

**MEEKATHARRA RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY
ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

MRBA Annual General Meeting and Committee of Management Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association (MRBA) for the 2019/2020 financial year was held in Meekatharra on 13 October 2020.

The Committee of Management, with dates elected, as resolved at the AGM and the Committee Meeting is as follows:

- Chairman – Ashley Dowden (2018)
- Vice Chairman – Liam Johns (2018)
- Secretary/Treasurer – Eric Moses (2020)
- Jarrad Blair (2019)
- John Mahony (2020)
- Jorgen Jensen (2019)
- Greg Watters (2018)
- Rob Lefroy (2019)
- Angus Nichols (2020)
- Greg Payne (2019)
- Murray Pens (2018)

Management Committee members are elected on a rolling basis for a term of three years. The Chairman thanked Darren Cousens, who did not seek re-election to the Committee, for his contribution over the last six years. The Chairman thanked Greg Watters for his long-term contribution as Vice Chairman and welcomed Liam Johns as newly elected Vice Chairman and John Mahony as a newly elected Committee member.

The minutes of the AGM and Committee meeting held on 13 October are an attachment along with this newsletter.



Committee Meeting - Meekatharra Sports Complex

MRBA Indicative Bait Rack Program 2021

As determined by the Committee of Management last year and following a survey of members, the MRBA will no longer supply meat in Autumn for a community bait rack program. Individual racks participants can of course get together and supply their own meat for injection in April 2021. The MRBA Committee is very supportive of such an action and the MRBA will continue to supply 1080 and make available the freezers at Yalgoo, Mount Magnet and Sherwood Station.

The MRBA Spring 2021 bait rack program will go ahead as normal.

Spring Bait Rack Program 2021

Location	Co-Ordinator	Spring Baiting Dates	Spring Quantity/Type of Bait Kg	Meat Pick Up
Pullagaroo	Mat Rubery 9963-6603	23 August Monday	800 bulk 300 bulk DPaW	Mount Magnet
Challa	Ashley Dowden 9963 5361	25 August Wednesday	2,000 bulk	Mount Magnet
Melangata	Craig Clews 0428 108 772	27 August Friday	1,800 bulk 300 bulk DPaW	Yalgoo
Killara	Liam Johns 9981 2901	8 September Wednesday	700 bulk 300 bulk DPaW	"Sherwood"
Yarraquin	Peter Savage 9963 1027	1 September Wednesday	750 bulk	Mount Magnet
Yarlarweelor	Greg Watters 9981 2943	11/12 September Sat/Sun	4,000 bulk	"Sherwood"
Ilgarrarie	Suzanne Maguire 9175 7015	16/17 September Thursday/Friday	1,600 bulk	"Sherwood" Bait Rack delivery to be arranged
			11,650 kg bulk DPaW 900 Total 12,550 kg	

