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Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group Inc. Annual Report 2018/19

Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group

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PILBARA REGIONAL BIOSECURITY GROUP INC.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19



Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group Inc.



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS



Australian Government

1. INTRODUCTION

About the Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group

The Pilbara RBG is a not for profit association formed under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*, providing declared pest control programs for land managers, particularly in the pastoral zone. 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 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.

Management Committee Membership as at 30 June 2019:

NAME	OFFICE HELD	ORGANISATION	DATE APPOINTED TO COMMITTEE	EXPIRY DATE OF TERM
Jamie Richardson	Chairperson	Mt Florence Station	7-Nov-13	2-Nov-19
Mark Bettini	Vice Chairperson	De Grey Station	17-Nov-17	17-Nov-20
Kim Parsons	Treasure/Secretary	Coolawanyah Station	4-Nov-14	3-Nov-20
Ian Hayes	1. Full Member	Indee Station	2-Nov-16	2-Nov-19
Joe Armstrong	2. Full Member	Hamersley Station	2-Nov-16	2-Nov-19
Clint Thompson	3. Full Member	Wyloo Station	14-Jun-17	14-Jun-20
Annabelle Coppin	4. Full Member	Yarrie Station	2-Nov-16	2-Nov-19
Sim Mathwin	5. Associate Member	Rio Tinto Pastoral	17-Nov-17	17-Nov-20
Vacant	6. Associate Member			
Alicia Whittington	7. Associate Member	Department of Parks and Wildlife	11-Mar-10	2-Nov-19

Jo Williams - Kuiper	8. Associate Member	Project Manager/delegate Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee	11-Mar-10	2-Nov-19
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**** NOTE: The official Constitution of the Pilbara RBA (Inc.) provides that the Management Committee comprise a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer and not less than 5 and not more than 8 other persons, all of whom must either be a full member, or an associate member, of the Association. The Constitution also limits the Management Committee to a maximum of 4 associate members at any one time.**

How the group is funded

The Pilbara RBG's main source of funding is from Declared Pest Rates paid by pastoral leases that are matched equally by the WA State Government. The Pilbara RBG also partners with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) [ex Parks and Wildlife], with operational support and agreements with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), to undertake donkey collaring control programs and opportunistic aerial culling of camels and feral horses. The DBCA also contribute to wild dog aerial baiting on wild dog leads (movement corridors) from pastoral stations into DBCA managed properties.

2. PILBARA RBG AIMS AND AREA OF OPERATIONS

The Pilbara RBG aims to:

- Foster the control of declared pests throughout the Pilbara, via the formulation, implementation, and review of appropriate management plans and programs;
- Encourage integration, coordination, and general collaboration of Pilbara stakeholders in pest management matters;
- Promote the adoption of best practice invasive species control throughout the area.

The Pilbara RBG annual operational plan for 2018/19 focused on minimising the impact of declared weeds and pests on industry, environment and the community. This is primarily delivered through funding for:

