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Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



Grains, Seeds and Hay
Industry Funding Scheme

Annual Report 2018/2019



Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme

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From the Chair

I am pleased to present the 2018/19 Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme annual report to the Scheme participants, stakeholders involved in the Western Australian grain, seed and hay industries and the Minister for Agriculture and Food.

2018/19 was a challenging year for the Management Committee with delays in committee member appointments meaning we operated without our full complement of seven members. Nevertheless, the Scheme continued to operate well, supported by the good governance procedures that we had in place for committee conduct and decision-making.

The IFS-funded programs continue to progress. In particular, we remain on track for eradicating bedstraw from arable areas within the next couple of years – which will be an impressive achievement given the difficulty in eradicating any weed from the environment. The year also saw our first testing of the IFS-funded drone system to survey skeleton weed. These field tests identified improvements to be made in the logistical process; nevertheless, the drones performed well covering an area of almost 9000 hectares.

Previous Chairs have made the point, and I will reiterate – the Industry Funding Scheme is industry's scheme. The Management Committee relies on feedback and direction from

the industry to ensure that the scheme is addressing industry's priorities and operating in the most effective way. I encourage all scheme contributors to read this annual report and provide feedback on the operation of the scheme. The Industry Funding Scheme is a valuable arrangement in place under legislation that we, as an industry, can use to help safeguard our industry from pests and diseases.

I thank you for your participation in the Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme and, on behalf of the Committee, look forward to a continuing partnership with producers, industry and Government throughout 2019/20.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Day', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rohan Day

Chair, Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme
Management Committee

List of acronyms

ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
CBH	Cooperative Bulk Handling
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
GBAC	Grains Biosecurity Advisory Committee
GIWA	Grains Industry Association of Western Australia
IFS	Industry Funding Scheme
LAG	Local Action Group
UAV	unmanned aerial vehicle
WA	Western Australia



Image 1 - Harvest

Overview of the Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme

The Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme (IFS) was introduced in June 2010 to address biosecurity threats relevant to the Western Australian (WA) grains, seeds and hay industries. The Scheme was established under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* to enable growers to identify the pest and disease priorities at a whole-of-industry level and raise funds for activities to address these priorities.

There are currently three Industry Funding Schemes in operation. In addition to the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS, there is a Cattle IFS and a Sheep and Goat IFS. The three IFSs operate in a similar manner.

For the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS, funds are raised through grower contributions that are collected by registered receivers¹. These payments are forwarded to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). In accordance with the IFS regulations, DPIRD maintain and administer the Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Declared Pest Control and Compensation Account (the Account) in consultation with the industry.

Growers do not have to participate in the Scheme — there is a mechanism that allows them to opt out. Opting out does not remove the legal requirement to deal with the pests and diseases to which the Scheme relates, but does disqualify the

grower from any benefits provided by the Scheme such as on-ground assistance and compensation.

The Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS is overseen by a seven-member Industry Management Committee. The Minister for Agriculture and Food appointed the committee members after inviting industry nominations and receiving advice from an industry-based Appointments Committee. As required by regulation, the majority of the Industry Management Committee are full participants of the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS.

The Industry Management Committee is responsible for approving payments made from the Account and approving the biosecurity-related programs funded through the Scheme. They also provide advice to the Minister on the Scheme's area of operation and the contribution rate.

The State Government, through DPIRD, provides the necessary support to ensure proper governance and the effective operation of the Scheme and Management Committee. This includes secretariat, communications, policy and technical support, as well as financial management. Furthermore, the normal regulatory inspection and compliance activities undertaken by DPIRD closely complement the priorities of the Management Committee.

¹ As defined by the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Industry Funding Scheme (Grains) Regulations 2010

2018/19 Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme at a glance

During 2018/19:

- Contributions of 25 cents per tonne applied to the first sale of all grain and seed produced within the agricultural areas² of WA
- Contributions of 12.5 cents per tonne applied to the first sale of all hay produced within the agricultural areas² of WA
- Contributions totalling \$4 232 265 were received
- Contributions were used to fund programs to manage skeleton weed and eradicate three-horned bedstraw
- The cost of the skeleton weed program was \$4 258 458
- The cost of the three-horned bedstraw program was \$244 377
- Compensation totalling \$130 220 was paid during the year
- Committee costs were \$18 481
- Seventeen growers opted out of the Scheme in 2018/19, with a total of \$8890 to be refunded to five of these growers in the 2019/20 financial year.



Image 2 – Hay bales

² The agricultural areas (roughly a line from Northampton to Esperance) are defined as all local government districts excluding Broome, Halls Creek, West Kimberley, Wyndham-East Kimberley, Ashburton, Carnarvon, Coolgardie, Cue, Dundas, East Pilbara, Exmouth, Laverton, Leonora, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Meekatharra, Menzies, Mount Magnet, Murchison, Ngaanyatjaraku, Port Hedland, Roebourne, Sandstone, Shark Bay, Upper Gascoyne, Wiluna and Yalgoo



Image 3 – Canola in flower

Industry Management Committee

The Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS is overseen by a seven-member Industry Management Committee. The Committee terms of reference can be found at Appendix 1.