MRBA Doggers

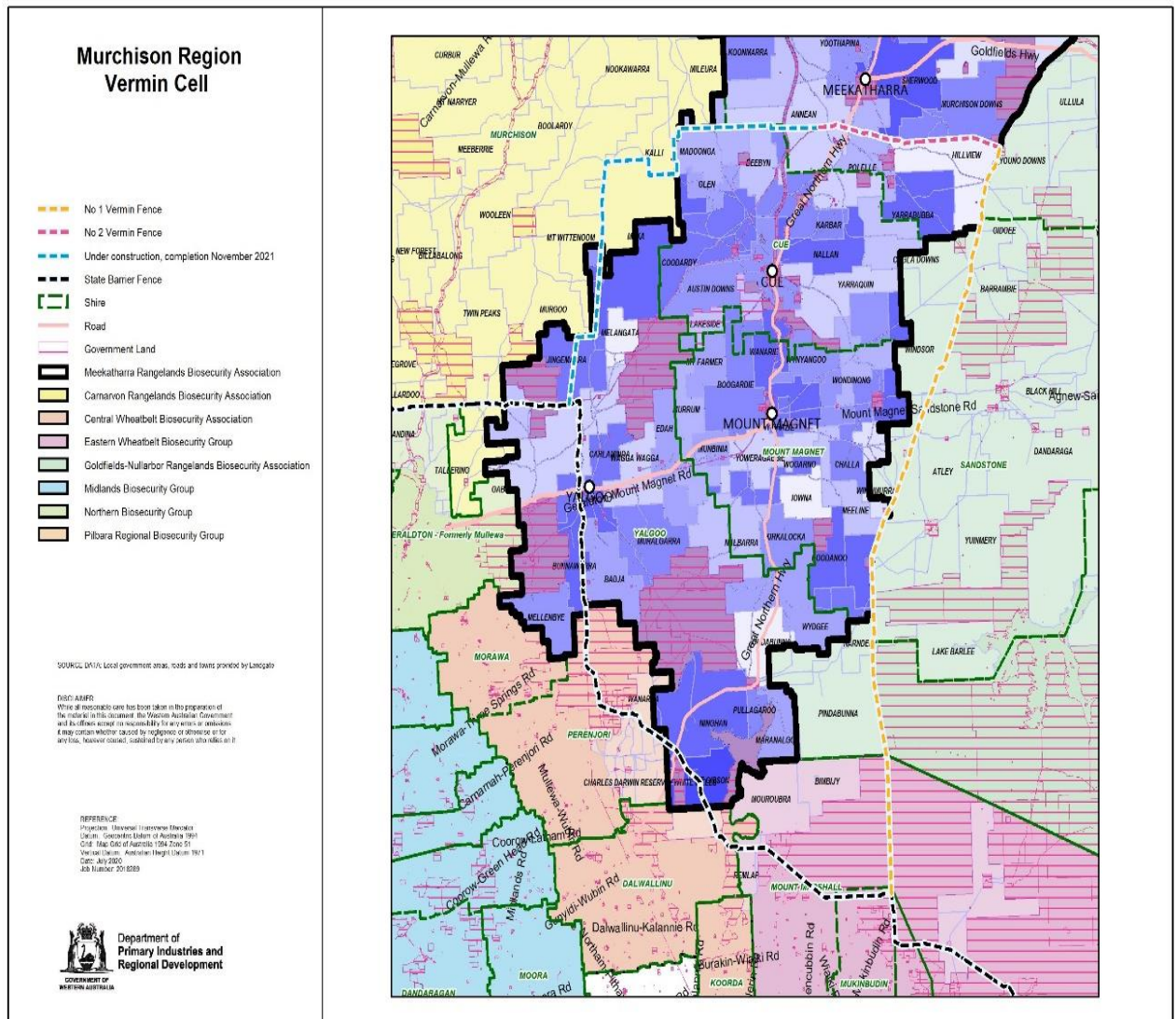
The MRBA currently employs seven doggers (5.275 full time equivalent). These doggers are funded from MRBA declared pest account rates and the State Government's Royalties for Regions program. The Royalties for Regions funding is provided by the State for the purpose of wild dog control on government managed lands and adjoining pastoral leases, predominately in the southern half of the MRBA area.

The following table summarises the situation for 2020/2021.

Dogger & Co-ordinator	Area of Operation & Funding	Properties serviced
Wayne Glasson (82 DAYS) LPMT 7926 Co-ordinator Liam Johns (08) 9981 2901	Doolgunna Royalties for Regions	DBC&A (Doolgunna, Mooloolool, Peak Hill Common), Neds Creek, Paroo, Murchison Downs, Mt Padbury, Three Rivers, Bryah, Killara
Wayne Glasson (100 DAYS) LPMT 7926 Co-ordinator Liam Johns (08) 9981 2901	Yagahorn MRBA	Youthapina, Belele, Annean, Polelle, Sherwood,
Jon Hehir (200 DAYS) LPMT 7487 Co-ordinator Ashley Dowden (08) 9963 5361	Cue MRBA	Meka, Madoonga, Glen, Coodardy, Austin Downs, Beebyn, Karbar, Nallan, Yarraquin, Cogla Downs, Windsor, Wanarie, Wirra Block, Annean, Polelle, Hillview, Yarrabubba
Greg Scott (100 DAYS) LPMT 6835 Co-ordinator Ashley Dowden (08) 9963 5361	Mount Magnet to Paynes Find East MRBA	Wanarie, Wynyangoo, Wondinong, Windimurra, Challa, Meeline, Nardee, Wydgee, Pindabunna, Maranalgo. Pullagaroo Mulgarra (separate contract with mining company)
Reg Seaman (100 days) LPMT 8385 Co-ordinator Jorgen Jensen (08) 9963 4839	Mount Magnet MRBA	Boogardie, Murrum, Edah, Munbinia, Hy Brazil, Yoweragabbie, Wogarno, Iowna, Kirkalocka, Wydgee
John Darling (166 DAYS) LPMT 7492 Co-ordinator Justin Rowe (08) 9962 8062	Yalgoo Royalties for Regions	DBC&A (Dalgarranga, Lakeside, Narloo Block), Jingemurra, Gabyon, Melangata, Carlaminda, Wagga Wagga, Edah, Mt Farmer, Yuin Pastoral, Austin Downs, Meka
Kris Pascoe (104 DAYS) LPMT 10361 Co-ordinator Greg Payne (08) 9963-7990	Paynes Find South Royalties for Regions	DCB&A (Karara, Warridar, Lochada, Thundelarra), Ninghan and Badja
Reg Seaman (62 days) LPMT 8385 Co-ordinator Jorgen Jensen (08) 9963 4839	Paynes Find North Royalties for Regions	DBC&A (Thundelarra, Burnerbinmah) Oudabunna, Wydgee, Nalbara
Kevin Mahony (50 DAYS) LPMT 7678 Co-ordinator Kath Mahony (08) 9981 2997	Meekatharra West MRBA	Moorarie, Judal, Mt Gould, Belele West, Koonmarra.

