

KIMBERLEY RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC.

2021/22 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Revised 7th October 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc. (KRBA) is an incorporated body that facilitates the control of declared pests in the Kimberley area. Annually pastoral leases are rated for declared pests (Declared Pest Rate) and this is matched \$ for \$ by the Western Australian Government. These funds are used for the control of declared pests prioritised by the KRBA through a consultative process with the region's ratepayers. To enable these rates to be set an operational plan is developed and approved by the management committee and the Director General of Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

Aims of the KRBA

As an incorporated group the KRBA previously identified the following 'object's (aims):

- Initiate, promote and foster the control of declared pests in the Area;
- Encourage landholders and other persons to adopt sound biosecurity practices throughout the Area;
- Foster the sustainable development of the Area and;
- Encourage the control of pests other than those declared in the Area.

KRBA membership

Membership of the KRBA is on two levels – full membership and associate membership.

- Full membership of the Association is open only to ratepayers within the Area, and is automatically bestowed upon the individual or entity appearing on the relevant declared pest rate assessment, for a period of 12 months from the date of payment of that assessment.
- Associate membership of the KRBA is available to any public authority and other corporate body that is responsible for the care, control or management of land within the Area, or that conducts significant activities on land in the Area. These bodies must apply to the KRBA to become members.

Voting

- Full members have one vote for each property that pays declared pest rates;
- Associate members can vote on general matters but not on the setting of a Declared Pest Rate;
- A natural person must be appointed to represent any member that is a joint ownership, unincorporated partnership, business structure or public authority
- At an AGM, formal (written) proxy votes can be used to allow non-attending members to vote on issues.

Management committee

The business of the KRBA is managed exclusively by:

- The Chairperson,
- Vice-Chairperson,
- Secretary
- Treasurer (full members), *and*

- At least *nine* and no more than *thirteen* Committee members (can include associate members with a maximum of four)

The management committee must meet at least twice per year. There needs to be a quorum of half the number of Management Committee members plus one (i.e. Management Committee of eight requires a quorum of five)

Management committee roles

- Provide direction & leadership
- Formulate policy & make decisions
- Manage the finances & meet compliance requirements
- Consult, communicate and network
- Research and review
- Fund raise

Management committee responsibilities

- Operational and budget planning for annual work programs,
- Perform operations or engage contractors to manage declared pests,
- Promote best practice pest management to landholders in their area and
- Provide community input into State and national policy on pest management.

Management committee duties and obligations

- Act honestly
- Disclose interests
- Act with care & diligence
- Prevent insolvent trading
- Comply with laws
- Record keeping , financial recording & auditing
- Insurance
- Tenders & procurement processes
- Risk management

OPERATIONAL PLANNING FOR THE KRBA

The plan outlines the *on-ground activities* that the KRBA will undertake and the budget required. The operational plan needs to receive approval from the Director General of DPIRD before any funds will be released to the KRBA. By submitting this operational plan the KRBA consents to the transfer of \$575,000 (excluding GST) from the declared pest account to be used for the control of declared pests on pastoral leaseholds in the local government districts of Broome, the Shire of Derby / West Kimberley, the Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley.

Introduction

The 2021/22 Operational Plan for the KRBA identifies the actions required over the next 12 months to control declared animal and plant pests in the region. It links to DPIRD's Strategic Intent 2018-21 and will assist the KRBA to meet its responsibilities under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAMA)

Why the operational plan is required

The KRBA plays a key role in assisting land managers to control high risk animal and plant pests throughout the region. The Kimberley region covers an area of 421,451 km² and has a population of around 34,270.

It encompasses four local government areas of the Shire of Broome, the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley, the Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley.

Data from a range of sources shows that the Kimberley Rangelands region has significant populations of high risk animal and plant pests. These pose substantial environmental and economic risks to pastoral holdings, unallocated Crown land and river systems.

The KRBA will assist lease-holders in the control the plant and animal pests through direct measures and through partnering with a range of state agencies and companies.

Control will be achieved through:

- Investing in priority programs focussing on Weeds of National Significance and other declared species as required
- Maintain feral donkey control program with up to three tracking runs/season
- A coordinated broad scale wild dog baiting, on-ground & aerially
- Undertake feral camel, horse and pig control on stations where impacting production.
- Providing incentives for declared weed and feral declared animal control.

The Kimberley Rangelands KRBA will focus on the control of:

- Feral donkeys
- Wild dogs
- Feral pigs
- Feral camels
- Wild horses
- Mesquite
- Rubber vine
- Prickly acacia
- Grader grass
- Gamba grass

Achieving success will help Kimberley rangelands pastoral businesses to become robust and viable through improved production, reduced variable costs and reduced labour costs. Specific measures of success include:

- increase in calf survival rates
- Reduced environmental impact of feral pigs, donkeys, camels and horses
- Less damage to infrastructure
- Maintain control and work towards eradication and control of prioritised weed species.

Budget summary

Activities within the operational plan and financial security will cost \$575,000 to implement from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. See below Budget Summary.

Budget Summary	Budget
Wild dog control (20K to Pilbara)	\$210,000
Declared plant control	\$185,000
Feral Donkey Management	\$105,000
Other species	\$35,000
Subsidy Program	\$100,000
Administration	\$185,000
Total Expenditure	\$820,000

The amount requested for declared pest rates from pastoral leases in 2021/22 is \$166,517. This figure is a significant decrease from the 2020/21 budget due to the recent land revaluation process.

Lastly it should be noted that due to the high demand for program funds in the first quarter of every financial year due to seasonal constraints a contingency fund of carry forward DPA funds will be maintained to counter any funding inconsistencies or delays.

Allocation of funding

Requested payment dates from DPIRD.

1 st Half	Review	2 nd Half	Review
1 July 2021 \$ \$366,428	1 October 2021	1 January 2022 \$453,572 less carry over from 2020/21 as per audit	20 th February 2022

Links to regional, state and national management plans

This work-plan links to four key management plans:

- National Feral Camel Action Plan
- National Wild Dog Action Plan
- Western Australian Wild Dog Action Plan 2016-2021
- Rangelands NRM Regional Plan
- Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy
- Draft National Feral Pig Action Plan
- Western Australian Feral Pig Strategy

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The KRBA have identified a range of indicators that will be used in measuring the success of this program.

Performance indicator	Source
Reduction in feral donkey population – Number of properties locally eradicated.	Lease holders/DPIRD data
Calf survival rates (wild dogs).	Lease holders/PLB data
Reduction in feral camel damage.	Lease holders
Activity, damage and impact observed by location and land-use (feral donkeys, camels & pigs; wild dogs).	Lease holders KRBA, DBCA, DPIRD
Eradication of rubber vine, gamba grass, mesquite and prickly acacia in target areas.	Lease holders, KRBA, DBCA, DPIRD