Mr Jim Sullivan (Chair*) has been involved in the agricultural industry for more than 50 years, and currently runs a successful enterprise in the Varley-Holt Rock area of WA. He has been involved in the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group, including as the Chair, and is a past Chair of the Board of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc.

Mr Rohan Day (Chair)** owns an 8400 hectare cropping enterprise located south-east of Merredin. He is actively involved in various local community groups.

Mrs Suzanne Woods (Deputy Chair)** farms with her family in Calingiri, cropping 3000 hectares of export hay, canola, wheat and barley. Additionally, Suzanne is a co-owner of an export company that processes and exports hay and straw to Asia and the Middle East. Active in numerous local, regional, State and national groups associated with agriculture and rural communities, Suzanne is currently a director of the Australian Fodder Industry Association.

Mr Rod Birch has been active in the grains industry for 40 years. He is currently involved in a 9400 hectare grain growing business in the Midwest region of WA. Rod is the Deputy Chair of Grain Growers Ltd and a Director on the External Advisory Board of the Institute of Agriculture at the University of WA.

Mr Ron Creagh owns and operates a broad acre cropping and livestock enterprise in the Shires of Nungarin and Trayning. He is a founding member of the Ningham Focus Group, and a past President of the Nungarin Shire Council. Ron was a member of the Agriculture Protection Board and the Biosecurity Council of WA, and past Chair of GrainGuard. Ron is currently appointed to the Grain Industries Association of WA's Wheat Council.

Mr Drew Mutter has farmed in the northern agricultural region for more than 20 years, and is the owner/operator of a 10 000 acre grain property in Yandanooka. He has served on the management committee of the Mingenew Irwin Group, a progressive and reputable grower-driven group that promotes and develops economic and environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Mrs Anne Wilkins has 30-years' experience, predominately in the grains industry, including research and development, agronomy, market research, trade development and working with end-users. She has worked in the commercial, government and not-for-profit sectors and, with her husband, owns and operates a cropping and sheep farm in Badgingarra.

The purpose of the Committee is to deliver a sustainable process for industry management of incursions in the WA grains, seeds and hay sectors.

Membership terms

Name	Position	Expiry of term
Jim Sullivan	Chair*	31 December 2018
Rohan Day	Chair**	30 June 2019
Suzanne Woods	Deputy Chair**	30 June 2019
Rod Birch***	Member	31 December 2021
Ron Creagh	Member	30 June 2019
Drew Mutter	Member	30 June 2019
Anne Wilkins***	Member	31 December 2021

*Until 31 December 2018

**From 7 March 2019

***Appointed from 1 January 2019

The membership term for five of the seven Committee members expired in the 2018/19 financial year. The current Committee membership is listed at Appendix 2.

Operation of the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS

Since the introduction of the IFS in 2010, the Industry Management Committee has governed the collection, management and use of industry funds to deliver a biosecurity funding scheme that benefits the WA grains, seeds and hay industries. During the 2018/19 year, the Committee held three ordinary meetings and one teleconference, and worked on a number of key activities during the year.

Industry priorities for funding

Approved programs: In April 2018 the Committee approved funding to continue programs targeting skeleton weed and three-horned bedstraw into 2018/19. Detailed information on the 2018/19 IFS-funded programs can be found in this report.

In April 2019, industry priorities were once again considered by the Committee, and the programs were approved for a further 12 months. Changes were made to the Skeleton Weed Program for 2019/20 including increasing the amount of search assistance available to landholders and contractors and funding the cost of the chemical (Lontrel™) for weed control. Although these changes will result in a substantial increase in the overall program budget compared to previous years, the Committee felt it was important to make sure industry funds are working for the industry.

Other industry priorities: The Committee were updated on the development of an industry-government consultative group – the Grains Biosecurity Advisory Committee (GBAC). The GBAC was established to provide a forum for communication

on biosecurity and related matters such as market access and traceability. Importantly, the GBAC may advise the Committee on the biosecurity priorities of the WA grains industry.

Compensation

Compensation for foregone production: As part of the Bedstraw Eradication Program, approved programs were developed and put into operation on areas quarantined due to the presence of three-horned bedstraw. The management practices specified in the approved programs can result in reduced production from the quarantined areas. As such, affected landholder/s may apply to the Committee for compensation.

During the 2018/19 financial year, two applications for compensation were made to the Committee (one related to the 2017 growing season and one to the 2018 season). The applications were assessed by the Committee and offers of compensation made, which were accepted by the landholders.

Governance

Program monitoring and evaluation: Over the course of the year, the Committee actively monitored the implementation of the IFS-funded programs. Written and verbal progress reports were provided to the Committee at each ordinary meeting, including issues, successes and expenditure.