As mentioned in the August 2020 newsletter Royalties for Regions funding for MRBA doggers working on government managed lands was extended by the Minister to 30 June 2021. The future of Royalties for Regions funding beyond this time is currently part of a State Government budget review which is expected to be completed by December this year.

Murchison Region Vermin Cell



The last section of the Murchison Region Vermin Cell wild dog fence is currently under construction with a completion date of December 2021. This work, which involves the construction of 285 km of fencing to join the existing No 2 Vermin Fence with the State Barrier Fence, is being carried out by the Murchison Regional Vermin Council. The cost of constructing the remaining 285 km of vermin fence is some \$3.0 M which is being funded under the Federal Government’s Building Building Regions Program.

The clearing and grading of the 285 km fence alignment has been completed and a tender for construction of 120 km of fencing has been awarded to Yalgoo based fencing contractor Andrew McSporran. The tender for the remaining 55 km section has been advertised with a closing date of 27 November.



Clearing and Grading July 2020



Completed Vermin Fence September 2020

Large Feral Herbivore (LFH) Cull

A grant of \$25,000 has been obtained from DPIRD to enable the culling of LFHs (feral camels, horses and donkeys) in the north east of the MRBA area to take place in December this year. When combined with MRBA funds this will enable a four-day aerial operation to address the problem of LFHs moving west from the desert region.

The operation, which is expected to commence on 5th December, is being carried out by DPIRD Biosecurity staff. Planning is well advanced and good feedback as to the location of feral animals is being received from pastoralists.

Ammunition Subsidy

An ammunition subsidy of up to \$200 pa (excluding GST) per property is available to pastoral stations in the MRBA area to assist with LFH control. At the Committee Meeting on 13 October it was agreed that this subsidy would also be extended to MRBA doggers involved in LFH control.

The subsidy can be claimed by forwarding a receipt for the purchase of suitable ammunition, along with an invoice for payment, to Executive Officer Geoff Brooks. Please note \$2,000 has been allowed in the MRBA budget for this purpose in 2020/2021.

Successful Grant Applications

The MRBA is currently managing grants as follows:

- A State NRM grant for \$12,000 for the mapping and spraying of an infestation of cactus on Paroo Station.
- A Research and Development grant to the MRBA of \$140,000 has been obtained from DPIRD for the development of drone technology capable of locating wild dogs and potentially identify individual animals using facial recognition. A drone bait delivery system has been successfully field tested with the focus now on the facial recognition part of the project. This grant was obtained as a result of a joint application by the MRBA, Mayne Jenour, Jingemarra Station and Nigel Brown, Autonomous Technology.

Grants Pending

Applications have been submitted for the following grant:

- A State NRM grant application has been submitted seeking funding \$398,769 to train and employ additional doggers over a three-year period to accelerate the

eradication of wild dogs within the soon to be completed Murchison Region Vermin Cell area. It is expected that the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development will make an announcement regarding the success or otherwise of this application before Christmas.

Committee of Management Meeting

The next Committee of Management meeting is scheduled to be held at the Sporting Complex in Meekatharra on Tuesday 16 February 2021 commencing at 9.30 am. MRBA members are most welcome to attend this meeting

For further enquires please contact Geoff Brooks

MRBA Executive Officer

Email: gpbrooks2000@yahoo.com.au

Phone: 0499 343 828