild dogs as part of research being undertaken by Tracey Kreplins, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). These samples will help the CRBA form a picture of animal movements, not just across the region but within the state.
- Continuation of State National Resource Management (NRM) grant for the Management of Weeds of National Significance (WONS). This is a small three-year program which will see WONS controlled along the Lyons, Gascoyne, and Murchison Rivers in pre-determined locations.
- Continuation of Rangelands NRM funding for assistance in the management of predators which affect known turtle nesting sites on Gnaraloo Station. This funding was for an additional ten LPMT days to assist the land manager in control of these animals on the pastoral lease.
- Continuation of the Rangelands NRM funding for LFH control continues to be invaluable in the control of these pests within the CRBA region. This program has allowed us to undertake annual operations with leveraged funds and CRBA funds.

- With funding received from DPIRD Dry Seasons, the CRBA was able to increase LFH control programs undertaken over the year.
- Funding was welcomed from AWI to assist in training of landholders and LPMTs with the control of declared pests. This funding saw two landholder training days held during 2020/21 with future training planned into the new year.
- DPIRD approached the CRBA to manage a Mesquite Case Study in the town of Carnarvon. This program was managed by the CRBA Executive Officer with great success in bring together some of the towns key stakeholders to undertake control of this invasive species.
- After engagement with the Shire of Carnarvon on Mesquite the Executive Officer worked with them again to submit a grant for future control on key areas in and around the townsite.
- The CRBA was awarded Dry Seasons LFH funding from DPIRD. This funding was used to further extend our LFH operations with great success.

What is working well:

- CBRA communication to its constituents continues to improve, with new methods implemented. The bi-annual newsletter was again emailed to all stakeholders, with members also mailed a printed copy.
- Email updates to members, when required throughout the year on important biosecurity matters, such as sharing of the Biosecurity Blitz (although it is noted that these updates have been few and far between over the past 12 months).
- The CRBA continues to meet the increasing governance requirements and pressures placed on RBGs.

Areas of concerns:

- Impact of the pastoral land values (rent review) on the CRBA total land value. **Unsure if you want to say the CRBA started asking questions about this in May 2020 with little information received until well after this?**
- The biggest area of concern for the CRBA is the repayment of funds already expended in the 2020/21 year. The repayment of \$282,167 (declared pest rate and matching CF) is expected during the 2021/22 year.
- Access to critical data required for the business of RBGs is providing undue stress to the Executive committee and our Executive Officer. Access to this information has been removed with no consultation or warning prior to doing so.
- The need for financial support moving forward for RBGs surrounding the increased pressure from DPIRD, along with the ever increasing administrative requirements, along with group governance.
- Prompt (or lack thereof) response and general communication from DPIRD regarding RBG related issues, including governance requirements.
- Access by the CRBA LPMTs onto lands under the management of the government continues to be a major concern. Krystie has been working through these issues including permits to allow LPMT access. This issue continues to be problematic with those responsible for management not seeing the same issues around pest animals as the CRBA committee and surrounding landholders. This issue continues to be unresolved.
- There is only one vacant position on the CRBA committee, although volunteer fatigue sees maintaining active involvement of all members currently on the committee.
- **The positions of Vice-Chair and Chair are also due to expire in 2022, with both executive position being held for two consecutive terms.**
- **With the expiry of these executive positions, there is growing concerns on attracting volunteers to step in and new members over the coming months with the increased pressure on the committee due to increasing pressures faced over the past six months from the department.**

- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) has a large number of land tenure changes across the CRBA moving forward. This will see a large amount of UCL changed to National Parks/Reserves into the future.
- The timeliness and accuracy of quarterly financial statements from DPIRD for our Declared Pest Rate income, continues to be challenging for the CRBA. The lack of promptness in forwarding them and communication of delays has caused undue stress to the CRBA committee and Executive Officer as it tries to manage an up to date and current financial outlook for the group.
- Adjustments made by DPIRD during the 2020/21 consultation process and the subsequent massive decrease in land values across the CRBA sees an untenable position moving not only into 2021/22 year but also future years.
- **The budgeted payment rate for the 2020/21 year was 85%. I am however unable to provide an actual payment rate figure this year, as the information hasn't been provided to the committee after multiple requests to DPIRD.**
- Exclusive Possession Native Title properties and the issues surrounding access for biosecurity (and management of it as a whole) continues to cause issue with no work undertaken on more than 1 million hectares of estate since mid-2018.
- The CRBA region has seen a significant number of changes to landholders/managers across the region this year, these changes whilst bring new ideas to the region result in a shortfall in trained pastoralists who can participate in control activities.
- Lack of compliance of both public and private landholders/managers under the BAM Act. With no assistance provided by DPIRD in enforcing compliance under the act.