In April 2019, the Committee resolved to undertake a comprehensive review of the Skeleton Weed Program. As part of this, in May/June 2019 Dr David Bowran was contracted to review the management and impact of skeleton weed on grain/seed/hay production in eastern Australia. The results of this are summarised in this report, as are the terms of the full program review.

IFS finances: The Committee monitored the financial position of the IFS over the course of the year. This included quarterly financial reports from DPIRD as well as expense reports relating to the IFS-funded programs. This oversight helped the Committee ensure that funds were being expended appropriately and enabled the Committee to forward-plan.

Governance procedures: Good governance is an essential part of the operation of the Committee. Potential conflicts of interest were reviewed at the beginning of each meeting, and processes were in place for decision-making and voting procedures. The Committee abided by its Code of Conduct and the Public Sector Code of Ethics. The Committee reviewed its governance documents and procedures in March 2019.

Strategic plan: The Committee was guided by its [Strategic Plan](#). The Plan documents the purpose, role, goal and strategies of the Committee, as well as criteria for making investment decisions. During the year, the plan was reviewed. This review will be completed in 2019/20 by the incoming Committee to ensure the Plan meets its needs.



Image 4 – Lupin field

Compliance with IFS regulations

Remittance of IFS contributions: The Committee monitored the remittance of IFS contributions to ensure compliance with the regulations and maximise the funds available to address biosecurity issues of concern to the industry. Where discrepancies occurred, the Committee requested these entities be followed up by DPIRD.

Opt out refunds: In October 2018 the Committee were notified by DPIRD that seven applications for refunds of the IFS contributions paid during the 2017/18 financial year were received. All seven applications were from growers that had opted out of the Scheme for that particular year. After considering the applications, the Committee directed the Director General to repay the amounts – as required under the IFS regulations.

IFS area of operation and contribution rate: In accordance with the IFS regulations, in April 2019 the Committee made its recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture and Food on the 2019/20 Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS contribution rate and area of operation. The Committee recommended that the contribution rate remain at 25 cents per tonne (grain/seed) and 12.5 cents per tonne (hay) – to be applied to the first sale of grain, seed and hay produced within the agricultural areas of WA.

The Minister endorsed the recommendations made by the Committee, as published in the *Western Australian Government Gazette*.

Communications and consultation

Industry consultation: Opportunities to consult with growers and industry groups were actively sought during 2018/19. The Pastoralists and Graziers Association, WAFarmers, WA Grains Group and the Grains Industry Association of WA (GIWA) were offered opportunities to meet with the IFS Chair and Executive Officer to discuss the operation of the Scheme and Management Committee. The WAFarmers Grains Council took up the Committee's offer, and were pleased with the Scheme's direction. In addition, Committee members met with various Skeleton Weed Local Action Groups to discuss the IFS-funded programs and the Scheme.

Passive communications (e.g. radio, articles) were used to encourage industry/grower feedback on the operation of the Scheme following the release of the 2017/18 annual report. However, minimal feedback was received.

Industry feedback is critical to the Scheme's success. The Committee welcomes feedback and input to the Scheme, its programs and grains/seeds/hay industry issues in general.

Communication activities: The Committee participated in various events and other activities to increase grower awareness and understanding of the Scheme, develop networks and encourage industry feedback. To do this, the Committee:

- Presented at various grower/industry group meetings
- Participated on the Grains Biosecurity Advisory Committee
- Had information stands at major field days
- Put out several media releases resulting in articles in the rural press
- Participated in several radio interviews
- Published articles in regional *AgMemo* newsletters
- Attended the 2019 Skeleton Weed Program debrief.

IFS webpages: During 2018/19 the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS provided up-to-date information through its webpages on the DPIRD agriculture and food website. The [IFS webpages](#) include links to key documents such as the strategic plan and annual reports.



Image 5 – Banner used to promote the three IFSs at field days and other events

Effectiveness of the Scheme

A total of \$4 232 265 in contributions to the Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme were received during 2018/19.

The number of growers opting out of the Scheme remains low, with only 17 growers opting out in 2018/19 (Figure 1).

Of the 17 growers that opted out in 2018/19, five applied for a refund of their contributions. These refunds amounted to \$8890.

More than 99% of Western Australian grain/seed/hay growers participate in the Scheme, which may indicate the value of the Scheme to the industry.