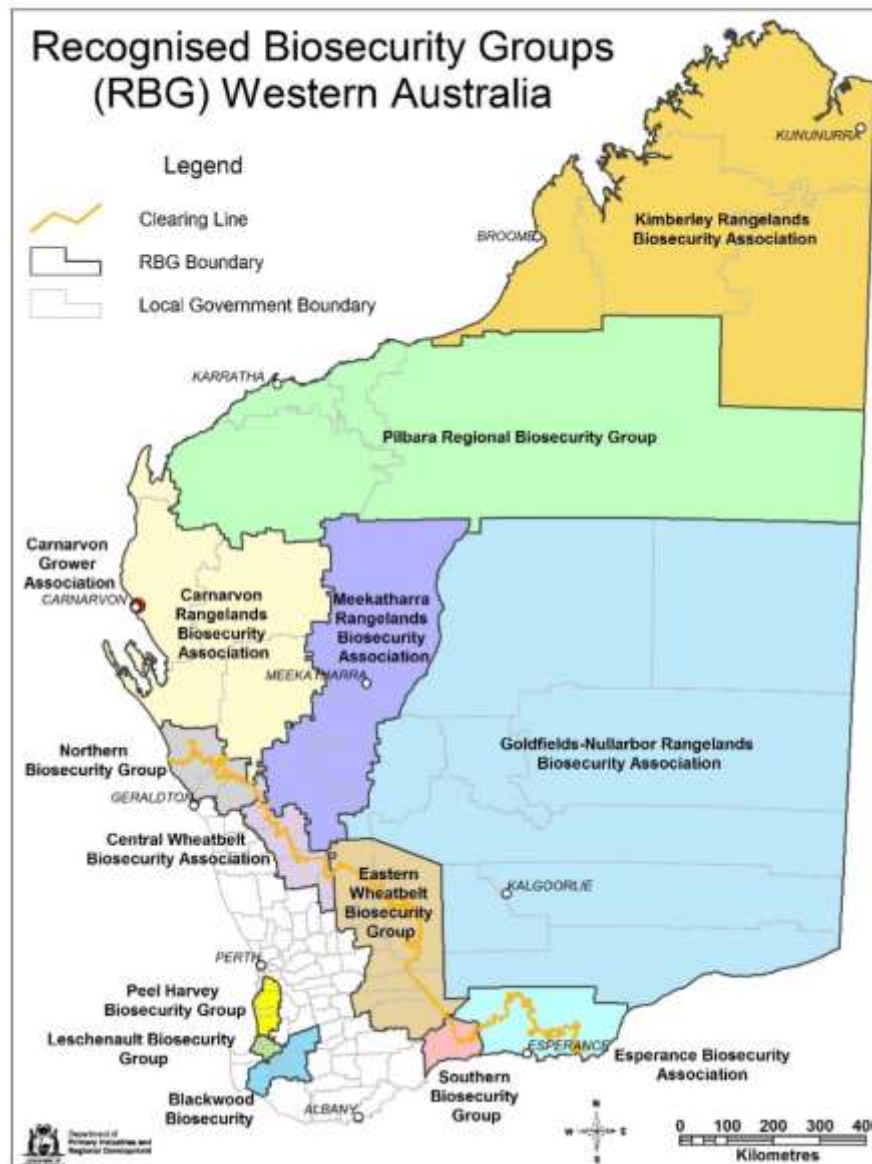
- An annual community aerial and ground coordinated baiting program for wild dogs. Landholders are also encouraged to undertake ground control throughout the year as a primary method of wild dog management;
- Trialling 3 Licenced Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) /doggers on 15 pastoral stations.
- A Radio Telemetry program for feral donkey control in the east and central Pilbara, and an aerial Management Shoot for feral donkeys; and
- Working with Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee in the management of Mesquite and Parkinsonia; providing herbicide and sprayers for declared plant control programs.

These activities provide pastoral businesses with the bare minimum level of control required to prevent negative impacts of priority declared pests.

Area of operation

The Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group Inc (Pilbara RBG) region includes four local government areas - the City of Karratha, Shires of Ashburton and East Pilbara and the Town of Port Hedland. The major towns of the region are Port Hedland and Karratha. Other towns are Roebourne, Dampier, Onslow, Pannawonica, Paraburdo, Tom Price, Wickham, Newman, Marble Bar and Nullagine. The Pilbara RBG region extends east to the Northern Territory border and includes Jigalong and other Aboriginal communities in desert country. The Pilbara RBG has also provided aerial baiting services to some pastoral stations in the Shire of Broome along Eighty Mile Beach – Wallal Downs, Mandora and Anna Plains. There are about 60 pastoral leases in the Pilbara RBG area.

Map showing Pilbara RBG region in relation to other RBGs in Western Australia



3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – JAMIE RICHARDSON

The Pilbara RBG's operation plan program and activities went well in 2018/19. Getting doggers working on the ground again in the Pilbara was a great result with 15 of around 60 pastoral stations deciding to have a dogger, and pay half the costs, was very pleasing.

The funding support from Rio Tinto and DBCA for larger feral herbivore control was greatly appreciated and allows greater control across more of the Pilbara landscape. Receiving a \$271,000 State NRM grant for Noogoora Burr control was great news.