Day to Day

- Due to compliance, there are two LPMT changes moving into 2021/22, both have commenced in late 2020/21 and have started well with communication with coordinators, committee and landholders noted.
- During the past twelve months we have organised for long standing LPMTs to mentor new LPMTs. This has seen contractors working well together, sharing ideas and picking up new tools to assist in the ongoing fight against wild dogs.

Summary

I would like to thank the CRBA committee members, LPMT coordinators and Bait Rack coordinators for their contributions towards the running of the group over the past year. Without their assistance the group's achievements would not be what they are.

I would also like to recognise the support and participation received from key stakeholders of the CRBA, including the Shires of Murchison, Shark Bay and Upper Gascoyne; CSIRO; DBCA and Rangelands NRM.

Justin Steadman
CHAIRPERSON
Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc.

4. CRBA OPERATIONS 2020/2021

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 provide the CRBA with the Government’s matching dollar for dollar contribution.

Interim funding was announced by DPIRD whilst the Wild Dog Action Plan 2 (WDAP2) was being finalised. This funding was welcomed and the CRBA committee is hopeful that the State will announce funding under the new plan during 2020/21. This funding is aimed to assist in wild dog control operations on government managed lands and neighbouring small stock pastoral properties within the Southern Rangelands.

There continues to be large and ever-changing complexities around the required administration and governance of the CRBA and its declared pest rates. The increased requirements see diversion of funds for on ground activities moved towards the funding of the CRBA Executive Officer (EO). An integral part of ensuring the CRBA meets these obligations. Our EO has spent considerable time over the past six months dealing with the increasing pressure put on the volunteer committee by DPIRD and also spends considerable time trying to resolve many issues that arise throughout the year relating to things such as: DBCA access; Restricted Chemical Permits (RCPS), management of the Declared Pest Account funds and the monitoring and reporting requirements.

Wild Dog Control

Declared Pest Account Program activities and expenditure included:

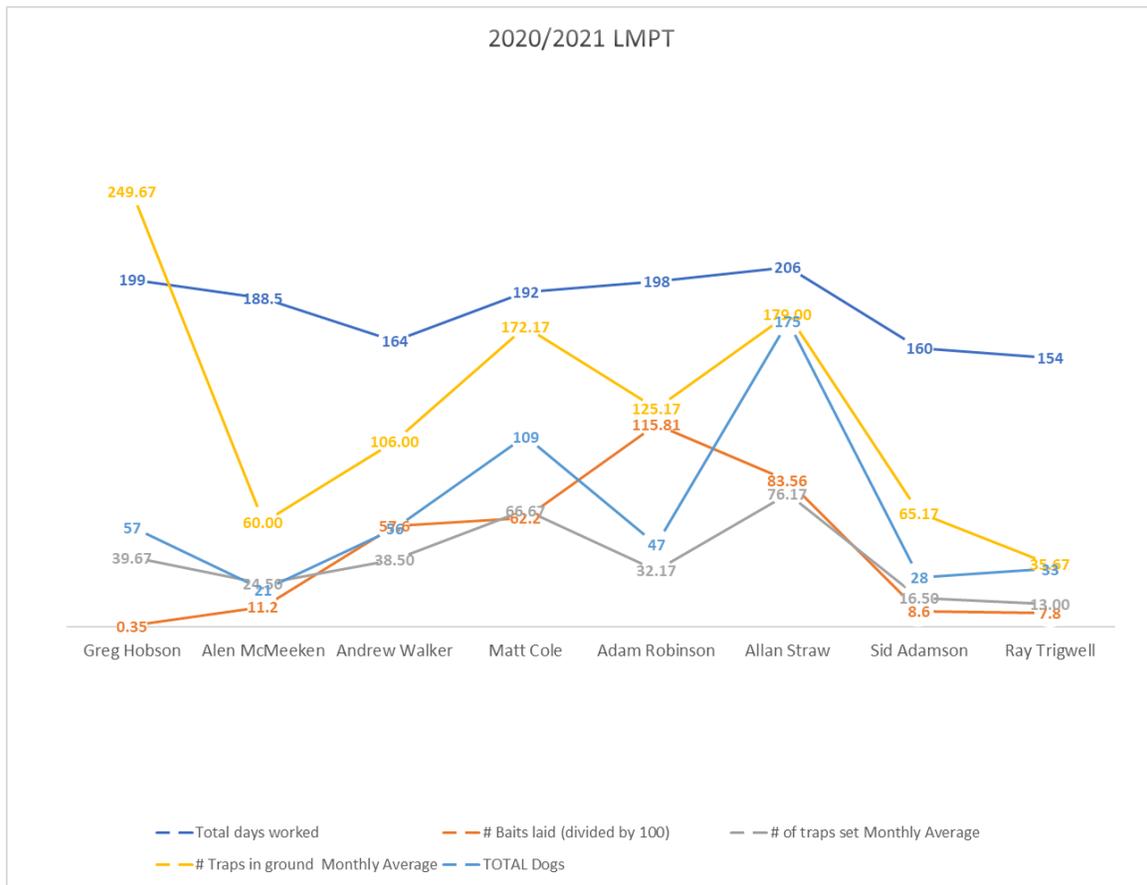
- One baiting program (Spring):
 - Spring baiting program included **7.5 tonnes** of bait meat supplied to CRBA chillers, more than 85,000 baits created at community bait racks and distributed by landholders;
 - A second community baiting was planned which included purchasing of **3.5 tonnes** of bait meat but due to the significant rainfall and flooding events across the CRBA region, this program was unable to be undertaken (funding was planned to be expensed on wild dog control in 2021/22)
 - Additional bait meat left in chillers has then been available for landholders and LPMTs to utilise, as needed throughout the year;
- One aerial baiting program funded by the Shire of Upper Gascoyne was undertaken during spring;
- One aerial baiting program, coordinated with DBCA in the Kennedy Range National Park during spring, with DBCA funding the cost of baits and plane; and the CRBA providing the LPMT bombardier;
- Contracting Licenced Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) for local wild dog trapping, baiting and shooting functions;
- Payment of \$10,086.80 to the Meekatharra RBG for wild dog control activities managed by them on Mt Clere station, as requested by the landholder.

LPMT Summary

Contains combined figures from 8 CRBA contracted LPMTs:

Total days worked	1469.50
Number of baits laid	34 712
Number of traps set	1843
Number of dogs destroyed - Shot	48
Number of dogs destroyed - Trapped	464
Number of dogs destroyed - Other	22
Number of reported small stock kills by wild dogs	6
Number of reported wild dog complaints by landowners	43

Note: through the transition period data from SUG LPMTs is still not 100%. It is anticipated this will improve into 2021/22 with changes to agreements across this area.



During 2020/21 the CRBA saw an increase in the number of wild dog incursions across properties within the region.

YEAR	Total days worked	Dogs shot	Dogs trapped	Dogs Other (Pups)	TOTAL Dogs
2016/2017	995	16	254	11	281
2017/2018	1029	23	272	4	299
2018/2019	1194.5	63	450	33	546
2019/2020	1078.5	19	374	24	417
2020/2021	1469.5	48	464	22	534
TOTALS	5766.5	169	1814	94	2077

The CRBA relies heavily on pastoral lease holders playing active roles in the management of declared pests and plants on their own stations. The group continues to rely on its members and key stake holders to participate in preparing wild dog meat baits at Community Baiting Events, distribute dried prepared baits across their properties, trap/shoot wild dogs and also to show interest in and support the LPMTs that operate on their properties.

Not only did the control undertaken by our LPMTs increase over the past 12 months, but numbers reported by our landholders has also increased significantly during 2020/21. Landholders reported controlling **194** wild dogs throughout the year.