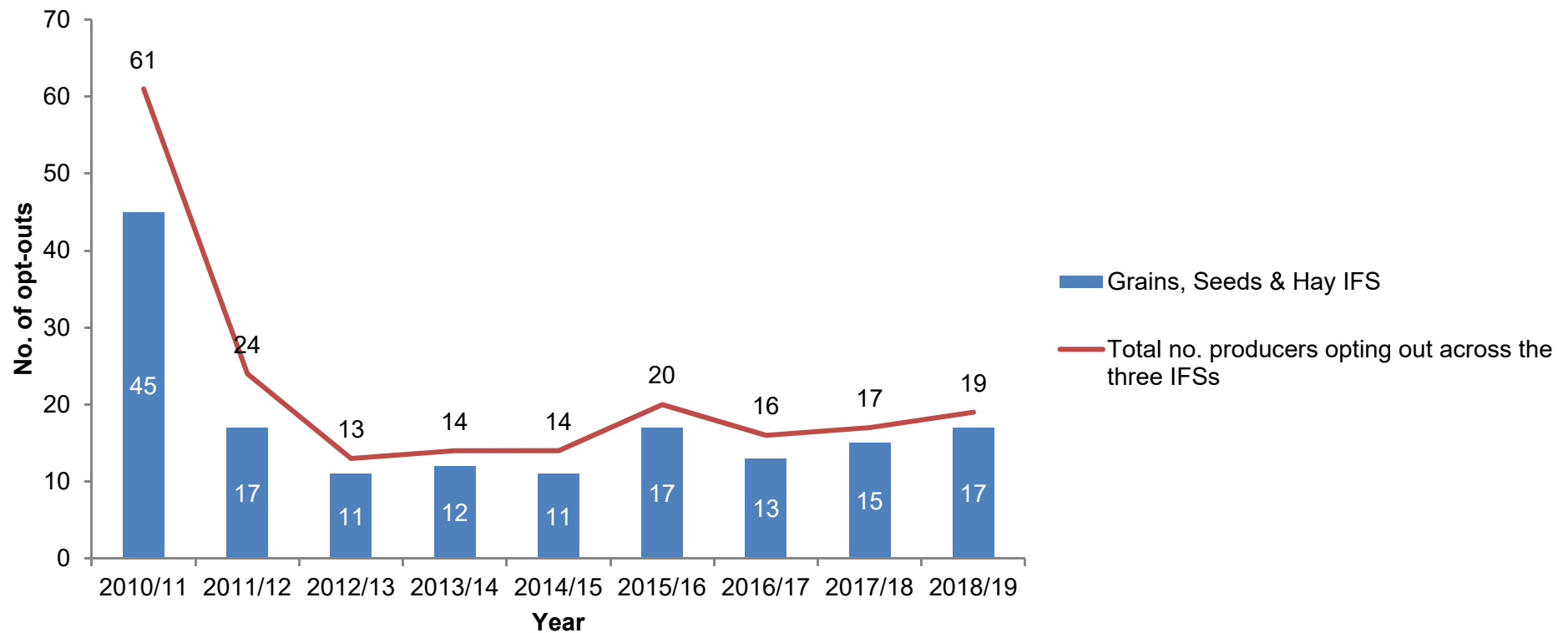


Figure 1 – Number of producers opting out of Industry Funding Schemes since 2010

More than 99% of Western Australian grain, seed and hay growers participate in the IFS, which may indicate the value of the Scheme to the industry.

The amount of IFS contributions collected on the sale of grain/seed during 2018/19 is approximately 7% less than expected, based on the reported 2018 harvest of 17.9 million tonne (GIWA, February 2019). The amount of IFS contributions collected on the sale of grain/seed equated to 16.7 million tonne. In 2017/18, there was an estimated over-collection of 7%. It is possible that the collection issues that arose in 2017/18, due to the change in the contribution rate, have now been rectified and have balanced-out during the 2018/19 financial year.

The contributions collected on the sale of hay during 2018/19 equated to 429 561 tonnes. ABARES reported that 569 427 tonnes of hay was exported from WA during the year. This represents a collection rate of 75%. The Committee have identified discrepancies in the level of remittances from some hay receivers and are working with these entities to ensure compliance with the IFS regulations.



Image 6 – Wheat crop

2018/2019 approved biosecurity programs

Skeleton weed program

Skeleton weed (*Chondrilla juncea* L) is a weed of pastures, crops and native bush. The Skeleton Weed Program is a coordinated program to prevent the weed from spreading.

The aim of the program is to prevent seed-set and movement of skeleton weed and, where feasible, to eradicate it from properties.

During 2018/19 approximately 401 000 hectares were surveyed for skeleton weed. For the second year in a row, there was a significant increase in the area infested by skeleton weed – from 3818 hectares in 2017/18 to 5259 hectares in 2018/19. This is more than double the infested area reported in 2016/17. Like last year, most of the increase occurred in the eastern areas where conditions favoured the growth of skeleton weed in late 2018. It is important to remember that once an infestation is found, something can be done about it.

A total of 112 newly infested properties were identified, whilst the weed was eradicated from 38 properties. Although the overall number of infested properties continues to climb, the increase is gradual. Without a coordinated program to control the spread of the weed, skeleton weed would likely be much

more abundant and widely established throughout the agricultural area of the State.