The \$50,000 DPIRD capacity building grant (\$100k over 2 years) that finished at the end of June 2019 was greatly appreciated. This funding supported the Executive Officer to continue to improve the capacity of the organisation and Pilbara pastoral stations to control declared pest animals, as well as arrange additional funding sources. Hopefully similar funding arrangements to support RBGs for capacity building and Executive Officer budgets will be available in 2019/20 and ongoing years to at least match the \$50,000 budgeted each year by the Pilbara RBG.

In March 2018 our Executive Officer Bill Currans had a brief but clear conversation with a senior DPIRD manager about an option for Pilbara pastoral stations to voluntarily pay additional pest rates and receive matching State funds. DPIRD's clear advice was this was possible and to just put the information into the annual Operational Plan and Budget.

After a lot of Management Committee discussions, and emails and discussions with Pilbara stations, about 17 stations were interested in paying voluntary differential rates in the 2019/20 financial year, on top of their usual base pest rates, to take extra action to deal with pest animals, mainly wild dogs. Most of these stations that had a dogger in place at that time were keen to keep the dogger working to control wild dogs.

DPIRD and the Minister for Agriculture Allanah MacTiernan did not support the proposed differential rating. This response was very disappointing and frustrating for the Pilbara RBG Management Committee and for the 17 pastoral stations that were prepared and keen to pay additional pest rates to receive a higher level of declared pest control.

Thank you to the Management Committee for volunteering your time and personal expenses to participate in, and contribute to Committee meetings throughout the 2018/19 financial year. Thanks also to supporting organisations including DPIRD, DBCA, Rio Tinto and the Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee (PMMC), for your support and participation in the Pilbara RBG's meetings and programs.

Thank you to the participating stations in our wild dog and feral herbivore control programs, including making airstrips and accommodation available, and making that extra effort to help control declared pests and weeds on the ground.

The Pilbara RBG also thanks our Executive Officer, Bill Currans, for supporting the Management Committee, delivering our programs, engaging our members and building relationships with other stakeholders.

I look forward to seeing the Pilbara RBG continuing to move forward in the 2019/20 financial year.

Jamie Richardson, Chair, Pilbara RBG

4. OUTCOMES FOR 2018-19

WILD DOGS:

- A coordinated community aerial and ground baiting program for wild dogs involving around 55 pastoral properties delivered by the Pilbara RBG in September 2019.
- 3 Licenced Pest Management Technicians (doggers) trialled across 15 pastoral stations in the Pilbara to demonstrate and evaluate the benefits of LPMTs taking wild dog control action on the ground. From October 2018 to June 2019, the three doggers worked a combined 459 days and achieved 236 trapped dogs, shot 83 dogs, and laid 15,409 baits resulting in a lot less wild dog tracks in areas targeted by baits.
- 17 pastoral stations agreeing to pay additional voluntary (differential) pest rates, on top of their typical annual pest rates, to generate State matching funds for wild dog control activities, including doggers (LPMTs), access to additional meat for baits and doggers to inject 1080 into meat baits on individual stations as required, and the option to receive additional meat baits during the regional September baiting program. This approach was not supported by DPIRD nor Minister MacTiernan.

LARGE FERAL HERBIVORES:

- A Radio Telemetry “Judas” program for Feral Donkey control continued in the east and central Pilbara via a contract arrangement with DPIRD. This program has operated over the last 20 years and has removed over 17,000 donkeys from the Judas collars, as well as donkeys, camels and feral horses culled whilst locating Judas collars.
- LFH Management Shoots - targeted management shoots of feral camels, donkeys, and horses where numbers are increasing and causing environmental and property/infrastructure damage – particularly in the West Pilbara. In 2018/19 there was 2,720 donkeys culled in the Pilbara RBG Management Shoots in the West Pilbara, along with 21 feral horses.
- The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) continued to partner and contract the Pilbara RBG to deliver management shoots of large feral herbivores on UCL and DBCA managed reserves adjacent to pastoral leases, and management shoots targeting camels and donkeys on the western desert/pastoral buffer area every 4 – 5 years.
- Rio Tinto supported West Pilbara aerial LFH Management Shoots with considerable financial support as well as operational support (accommodation and meals for aerial shoot team).