The CRBA would also like to recognise the Shire of Murchison who continues to actively encourage people within their Shire to control dogs via internal initiatives. From their records **40** wild dogs have been controlled throughout the year.

Large Feral Herbivore Control

The CRBA relies heavily on additional funding received to undertake control of these pests due to the financial restraints, how wide spread they are in the region and funds being expensed on priority pests. That said control through 'soft money' in 2020/21 has seen a significant number of animals controlled across the region (reported under project summaries).

Along with these programs landholders have controlled a total of **544** and LPMTs **91** LFH. With the Shire of Murchison reporting control of **220** LFH.

Declared Weed Control

Work was undertaken on Weeds of National Significance (WONS) utilising 'soft money' (reported under project summaries). CRBA contractors have also worked with landholders on the control of Coral Coast Cactus, utilising biological control to manage infestations.

Volunteer Summary

The CRBA relies 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:

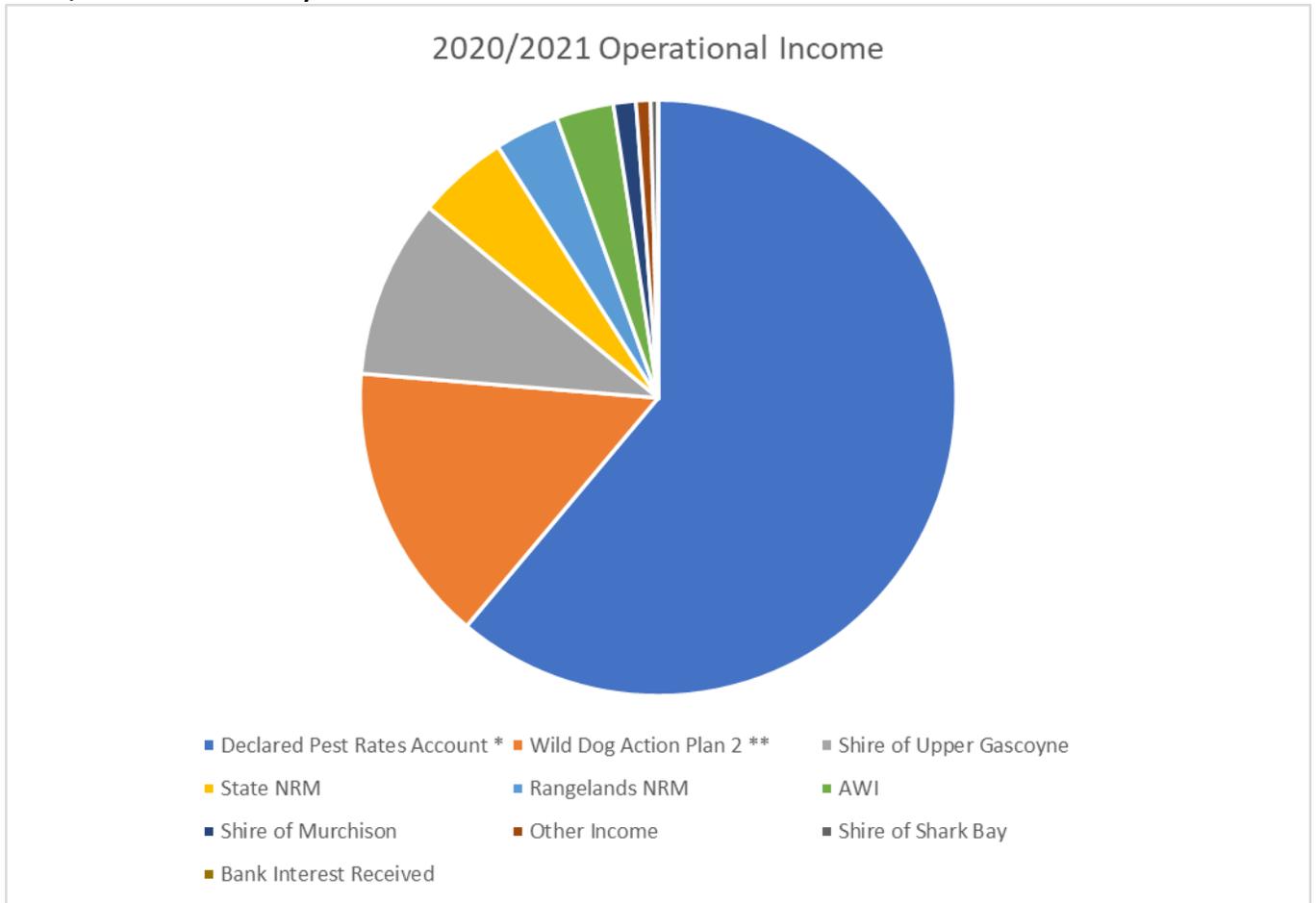
- Participation on the Management Committee;
- Time and fuel commitments by members to attend training days, workshops, industry and government meetings and liaisons. Given the vast area the CRBA covers this is a big commitment by our committee with often more than 600km round trips required to attend 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 prior to payment;
- Assistance with wild dog aerial baiting programs, including helping with loading baits and providing fuel into the contracted charter plane, as well as taking on the roles of navigator and/or bombardier during aerial baiting flights to ensure baits are dropped in areas of need on rough terrain that cannot be accessed for ground baiting;
- Negotiating and developing partnerships with WALGA, 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, ground staff during various declared pest programs including aerial baiting, LFH and weed control.