Figure 2 identifies all the sites within the WA agricultural area that are infested by skeleton weed at 30 June 2019.

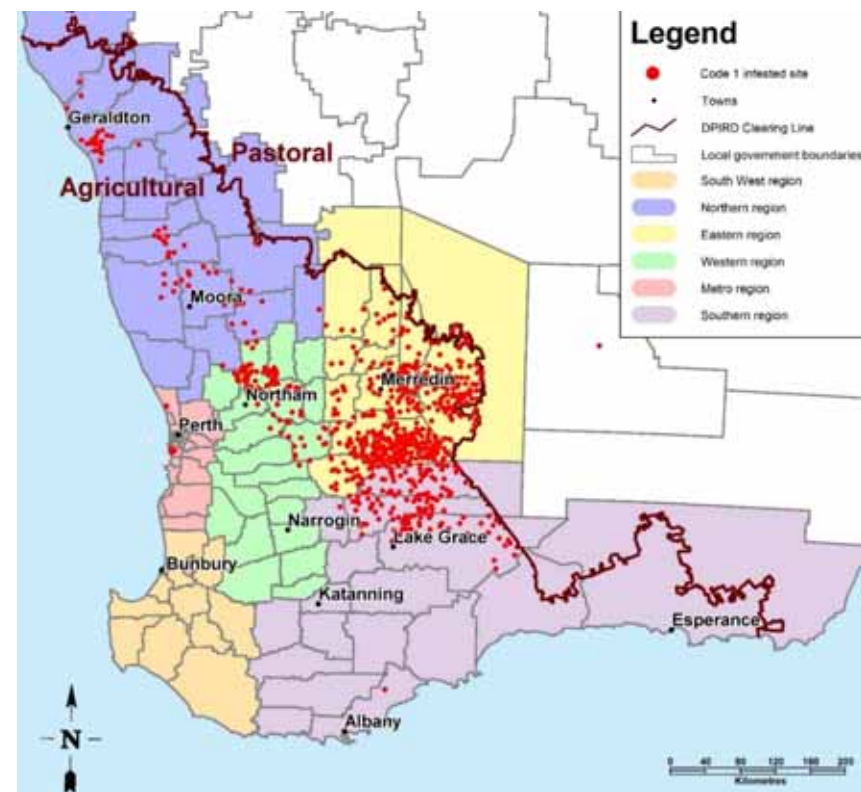


Figure 2 – Distribution of skeleton weed infestations in the agricultural area of Western Australia

In 2018/19 there were three key changes made to the program:

- Stock were able to be kept in paddocks up to four weeks before skeleton weed searches were undertaken. Previously, stock had to be removed six weeks prior to searching
- Code 3 paddocks (paddocks that have been clear of skeleton weed for two consecutive years) were included in the search assistance program
- The treatment recommendations for skeleton weed were reviewed and updated accordingly.

The main focus of the Skeleton Weed Program is to help landholders eradicate skeleton weed, including supplying appropriate weed control chemical. Six Local Action Groups (LAGs), which receive funding from the IFS, are instrumental in this. All of the LAGs now undertake many of the program's operational activities, whilst DPIRD remains the compliance management authority.

In 2018/19 there was a strategic and extensive extension campaign to coincide with the start of the summer search season. This was very well-received and has contributed to an improved profile and recognition of the program by landholders. It should be highlighted that this structured search program also facilitates surveillance for other pests/diseases that may affect the industry.

The [Skeleton Weed Program 2018/19: Report to grain growers](#) provides a full report on the operations of the program.



Image 7 – Skeleton weed plant



Image 8 – Multi-rotor drone used to capture aerial images

Skeleton weed surveillance technologies

In 2015 the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS invested funds to investigate the potential of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in skeleton weed surveillance. It was anticipated that UAVs might provide a more efficient and cost-effective way to search for skeleton weed.

There were two key areas of research:

- Test the abilities of various UAV and camera technologies to determine the combination that delivered clear, usable aerial imagery in a cost-effective manner; and
- Identify/develop software that can identify and map skeleton weed from images captured through UAVs.

The IFS provided funding to Sensorem to enable aerial imagery to be captured and the early development and trial of software for image processing and analysis. Seeing the potential, Sensorem also invested in the work.

The progress of this research has been reported in previous Annual Reports.

During 2018/19, UAVs were used for surveillance activities for the first time. Although some processing and workflow issues were encountered, the overall outcome was very encouraging. In total, the UAVs surveyed more than 9000 hectares.

Expenditure

The costs of the 2018/19 Skeleton Weed Program are presented in Table 1.