DECLARED WEEDS:

- Working with Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee (PMMC) in the management of Mesquite, Parkinsonia and Noogoora Burr; providing herbicide and sprayers for declared plant control programs. With this arrangement the PMMC and the Pilbara RBG was able to respond quickly to the Noogoora Burr infestation on the De Grey River/Rest Area.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES:

- 5 regional update style email sent out to all Pilbara RBG members.
- Members surveyed on wild dog impacts and costs on cattle/calf damages/losses.
- All Pilbara pastoral stations provided the opportunity to participate in regional aerial wild dog baiting in September 2018 – 55 (around 95%) pastoral stations participated, involving assisting a number of stations to obtain or amend RCP baiting permits and aerial baiting map plans.

- As part of 1080 aerial baiting, 4 newspaper public notices were used to alert the broader community about the baiting program, and Facebook used very successfully to share the baiting notice so the Pilbara general public was informed of the baiting program. The Pilbara RBG Executive Officer received around 20 phone calls from members of the public to clarify baiting areas to avoid pet dogs taking baits on pastoral lands.
- 9 pastoral stations participated in West Pilbara Management Shoots.
- 15 stations participating in LPMT/Dogger trial, including paying 50% of costs to match DPA funds (already 50% pest rates and 50% State matching funds), as well as stations providing fuel as required and accommodation/meals at times.
- All Pilbara pastoral stations consulted about the option to pay additional differential pest rates for additional wild dog control activities. 17 pastoral stations agreed to pay additional voluntary (differential) pest rates, on top of their typical annual pest rates, to generate State matching funds for wild dog control activities, including doggers (LPMTs), access to additional meat for baits and doggers to inject 1080 into meat baits on individual stations as required, and the option to receive additional meat baits during the regional September baiting program. This approach was not supported by DPIRD nor Minister MacTiernan.
- As part of the two-year \$100k DPIRD capacity building and skills development grant that concluded 30 June 2019, the Executive Officer arranged and facilitated 3 local workshop meetings in the West Pilbara in February 2019 on wild dog control with 25 people attending representing 20 pastoral stations. Attendees supported ongoing regional aerial baiting, were interested in accessing doggers, differential rating, training for 1080 injecting and setting dog traps.

5. PILBARA RBG OPERATIONS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2018-19

The Pilbara RBG relies heavily on pastoral lease holders to play an active role in undertaking pest animal and plant control on their own stations as part of their individual responsibility to manage pests. The Pilbara RBG also relies on members from each pastoral station to distribute dried meat baits across their station(s), trap/shoot wild dogs where required, and to monitor and report on sightings of large feral herbivores, including donkeys, camels and feral horses on their properties.

Voluntary roles performed by Pilbara RBG members include:

- Participation on the Management Committee;
- Distributing dried meat baits across their station(s);
- Trapping and/or shooting wild dogs where required; and
- Pastoral stations that make airstrips available for the aerial baiting plane to use, along with providing meals and overnight accommodation for the charter plane pilot during aerial baiting programs.

The Pilbara RBG has a Declared Pest Account into the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) deposits the declared pest rates paid by pastoralists and the government's matching contribution. The Pilbara RBG also partners with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) [ex Parks and Wildlife], with operational support and agreements with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), to undertake donkey collaring control programs and opportunistic aerial culling of camels and feral horses. The DBCA also contribute to wild dog aerial baiting on wild dog leads (movement corridors) from pastoral stations into DBCA managed properties.

\$100k (over 2 years) DPIRD capacity building grant

The Pilbara RBG appreciated receiving the second annual grant payment of \$50,000 of a two-year/\$100,000 agreement to contribute to the capacity building and skills development activities identified in the WA Wild Dog Action Plan 2016-21, with the grant funding provided by the State Government of Western Australia, Australian Government and Royalties for Regions. The grant funding provided for Executive Officer employment and travel budget to coordinate Pilbara RBG meetings, operations, programs and activities, including arranging 3 local workshops on wild dog control with 25 people attending representing 20 pastoral stations. The workshops discussed large feral herbivores, doggers, chemical training, general support to keep the regional aerial baiting happening, and the differential rating options to invest additional funds into wild dog control. Most stations reported that wild dog numbers have been increasing and causing cattle damage/calf losses, with one quote “The dogs are the worst I have ever seen them”.