The CRBA continues to work with DBCA to gain support, assistance and access for LPMTs to undertake control of declared pests on their land tenures. Without this supportive relationship with DBCA the management of pests across the region would be difficult as a significant amount of land would be inaccessible to the CRBA.

The CRBA also appreciates the ongoing role of S7 Retailer Shane Aylmore of Carnarvon Pest Control/Ella Valla Station. Shane via an S7 Retailer Licence stores and distributes wild dog control chemical as an unpaid, voluntary service to CRBA pastoral stations and LPMTs in accordance with RCP permits and LPMT Licence conditions.

Further appreciation from the CRBA needs to go to the Shires of Carnarvon, Murchison and Upper Gascoyne for the storage and ongoing running costs of the CRBA bait meat freezers within their depots.

2020/21 Financial Summary



2020/2021 Operational Income (excluding GST):

Declared Pest Rates Account *	\$	753,863.00
Wild Dog Action Plan 2 **	\$	187,500.00
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	\$	120,000.00
State NRM	\$	60,975.00
Rangelands NRM	\$	43,100.00
AWI	\$	38,571.43
Shire of Murchison	\$	15,000.00
Other Income	\$	9,738.41
Shire of Shark Bay	\$	5,000.00
Bank Interest Received	\$	-
Total Operating Income	\$	1,233,747.84

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** DPA income breakdown is as follows:*

<i>DPIRD matching CF appropriation</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>375,061.00</i>
<i>Declared Pest Rate paid by Pastoralists (83.13% payment rate for 2019/20 - no payments made on historical outstanding debits)</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>318,802.00</i>
<i>CRBA drawdown of reserve funds held by DPIRD</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>60,000.00</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>753,863.00</i>

*** R4R Funding covers 360 days or 1.8 FTE at current LPMT contractor rates, all other cost (equipment, chemicals, insurances, ammunition, administration & management) are funding by the CRBA.*



Operating Expenses (excluding GST):

Declared Pest Rates Account	\$	539,822.47
DPA - Shire of Upper Gascoyne	\$	200,658.72
Wild Dog Action Plan 2 (R4R)	\$	187,552.48
DPA - Ongoing Projects/Commitments Funds ***	\$	150,000.00
DPIRD Mesquite Case Study	\$	99,996.02
State NRM - WONS	\$	50,410.47
Rangelands NRM LFH	\$	38,250.00
DPIRD Dry Seasons	\$	25,010.80
Drought Pest	\$	17,154.55
DPA - Meekatharra RBG	\$	10,086.80
Rangelands NRM Gnaraloo	\$	5,599.88
Capacity Building	\$	403.27
Total Operating Expenses	\$	1,324,945.46

Surplus for 2020/2021	-\$	91,197.62
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*** This figure has been internally transferred from our main operating account to the CRBA Reserve/Ongoing account and therefore do not show in our financial audited figures as an expense.