Image 9 – Skeleton weed in stubble

Table 1 – Costs of the 2018/19 Skeleton Weed Program

Expenses	\$
Landholder searching subsidies	2 003 310
Employee expenses	842 153
Local Action Group support	760 000
Vehicles and DPIRD charges	375 492
Chemical	95 150
Contract services	82 849
Travel	47 631
Consumables	41 457
Communications	13 562
Licences, fees and registrations	10 311
Advertising and promotion	10 588
Lease, rental and hire costs	7237
Miscellaneous other	4906
Repairs and maintenance	3980
Fuel and oil	3248
Other supplies and services	3175
Utilities	888
Catering	767
Services and contracts	420
Minor equipment	469
Freight and mail	301
Revenue for fee-for-service work	-49 436
Total cost of program	4 258 458

Skeleton weed review

The 2018/19 financial year saw the Committee begin planning for a comprehensive review of the Skeleton Weed Program. The purpose of the review, which will take place in 2019/20, is to provide the Committee with reliable, up-to-date information to inform Committee decisions on the level of industry investment in skeleton weed control.

The review follows questions from industry on whether the program is providing value for industry investment, particularly as the infested area is not decreasing. Further, some parts of the industry believe skeleton weed is a weed that should be managed on-farm like any other weed — that is, a ‘farm health’ issue rather than a whole of industry issue. Industry feedback has also suggested that the program requires modernising, with a perception that the program has been ‘doing the same thing for the last 40 years’. Reviews are essential to delivering programs that are as effective and efficient as possible, and that meet industry expectations.

The review will be undertaken in two stages, with the first stage being data collection and the second stage being industry consultation. Key questions to be answered through the data collection stage are:

Appropriateness: Is the program (as a whole) the best use of industry resources? / To what extent does the Program address an identified need?

Effectiveness: To what extent has the program met its objective to ‘prevent seed set and movement of skeleton weed and eradicate it from properties (where possible)’?

Efficiency: To what extent does the program and its components represent value for industry investment?

As part of this review, the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS Management Committee contracted Dr David Bowran to document the skeleton weed management practices and impact of skeleton weed on grain/seed/hay production in eastern Australia. Dr Bowran completed this work in June 2019, identifying:

- Skeleton weed is relatively widespread across eastern Australia but is generally not considered to be a significant weed in cropping systems
- Biological control, in combination with fallow and in-crop herbicides, and no-till seeding systems have been an effective management combination for the weed in eastern Australia
- There are two key situations in eastern Australia that contribute to the build-up of the weed — lack of herbicide options in grain/pasture legumes and where residues can limit rotational options; and soil cultivation
- Herbicide resistance in skeleton weed may result in increased occurrence of skeleton weed; however, investment in biological control provides the best way to ensure the weed doesn’t re-emerge as a cropping problem.

Bedstraw eradication program

Three-horned bedstraw (*Galium tricornutum*) is a competitive climbing plant. It can cause considerable yield loss in crops and its seeds are contaminants of fodder and grain. In WA bedstraw is targeted for eradication – that is, any bedstraw plants found in the State must be destroyed.

The Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS continued to fund a program addressing bedstraw. The program included activities to eradicate the two known bedstraw infestations in WA and surveillance to detect the presence of other potential bedstraw infestations.

In 2018/19, six of the eight arable quarantined areas on one of the affected properties progressed to the final year of the three-year 'release phase'. The remaining two arable quarantine areas entered the second year of the release phase. Bedstraw continued to be detected in eight bush areas, which will remain under quarantine and will continue to be treated.

The program has been successful at preventing seed-set and reducing the soil-borne seed bank on both properties.

For the other property, the quarantined paddock progressed to the final year of the three-year release phase. No bedstraw was detected during the year.