Noogoora Burr

A Noogoora Burr infestation was found at the Main Roads De Grey River Rest Area on the NWC Hwy in June 2018. The burr was probably accidentally introduced to the rest area by travellers from the Kimberley a year or two ago but was not identified as a serious weed species at the Rest Area until June 2018. The burr had spread 10 kms upstream and about 30 kms downstream on the De Grey River banks. Led by Jo Kuiper at the Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee (PMMC), a team of groups and organisations worked over 400 hours over five days in July 2018 to start controlling the weed, mainly hand removal and deep burial, with some spraying too. Funding was provided by Main Roads WA, State NRM Community Grants (\$271,000 grant) and the Pilbara RBG for ongoing treatment over the next few years to try to eradicate the weed from the Pilbara region. Noogoora Burr was also located at Carrawine George on the Oakover River – this was a localised small infestation (55 plants) that were hand-removed and the site is being monitored.

Dry Season LFH \$50k Funding

The State Government assisted pastoral Recognised Biosecurity Groups affected by dry conditions, with control of LFH through a grant of \$50,000 for LFH operational work to be undertaken in the 2019/20 financial year. The Dry Conditions: LFH grant was provided by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and was in addition to existing RBG declared pest account funding RBGs use to manage priority declared pests in their regions.

2018/19 Large Feral Herbivore Operations

Judas Donkey Radio Telemetry Program:

The Donkey “Judas” radio tracking telemetry program has been in operation since 1998, delivered by DPIRD under agreement with the Pilbara RBG, with the RBG funding the program. The Judas program currently includes over 16 Pastoral stations and 4 DPaW managed estate (2 reserves, 2 UCL), noting that donkeys move across areas and are not confined to where they are collared.

The Judas program started in the north-west area of the Pilbara and over time has moved east across the top of the pastoral land to the eastern edge of the pastoral zone, and has then started to cover more area to the south. The program has been very successful overall, with donkeys in the northern section of the Pilbara classified as ‘locally eradicated’, with the area around Marble Bar to Nullagine having low donkey numbers.

The program has around 40 current active collars. A number of existing collars were replaced due to reaching the end of the collar battery life, and some new collars introduced during 2018/19. Two satellite collars were introduced into the Judas program to see if getting daily location data was more useful data and was more efficient to locate compared to traditional radio collars.

2018/19 Judas Summary Table:

Dates of Operation	No Donkeys culled from collars	No Feral Horses culled from collars	No Feral Horses culled - opportunistic	No Camels culled - opportunistic	No Donkeys culled - opportunistic
1–5 Oct 2018	138	5	35	185	5
8-12 April 2019	98	0	32	131	33
2018-19 TOTALS	236	5	67	316	38

An estimated one hundred camels were sighted by the DPIRD shooters in the April 2019 Judas run but the camels were not able to be culled due to low helicopter fuel at the time of sighting.

West Pilbara Donkey Management Shoots – August and October 2018:

The West Pilbara Donkey Management Shoot that was postponed from June 2018 due to local heavy rainfall causing donkeys to spread out, happened in mid-August 2018 as a 6 day aerial shoot. Participating stations were Maroonah-Mangaroon, Glenflorrie, Ullawarra, with nearly 1,600 donkeys shot. This was a follow-up from a shoot in November 2017, aiming to get donkey numbers down to low numbers in the West Pilbara. Before the November 2017 shoot, the area was included in an aerial management shoot in mid 2005 (12.5 years between aerial shoots in the West Pilbara). DPIRD do the aerial shooting with Category D firearms to comply with national animal welfare codes of practice. Towera was mustering during August, so Towera was included in the October 2018 management shoot planned for the Hamersley area.

August 2018: Total of 1,585 LFH were culled.

Station	Donkeys	Horses	Totals
Glenflorrie	134	0	134
Mangaroon	467	0	467
Maroonah	590	0	590
Ullawarra	331	0	331
Ullawarra – Sub Lease	63	0	63
Totals	1,585	0	1,585

Another 5 day West Pilbara Donkey Management Shoot also took place in late October/early November 2018 – focused in the Hammersley/Rocklea/Cheela Plains area and where donkey numbers have been a problem. A total of 1156 large feral herbivores were culled during this program. Particular thanks to Rio Tinto who contributed a significant amount of funds to the management shoot.