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CB – Capacity Building, DPA – Declared Pest Account, PD – Pest Drought, R4R – Royalties for Regions, RNRN – Rangelands NRM, SNRM – State NRM.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

WDAP2 funding has only been confirmed for the CRBA for 2021/22 as the Minister has requested that DPIRD work with all state RBGs and stakeholders on the distribution of LPMT funding/hours now there are more groups in Western Australia.

Without a confirmed equivalent form of replacement funding along with the significant reductions in the Declared Pest Rate for 2021/22 (and into the future), the CRBA will have to reduce its budget spending in a manner that will reverse the achievements and ground made over the last 5 years. Lack of replacement funding will also see a considerable amount of land under the management of DBCA receive little to no on ground activities.

Moving into 2021/22 the CRBA will rely heavily on future program funding, leavin the group in an untenable situation moving into future years. Seeing a massive reduction in programs and LPMTs across the entire region which will result in an increase in predator distribution across not only the CRBA region, but the state.

Project Summaries

State NRM WONS - Mesquite

Utilising funding awarded by National Resource Management Community Stewardship Grants 2019.

Phase Two of the project took place in November across identified properties along the Lyons River. The project originally noted Mangaroon, Minnie Creek and Lyons River, due to the efficiency of our contractor, Jox Collins this area was expanded to take in a small patch on Eudamullah and some on Bidgemia.

Over 18 days the contractor sprayed approximately **375** plants, with the majority being younger plants found under dead trees, as a result of the last large-scale program undertaken by the CRBA. There was also a small number of larger trees found, which had been missed during the previous programs.

Phase Three of the project also commenced as working inland became too warm. This work was undertaken in early December and was undertaken on Brickhouse, Boolathanna and Doorawarra Stations.

Over 13 days the contractor sprayed approximately **6230** mesquite trees and two coral cactus patches observed. It was noted that there are some very large thickets located close to town, with one of the infestations occurring due to seed set from the town common.

Over both phases approximately 50,700 hectares were covered. There is still funding remaining in this project with works planned for the second part of the 2020/21 year delayed due to the rainfall and flooding that occurred across the control areas meaning control work was not able to be undertaken.

The final year of the program will be 2021/22, in which further controls and follow ups will be undertaken across the planned locations and additional properties with known infestations. A field day will also need to be held at one of the spray locations to allow for data share and weed management with the local community.

Rangelands NRM for Small Predator Grant - Gnaraloo

The Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association (CRBA) commenced additional assistance on Gnaraloo Station in October 2019 during the Turtle breeding season. October 2020 – April 2021 being the second-year funding has been received for 10 days.

The CRBA provided additional traps and chemicals to the Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMT) Adam Robinson. These additional 10 days of funding saw Adam work a total of 16 days on Gnaraloo Station during the past 7 months. Over this time Adam has laid baits and set traps across the entire pastoral lease.

Observations across Gnaraloo show a significant decrease in wild dog activities. With only one dog observed and destroyed over the past 8 months. Adam undertook a large bait run over summer laying more than 500 baits across the property.

The biggest concern now is the impact tourism is having since access to the northern portion of the property has now been made public. This has further limited the ability to undertake control on declared pests.

Australian Wool Industry Funding

Funding was received from AWI to train landholders and LPMTs to assist with feral animal control across the CRBA region. 2020/21 being the first year of this program.

Training was held in Carnarvon and Murchison by Central TAFE on 1080 usage. This training provided a total of **15** landholders with the qualifications required to inject 1080 baits at community bait racks, increasing the capacity of the CRBA sustainably.

An LPMT training day was planned for June 2020, but due to closed roads and ongoing rainfall in the area this has been delayed till later in 2021.

Rangelands NRM Large Feral Herbivores

The first program for 2020/21 took place in December 2020. The funding received allowed the CRBA to leverage additional funds and run the program in the North East Carnarvon & North Upper Gascoyne, along with a program across the Murchison. Again, the program was a great success.

Across the entire area covered a total of **1278** animals were controlled. Including ferrying time, a total of **53.5** hours were utilised. There were **18** wild dogs controlled and **1260** LFH. A very successful and financially viable program.