Image 10 – Three-horned bedstraw

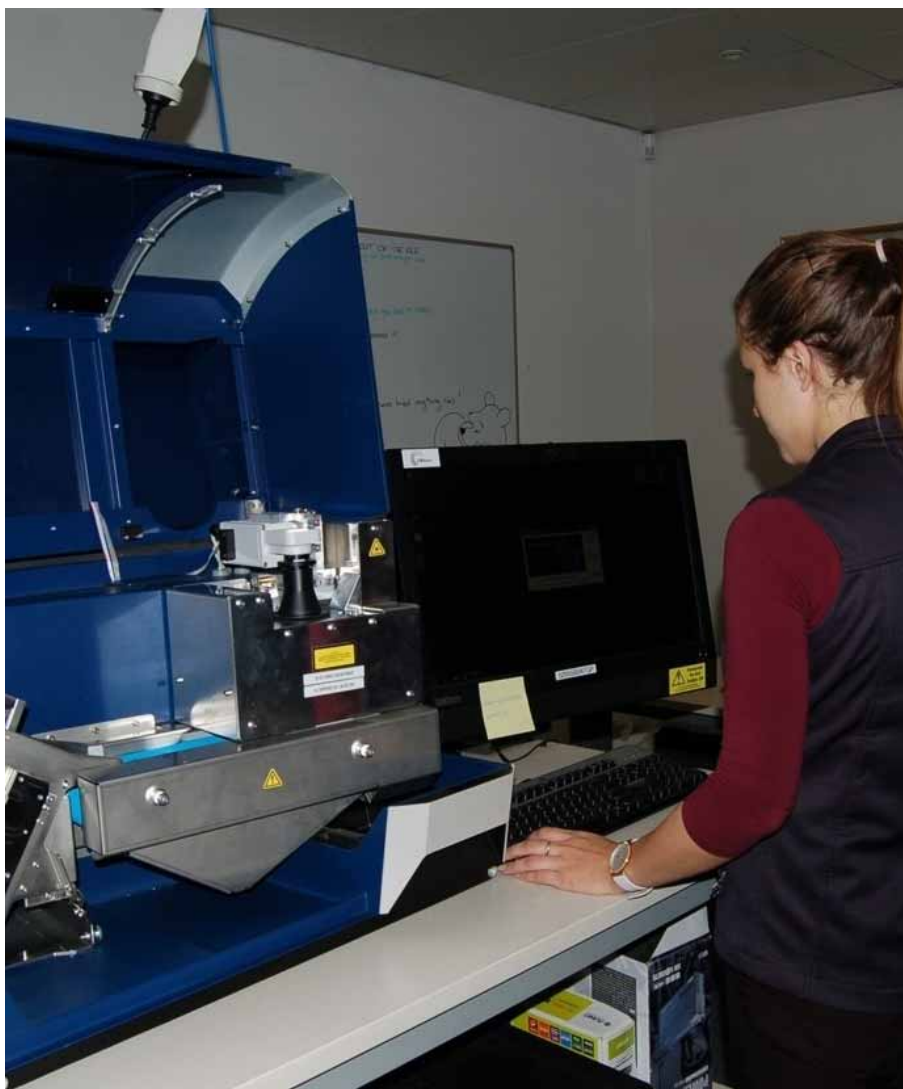


Image 11 – EyeFoss machine in use to detect bedstraw seed

The release phase requires the quarantined areas to be monitored for bedstraw plants. After three 'clean' years the property can be released from quarantine.

The eradication activities were complemented by a surveillance program that was funded by the IFS in partnership with Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH) and Bunge.

A total of 7096 grain samples from the 2018 harvest were collected from targeted CBH and Bunge sites and screened using Eyefoss screening technology. The Eyefoss technology, which uses image analysis software, is used by CBH for commercial grading of grain. The partnership between the IFS and CBH has allowed this technology to be used to screen grain for contamination with bedstraw seed.

Of the 7096 samples that were screened, no bedstraw was detected. As the cumulative number of samples screened increases over time, so does the confidence in the probability of the technology detecting a bedstraw infestation. Currently, there is a 90% probability of finding an infestation greater than 51 hectares in size.

Continued surveillance is recommended as the risk of bedstraw incursions into WA is ever-present and early detection is the best strategy to quickly eliminate infestations at a minimal cost.

The costs of the 2018/19 Bedstraw Eradication Program are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 – Costs of the 2018/19 Bedstraw Eradication Program

Item	\$
Employee expenses	131 765
Vehicles and DPIRD charges	58 801
Contractors	36 871
Chemicals and consumables	9942
Travel expenses	6457
Communication	541
Total cost of program	244 377

The Bedstraw Eradication 2018/19: Report to grain growers (available online at the DPIRD agriculture and food website) provides a full report on the operations of the program for the 2018/19 financial year.



Image 12 – Bedstraw seedling



Image 13 – Hay being raked

2018/2019 financial details

The IFS finances are administered by the Director General of DPIRD through an agency special purpose account called the Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Declared Pest Control and Compensation Account (the IFS Account). DPIRD manages these funds on behalf of the Committee and prepares financial reports including the end of financial year statements.

- The balance of the IFS Account was \$9 566 314 at 30 June 2019.
- The total cost of the 2018/19 Skeleton Weed Program was \$4 258 458 and the Bedstraw Eradication Program cost \$244 377³.
- Two compensation payments associated with the bedstraw program were paid. These totalled \$130 220; however, one of the payments was for the 2017 season.
- Industry contributions to the IFS totalling \$4 232 265 were received by DPIRD in 2018/19; however, \$15 314 of this was reimbursed to growers that had opted out of the Scheme in the previous financial year.
- Interest applied to the IFS funds during 2018/19 amounted to \$220 862.
- The activities of the Committee resulted in expenditure of \$18 481.

Tables 3 and 4 contain the financial details for the 2018/19 Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS.

³ Some of the costs of the 2018/19 programs were deducted from the Account during the 2019/20 financial year.

