



Central Wheatbelt Declared Species Group invite you to attend the
Koorda Sundowner at 3pm on 22nd Sept at the Koorda Recreation Centre
Proposal to become a Recognised Biosecurity Group & Declared Pest control

Dear Landholder(s)

The Central Wheatbelt Declared Species Group (CWDSG) currently targets the issue of wild dogs, foxes and rabbits in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda and Perenjori. The CWDSG have been successfully operating in the three Shires since wild dog attacks were reported in 2011.



You are invited to the **Koorda Rec Centre** to discuss the Central Wheatbelt Declared Species Group proposal to become a **Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG)** under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act 2007. This will enable the CWDSG to secure long term funding from the State Government. The State Government will match the Declared Pest Rate funds raised from Landholders. This is to ensure that the management of Declared Pests can continue to be undertaken and supported with and for Landholders.

We are seeking your support and input and outline below the implications to you, as a Landholder in the Shire of Koorda, of the CWDSG becoming a Recognised Biosecurity Group:-

- The Recognised Biosecurity Group will impose the **Declared Pest Rate** on Landholders for land held in each of the three Shires. One Local Government rates notice is one land parcel.
- The Rate will be calculated as either a flat rate per land parcel or a percentage of the unimproved value of each land parcel as advised by the Valuer General. Current CWDSG budget modelling is to raise \$150,000 over 899 agricultural land parcels.
- The Declared Pest Rate is **invoiced through the Office of State Revenue** and is not invoiced or collected through the Shire of Koorda. This is a compulsory annual contribution and is **matched dollar for dollar by the State Government**.
- The **RBG Management Committee** will use the funds raised to implement a local, targeted program for Declared Pest control as per an annual budget, approved by the Director General of DAFWA, for the area in which the rates were raised.
- Currently the BAM Act Legislation allows for the Director General of DAFWA to increase the Declared Pest Rate and utilise the increased funds for DAFWA Biosecurity programs. This aspect of the Legislation is currently being reviewed and is being challenged through the West Australian Local Government Association and by the CWDSG and other potential Recognised Biosecurity Groups.
- Currently the three Local Governments contribute annually on behalf of Landholders so this will reduce the financial burden on them.
- The RBG can still apply for funding through other means ie. Grants, but this funding is not matched by the State Government.

For further information please contact:

Bev Logue - Executive Officer eocwds@outlook.com or P: 99736036 PO Box 339 Perenjori WA 6620
And if Bev is unavailable the Shire of Koorda on 9684 1219.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Logue

Chair – Central Wheatbelt Declared Species Group

Lock in the DATE
Tuesday 22nd Sept, 3pm
Koorda Recreation Centre

Central Wheatbelt Declared Species Group – Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda & Perenjori

Background

Landholders on the edge of the agricultural lands in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda and Perenjori have been impacted by the predation of wild dogs on small livestock. This is a problem that has seen the Southern Rangelands, which border these Landholders, become less viable as they are unable to run small livestock.

With assistance from DAFWA in Wongan Hills and Geraldton, the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Shire of Dalwallinu (as the incorporated representative and contract holder), a representative committee formed the Central Wheatbelt Declared Species Group (CWDSG) in 2012. This enabled the CWSDG to employ and manage a Dogger to target areas where Landholders were reporting stock losses, attacks and sightings.

With annual contributions through the three Shires, Declared Species Group funding from DAFWA, together with RfR Wild Dog Project Funding for on ground dogging on public lands and Industry Funding, the CWDSG has increased the dogger services for the affected areas. However DAFWA advised the CWDSG Committee that the Declared Species Group funding will finish in June 2016, which coincides with the finish of RfR Wild Dog Project funding.

DAFWA then recommended that the CWDSG investigate forming a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act 2007. DAFWA are the administrators of the BAM Act and also oversee the Industry Funding Schemes such as the Grain, Seeds and Hay Scheme for which grain growers pay the BAMA levy to target skeleton weed.

The CWDGS has carried out due diligence on the implications of becoming a Recognised Biosecurity Group which has led to this proposal for your consideration.

Please direct any queries or to receive the CWDGS “Catchup” newsletter and information to:

Bev Logue - Executive Officer eocwdsg@outlook.com

P: 99736036

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