October 2018: Total of 1,156 LFH were culled.

Station	Donkeys	Horses	Totals
Cheela Plains	60	0	60
Hamersley	344	17	361
Mt Stuart	36	0	36
Rocklea	113	4	117
Towera	159	0	159
UCL	423	0	423
Totals	1,135	21	1,156

DBCA (Parks and Wildlife) also did an aerial shoot in October 2018 on DBCA properties across the Pilbara region.

There has been around 17,500 donkeys aerial culled in the Pilbara pastoral region since 1998 from the Judas collaring program, and around 4,000 from aerial opportunistic and management shoots. These figures do not include donkeys culled by ground shooting, or DBCA (Parks and Wildlife) aerial shooting on DBCA lands. 13 properties in the east Pilbara are now described as having donkeys 'locally eradicated' from the Judas program, taking an average of 8 years to locally eradicate donkeys on those properties.

The participation and support from the stations involved was greatly appreciated, as was the services of DPIRD to deliver the Management Shoots and the Judas Donkey program.

2018/19 Wild Dog Control

Doggers:

The Pilbara RBG had three doggers (Licenced Pest Management Technicians/LPMTs) working across 15 properties as a trial for 12 months, with the doggers particularly targeting pups and younger wild dogs with baiting and trapping to reduce wild dog numbers and calf losses/cattle damage.

From October 2018 to June 2019, the three doggers worked a combined 459 days and achieved 236 trapped dogs, shot 83 dogs, and laid 15,409 baits resulting in a lot less tracks in areas targeted by baits. Station feedback has been very positive and appreciative of the dogger services, with most stations keen to continue with doggers if the Differential Rating had been supported by DPIRD.

Aerial and Ground Baiting Operations:

Up to September 2015, DPIRD had arranged and delivered regional wild dog baiting across the Pilbara region. DPIRD's role covered RCP permit completion, ordering and holding 1080 concentrate, ordering meat baits for delivery to Karratha, injecting 1080 into pre-cut meat baits to prepare 1080 dried meat baits at the Karratha Station racks, arranging the aeroplane and aerial baiting program, purchasing avgas, and providing ground support to the aeroplane during baiting by driving avgas and baits to station airstrips across the region.

September 2016 was the first time the Pilbara RBG arranged and delivered regional wild dog 1080 aerial and ground baiting. This was an agreed arrangement with DPIRD when the Pilbara RBG had an Executive Officer in place with the capacity to take over the regional wild dog baiting

arrangements. September 2018 was the third year that the Pilbara RBG, via the Executive Officer, had planned and delivered the regional baiting operations.

From 1 July 2016, DPIRD introduced an administration fee for the processing and issuing of Restricted Chemical Product (RCP) permits. A current RCP permit is required for a property to receive and use 1080 chemicals and products including field prepared dried meat baits. Strychnine for use on wild dog traps is also allocated and supplied where required via the RCP permit system. The Pilbara RBG Executive Officer assisted Pilbara pastoralists with preparing five-year RCP permit applications and station maps, and the application process with DPIRD.

To comply with the 1080 & Strychnine Code of Practice, the Pilbara RBG:

- Placed baiting notices in regional newspapers, the Executive Officer spoke about the pending baiting program on regional ABC radio, and warning notices were emailed to tourist centres and roadhouses to warn local residents and tourists about the risk to domestic dogs from uncontrolled access to pastoral properties. Warning notices were also posted to Facebook pages across the region, which was a very effective way to advise members of the general public about the regional baiting program.
- Contracted a Licenced Pest Management Technician (LPMT/dogger) to inject 1080 concentrate into fresh meat baits at the regional bait racks situated on Karratha Station. To comply with the requirement to not leave 1080 meat baits unattended, the contracted LPMT camped at the racks overnight for nearly two weeks to ensure the baits drying on the racks were not left unattended. Employees of Medina Pet Meats who supplied the meat baits provided labour assistance at the racks with handling the baits (not injecting), with 1080 handling permits issued by DPIRD.
- Supported stations to complete RCP permit application/amendment forms as required.
- Used a contracted LPMT as the “bombardier” in the plane, dropping every bait from the plane and handing over baits for ground baiting to comply with RCP permits and 1080 Code of Practice requirements.
- Ensured all 1080/strychnine chemical issued to stations (and baits on DBCA lands too) complied with RCP permit quantity limits, with the contracted LPMT delivering unused chemical back to the S7 Retailer at the conclusion of the baiting program. LPMTs are required to securely store and hold chemical as part of the LPMT licence requirements, along with keep records of chemical use and provision.
- Contracted a truck driver with a 1080 handling certificate as a Courier under the 1080 Code of Practice requirements to drive the 1080 meat baits and chemicals around the region, under supervision from the LPMT, during the regional baiting program.