The program started in the north of the region and continued across the top of the CRBA region for 4 days. 6 properties participated covering nearly 3500kms, controlling a total of **1205** LFH and **8** wild dogs. The CRBA committee would like to recognise and thank both Sean d’Arcy and Johnno Percy for providing a spotter plane whilst operations took place in their respective areas.

The program continued into the Murchison and after the recent rain was called off after one day. 5 properties participated with nearly 999kms covered, controlling **55** LFH and **10** wild dogs.

The follow up program was undertaken in March 2021 and again was undertaken in the North East Carnarvon & North Upper Gascoyne, along with a program across the Murchison. .

Across the entire area covered a total of **610** animals were controlled. Including ferrying time, a total of **46.4** hours were flown. Funding received from the Shire of Murchison and CSIRO allowed the program to be extended. There were **3** wild dogs controlled and **607** LFH.

The program started in the Murchison and covered 6 properties participated with **191** LFH and **3** wild dogs.

The program continued into the north of the region and continued across the top of the CRBA region for 3 days. 6 properties participated, controlling a total of **416** LFH.

The CRBA committee would like to recognise and thank Sean d’Arcy for providing a spotter plane whilst operations took place in their respective areas. The committee would also like to thank those that provided the team with meals and accommodation throughout operations undertaken throughout 2020/21.

Interim Wild Dog Action Plan Funding (old Royalties for Regions Funding)

This program provided funding for a total of **360** days of LPMT time with the CRBA using this towards two additional full 200 day contracts and DPA funding providing the shortfall in funding for these contracts, along with day to day overheads.

The two contractors control a total of **196** wild dogs and **3** feral cats. These contractors cover those small stock properties and surrounding government managed lands that the CRBA has access too. These LPMTs received a total of **41** complaints relating to wild dogs and reported observing stock attacks on six different occasions.

In December 2020 the Minister announced that the second Wild Dog Action Plan would be funded, sadly the funding is the same amount as the last plan. After much follow-up, funding amounts for the 2021/22 year have been announced with similar funding being received by the CRBA. The Ministers Offices plans to consult with industry during next year to work out where the funding for the remaining three years of the new plan will be allocated.

DPIRD – Mesquite Management Case Study, Carnarvon Townsite

Mesquite is a common name for several plants in the genus *Prosopis*, which contains over 40 species of small leguminous trees. Native to North and South America, mesquite plants were introduced to Australia as fodder for stock, ornamentals in station homestead or town gardens, and used in mine dumps and other soil stabilisation programs. Mesquite is a Weed of National Significance (WONS).

Mesquite is an evergreen or deciduous shrub or low tree with one to several trunks and arched branches. It has different growth forms depending on its location and water supply.

Drier soils – short, many stemmed shrubs one to three metres high

Near permanent water – large single trunk 6-15 metres high

Floodplains – branching from the base, forming dense thickets five to eight metres high, particularly along the banks of intermittently flowing creeks

Mesquite invades rangelands with thickets out competing other vegetation, interfering with mustering and block access to watering places. Mesquite is a C1/C2 Declared pest under BAM act 2007 for whole of State and remains an eradication target in the Gascoyne Catchment.

During the program key stakeholders in Carnarvon were approached for involvement in the program, which included a questionnaire on their understanding of this invasive species and their commitment to the ongoing treatment in the management of this declared pest. A large amount of effort was put in by the CRBA Executive Officer Krystie Bremer in the engagement of these stakeholders, with contribution from the main stakeholder being difficult to obtain.

After a suggestion from received from one of the stakeholders an Information Session was held for all stakeholders in Carnarvon. The session was held Thursday 17th September 2020 at the Gwoonwardu Mia Centre in Carnarvon, a site with known Mesquite Trees. Attendance was better than expected with the following from each stakeholder in attendance:

Westerly Contractors – 2

CRBA – 1

DBCA – 1

Shire of Carnarvon – 6

Department of Water – 1

DPIRD Research Station – 2

Main Roads (including Lend Lease) – 10

Westerly Contractors sprayed **11,022** Mesquite Trees and **6** Parkinsonia Trees utilising funding received from this program, with DBCA providing chemicals and Shire of Carnarvon the diesel used to mix the chemicals.