Table 3 – Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS income and expenditure for 2018/19

Expenses	\$
Programs:	
Skeleton weed	4 258 458
Bedstraw	244 377
Other expenses:	
Board member fees and travel	10 076
Professional services	6591
Advertising/media	1165
Meeting expenses	554
Printing	95
Compensation	130 220
2017/18 opt out refunds	15 314
Total expenses	4 666 850
Income	
Contributions	4 232 265
Interest revenue	220 862
Total income	4 453 127
NET COST OF SERVICE	213 723

Table 4 – Balance sheet for the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS at 30 June 2019

Balance sheet	Total (\$)
EQUITY at 30 June 2019	9 566 314

Note: the listed expenses are the total cost of the 2018/19 programs. Some of these costs were debited from the Account during the 2019/20 financial year. The balance sheet identifies the actual equity at 30 June 2019.

The net cost of service for the 2018/19 Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme was \$213 723.

Direction for 2019/2020

The review of the Skeleton Weed Program will be a major activity for the Committee during 2019/20. The Committee will finalise the terms of reference for the review in the early part of the new financial year and identify how the review will be undertaken. It is anticipated that the review will be completed by April 2020.

The Committee is committed to furthering discussions on the biosecurity priorities of the WA grains/seeds/hay industry. The Committee will be represented on the GBAC and will watch how the GBAC unfolds, with an expectation that the new group will be in a strong position to provide the Committee with advice and recommendations on the industry's biosecurity priorities.

In partnership with DPIRD, the Committee will continue to manage and monitor the programs it has in place to address skeleton weed and three-horned bedstraw. As the bedstraw eradication program comes to a conclusion, the Committee will work closely with DPIRD to document the learnings and translate these into a revised plan for managing any future bedstraw incursions.

The Committee will discuss the possibility of holding another joint meeting with the other IFS Committees. This will provide an opportunity to reflect on progress made to address the issues identified at the last joint meeting (held in 2017) and to discuss the operation of the IFSs into the future.

The Committee will also finalise its strategic plan, which will provide the new Committee members with an important opportunity to input to the direction of the Committee over the coming years.

Industry feedback is critical to the Scheme's success. The Committee welcomes feedback and input to the Scheme, its programs and grains/seeds/hay industry issues in general.

The Committee can be contacted at any time through its Executive Officer. The Committee is particularly keen to hear the industry's views on the biosecurity risks and opportunities. Committee members are available to participate in industry forums, meetings and field days to discuss the Scheme and answer any questions from industry.



Appendix 1

Committee terms of reference

1. Act in good faith at all times, and without conflict of interest, to fairly and impartially represent the best interests of the industry concerned and the contributors to the Scheme.
2. Provide effective governance over the Scheme.
3. Discharge the functions conferred on the Management Committee by the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* and the enabling Regulations, including but not necessarily limited to:
 - advising the Director General of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on the administration of the prescribed account
 - recommending annually to the Minister for Agriculture and Food the area(s) of the State in which the Scheme should operate
 - recommending annually to the Minister for Agriculture and Food the rate or rates at which contributions are to be paid
 - approving programs and other measures to be implemented under the Scheme
 - approving payments from the prescribed account for compensation in respect of losses (as described in the regulations)
 - consulting annually with the industry for the purpose of ascertaining industry views on the operation of the Scheme and the performance by the committee of its functions
4. Undertake such other functions related to the operation of the Scheme as required.
 - reporting at least annually to the Minister for Agriculture and Food on the operation and effectiveness of the Scheme, and any matters relating to the operation of the relevant regulations as the Minister specifies.

Appendix 2

Committee membership (2019/20)

Mr Rohan Day (Chair) owns an 8400 hectare cropping enterprise located south-east of Merredin. He is actively involved in various local community groups.

Mr Rod Birch (Deputy Chair) has been active in the grains industry for 40 years. He is currently involved in a 9400 hectare grain growing business in the Midwest region of WA. Rod is the Deputy Chair of Grain Growers Ltd and a Director on the External Advisory Board of the Institute of Agriculture at the University of WA.

Ms Belinda Eastough farms a mixed stock/crop family farm at Yuna with her husband and is also a part-time agronomist for Elders Limited. She has had an extensive career working with grain growers and grower groups, and is heavily involved with the Yuna Farm Improvement Group.

Mrs Judith Foss has more than 20 years' experience as a self-employed primary producer in a mixed broadacre family farming enterprise in Bruce Rock.

Mr David Leake is a self-employed farmer on an 8000 hectare farm in Kellerberrin. David has held various positions in WAFarmers, served on the Wild Dog and Barrier Fence committees and was an inaugural member of the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS Management Committee.

Mr Steve Tilbrook is a retired farmer that still helps out on the family farm at Mt Madden. Steve has held various positions including Deputy Chair of GIWA, Director of CBH Group, member of the Grain Growers Limited National Policy Group, member of the Agriculture Produce Committee and Chair of the GIWA Barley Council.

Mrs Anne Wilkins has 30-years' experience, predominately in the grains industry, including research and development, agronomy, market research, trade development and working with end-users. She has worked in the commercial, government and not-for-profit sectors and, with her husband, owns and operates a cropping and sheep farm in Badgingarra.