Summary of September 2018 regional wild dog baiting program

- 151,800 (or 506 bags of) field prepared dried meat baits were produced at the Karratha Station racks over a two-week period. Bags of baits included 1080 warning labels.
- Most stations had current 5 year RCP permits in place. A few new permits were required. Permits were not in place in time to bait on Peedamulla and Mt Divide. Mulga Downs permit holders were not present to receive bags of baits to ground bait. Balfour Downs and Wandanya had a change of station managers which meant the RCP permits were not current which prevented provision of baits for ground baiting. After the baiting was finished, permits were established for Yalleen and Panorama stations who have not had permits to participate for the past few years. Ullawarra Station participated in regional baiting by receiving bags of baits to ground bait, as well as strychnine to start trapping wild dogs again.

- DBCA properties were not signed adequately to allow these properties to participate in the regional baiting in Sept 2018. Bait warning signs are being installed to be ready for September 2019 aerial baiting.
- Two stations did not obtain a RCP permit as they objected to having to pay a permit fee to DPIRD, or objected to having to prepare a map as part of their application when identical maps should be held on file by DPIRD from the previous annual permit.
- Four stations decided not to participate for other reasons, mainly proximity to major centres of Karratha and Port Hedland where there was a high risk that domestic dogs would be taken onto stations and would take baits.
- Some stations decide to take the baits allocated to them and place them out on the ground themselves in areas of wild dog activity.
- 506 bags of baits or 151,800 dried meat baits were laid through aerial and ground baiting in September 2018. No baits were left over to avoid wastage where excess baits have previously been stored and then disposed of when baits were old and ineffective. About 20 bags of baits became mouldy during transport on the truck – unusual high humidity seemed to be the cause.
- Stirrup Iron Contracting (Jamie Gratte) was contracted to provide a truck with a ventilated container and a skid-steer machine to transport the 1080 meat baits and avgas around the Pilbara region for around 11 days during the aerial baiting. The skid-steer machine eliminated manual handling of 200 litre drums of avgas, and made plane refuelling very efficient with avgas and baits moved to the plane with the skid-steer.
- Norwest Airworks (Eric Roulston) was contracted to provide the plane and pilot for the aerial baiting. Eric Roulston’s experience with the Pilbara region, and knowledge of airstrip locations and conditions was invaluable.
- Adam Robinson, LPMT was contracted to both prepare the 1080 wild dog meat baits, and be the “bombardier” in the plane to drop the baits. Adam Robinson was listed on every RCP permit as a Nominated Person – Pilbara Approved LPMT to be able to drop/lay baits on participating stations.

6. ANALYSIS

The Pilbara RBG measures the success of the annual operations by:

- Planned activities delivered as planned, on time and within budget;
- The results achieved eg the number of LFH culled, and LFH cull number trends ie increasing or decreasing numbers culled;
- The number of pastoral stations participating in operations and activities;
- Feedback from participating pastoralists.

Note that there is not a regional monitoring program in place that measures/estimates feral pest numbers and changes in feral pest populations over time. The default measure is numbers of pest animals culled and pastoral station feedback eg less dog tracks after regional aerial baiting.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

For 2019/20, the regional wild dog aerial baiting will occur again in a similar manner.

The Judas donkey program will likely be maintained due to limited funds.

A West Pilbara LFH Management Shoot will take place again to build on 2018/19 efforts to reduce mainly donkey numbers.

The dogger trial with three doggers will conclude around October 2019 due to the current budget being fully spent, and the WA Government not supporting the proposed Differential Rates for 17 Pilbara pastoral stations that would have continued employment of the three doggers. The Pilbara RBG will need to seek other funding sources to maintain regional dogger capacity.