It is hoped through this program that continued work will be undertaken by the key stakeholders in the town of Carnarvon to further control the spread of this invasive species.

The funding the CRBA received for this project went towards its management, final report and has allowed the DPA account to save a considerable amount of money for EO time and related expenses.

DPIRD – Dry Season

This program provided assistance the CRBA in the control of Large Feral Herbivores throughout the region. Funding was used for ammunition, ground support (collecting of DNA Donkey samples for research) and a licensed marksman. Funding allowed the CRBA to increase planned operations across a larger proportion of the problems areas within the region.

The CRBA commenced our first round of control utilising this funding in December 2020 also. The program funding **2,556** rounds of ammunition, **6** marksman/ground days and **30** LFH DNA samples to taken as part of the program. Funding has allowed our LPMTs to also spend some time controlling LFH across the region with a total of **32** animals controlled over the last few months. Further work utilising this funding will take place over the coming months.

The second round of control utilising this funding in March 2021. The program funding **2,000** rounds of ammunition, **4** marksman/ground days and **15** LFH DNA samples to taken as part of the program. Funding has allowed our LPMTs to also spend some time controlling LFH across the region with a total of **59** animals controlled.



Signed: _____

Date: 29th October 2021

Justin Steadman, Chairman, Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association

5. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

**Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2021**

**WESTWOOD
ACCOUNTANTS**

ABN 74 420 909 329
128 Chapman Road
GERALDTON WA 6530

Phone: 08 9964 1941
Email: kevin@westwood.com.au

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC
ABN 98 325 203 509

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CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Directors' Declaration

The director of the company declares that:

1. the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the year ended on that date;
2. in the director's opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the director.

Dated:



CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2021 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 2015. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC
ABN 98 325 203 509

Independent Auditor's Report

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on : 7 September 2021



Kevin Cassidy, Institute of Public Accountants IPA
Westwood Accountants
Geraldton

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Detailed Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$
Current Assets		
Cash Assets		
CRBA - DPA/R4R (6577)		184,238
CRBA One off funding/grants (6486)		73,198
CRBA - Contingency/reserved (4964)		218,925
		<u>476,361</u>
Current Tax Assets		
GST clearing		27,752
		<u>27,752</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>504,113</u>
Total Assets		<u>504,113</u>
Net Assets		<u>504,113</u>
Members' Funds		
Reserves		
Member funds		445,311
Change in members funds for year		58,802
Total Members' Funds		<u>504,113</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Detailed Income & Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021
	\$
Income	
DBCA - Baiting	605
DPIRD - DPA CRBA held funds	60,000
DPIRD - DPA matching \$	375,061
DPIRD - DPA rates	318,802
DPIRD - State NRM office grant	60,975
DPIRD - Wild dog action plan R4R	187,500
DPIRD - AWI grant	38,571
Rangelands NRM	43,100
Shire contributions	140,000
Other income	9,133
Total income	<u>1,233,748</u>
Expenses	
Accountancy	556
Audit fees	4,000
CB 16/17 - CRBA training & support	403
DPA - 1080 baiting	4,471
DPA - Bait	42,910
DPA - Baiting advertising	1,051
DPA - Baiting supplies	3,320
DPA - Community engagement	1,066
DPA - Exectutive support	27,284
DPA - Herbicide & oats	1,555
DPA - LFH control	12,250
DPA - LPMT	415,230
DPA - Meekatharra RBA (Mt Clere)	10,087
DPA - Meetings	1,121
DPA - RCP	380
DPA - S7 licence renewals	371
DPA - Safety & misc	3,260
DPA - SUG	200,659
DPA - Strychnine	5,244
DPA - Traps	13,982

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CARNARVON RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC

ABN 98 325 203 509

Detailed Income & Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021
	\$
Insurance	1,773
LFH Dry seasons	25,011
Mesquite management	99,996
Pest Drought - Pig project	17,155
R4R - LPMT	187,552
Rangelands NRM Donkey - Helicopter hire	38,250
Rangelands NRM Gnaraloo - LPMT	5,600
WONS	50,410
Total expenses	<u>1,174,945</u>
Total changes in members funds of the association	<u><u>58,802</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.