Without State funding support for capacity building/Executive Officer for 2019/20, the \$50,000 budget allocated in the Operational Plan will need to be used for core activities only, and the Pilbara RBG will need to seek other funding sources to maintain organisational capacity.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance Sheet

Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group Inc.

As at 30 June 2019

Cash Basis

Account	30 Jun 2019
Assets	
Bank	
Account no 241801	43,194.94
Account no 270303	623,070.25
Total Bank	666,265.19
Total Assets	666,265.19
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
GST	31,228.50
Rounding	(0.07)
TFN Withholding Tax	(1,507.00)
Trade Creditors	(2,917.10)
Total Current Liabilities	26,804.33
Total Liabilities	26,804.33
Net Assets	
	639,460.86
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	76,399.83
Retained Earnings	563,061.03
Total Equity	639,460.86

Profit and Loss

Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group Inc.

For the year ended 30 June 2019

Cash Basis

Account	2019
Trading Income	
DBCA PESTS - DBCA 2019-20 PEST ANIMAL AGREEMENT	30,000.00
DPIRD - Capacity Building \$100k	50,000.00
DPIRD PRBG LFH DRY CONDITIONS 2019 20 \$50k Project INCOME	50,000.00
Interest Income	662.27
Main Declared Pest Operating Income	788,136.00
Roebourne – Port Hedland Land Conservation District Committee	3,600.00
StateNRM CSGL18161	67,000.00
Total Trading Income	989,398.27
Cost of Sales	
\$130k CapBuil1617 Expenses	496.96
DBCA PEST ANIMAL AGREEMENT Expenses	30,000.02
DPA – Annual finance audit by Certified Accountant, BAS, (Joy Francis)	4,468.60
DPA - Meeting Expenses including catering	770.22
DPA – Members accommodation and meals for Meetings	142.46
DPA - PMMC Consumables	15,000.00
DPA - PMMC operations	30,000.00
DPA Executive Officer expenses charged to annual DPA Operational Budget	38,705.02
DPA Insurance – PRBG Insurances	2,676.02
DPA LFH - Ammunition	10,124.66
DPA LFH - AvGas	20,327.32
DPA LFH - Contingencies	9,545.29
DPA LFH - DPIRD shooter	23,736.34
DPA LFH - Helicopter hire	131,320.00
DPA LFH - Pilot Accommodation	2,386.36
DPAWD – Aircraft Hire	48,823.04
DPAWD – Avgas	12,924.00
DPAWD – Bait Ground Support Truck/Driver	13,520.50
DPAWD – Baits – aerial baiting	123,530.00
DPAWD – Chemical Freight	298.00
DPAWD – LPMT - Bombardier - Aerial Baiting	6,050.00
DPAWD – LPMT - injecting	22,502.55
DPAWD - LPMT (Dogger) – days worked	131,181.81
DPAWD - LPMT (Dogger) – insurance & ammo allowance	6,316.64
DPAWD - LPMT (Dogger) – materials	2,266.34
DPAWD – Newspaper adverts	1,261.09
DPAWD – Poison – 1080 concentrate	5,738.62
DPAWD – Poison – 1080 impregnated oats	6,029.35
DPAWD – Poison – Strychnine	5,117.24
DPAWD – Repairs & Maintenance	2,150.00
DPAWD – Wild dog traps	8,819.09
DPIRD17 - Capacity Building \$100k EO Funds	85,388.89
Funds provided by Roebourne Port Hedland LCDC to PRBG for dogger services	27,400.00
Main Declared Pest Operations Funds Carryover & Contingency Expenses	35,512.10
StateNRM CSGL18161 Funds for PMMC to manage project and contractors	48,000.00
Total Cost of Sales	912,528.53

Gross Profit	76,869.74
Operating Expenses	
Interest Expense	469.91
Total Operating Expenses	469.91
Net Profit	76,399.83

Also see separate Finance Audit report for 2018/19 financial year for more detail.

9. AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

See separate Finance Audit report for 2018/19 financial year.

Signed: *J. Richardson*

Date: 3/12/2019

Jamie Richardson, Chairperson, Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group