

**KIMBERLEY RANGELANDS
BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC.**

2022/23 OPERATIONAL PLAN



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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 Kimberley region as determined by the boundaries of the four Kimberley Shires –
 - Shire Wyndham East Kimberley
 - Halls Creek Shire
 - Broome Shire
 - Shire Derby West Kimberley
- Associate membership is available to any public authority and 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, 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)

OFFICE HELD ON THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	NAME	ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP TYPE	DATE APPOINTED TO OFFICE & TERM	
Chair	Mike Shaw	Full	6 th October 2020	6 th October 2023
Vice-Chair	Lynette 'Jim' Craig	Full	31 st October 2019	31 st October 2022
Treasurer	Philip Hams	Full	6 th October 2020	6 th October 2023
Secretary	Rick Ford	Full	31 st October 2019	31 st October 2022
1. Member	Mervyn Wortley	Full	7 th November 2018	7 th November 2024
2. Member	Linda Evans	Full	31 st October 2019	31 st October 2022
3. Member	Garth Camm	Full	7 th November 2018	7 th November 2024
4. Member	James Camp	Full	7 th November 2018	7 th November 2024
5. Member	Paul Koeyers	Full	6 th October 2020	6 th October 2023
6. Member	Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Designate: TBA)	Associate	19 th October 2009	
7. Member	Kimberley Zone Shire Councils (TBA)	Associate	vacant	
8. Member	Australian Wildlife Conservatory (Designate: Greg Williams)	Associate	7 th October 2019	

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. 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.

Introduction

The 2022/23 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 & aurally
- 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 \$825,000 to implement from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. See below Budget Summary.

Budget Summary	Budget
Wild dog control	\$215,000
Declared plant control	\$175,000
Feral Donkey Management	\$120,000
Other species (pigs, camels, horses)	\$35,000
Subsidy Program	\$100,000
Administration	\$185,000
Total Expenditure	\$830,000

The amount requested for declared pest rates from pastoral leases in 2022/23 is \$342,000. This is a significant increase on the declared pest rate collected in 2020/21 as a result of the revaluation of pastoral land. For this budget the committee has decided to remain with the 'ad valorem' method of raising those funds and will review that decision annually at this point. The KRBA will retain its contingency fund that has been set in the past at \$300,000 but will allow that figure to reduce to no less than \$150,000 whilst a financial equilibrium is restored over the next few years.

The KRBA has been working with the Department to ensure the Declared Pest Account for the area that KRBA operates in has adequate funds available to respond to unexpected, declared pest incursions, as approved through a variation to the Operational Plan. This has previously been set at \$300,000 but KRBA is agreeable to a reduction of no less than \$150,000 whilst a financial equilibrium is restored over the next three to five years.

Allocation of funding

Requested payment dates from DPIRD.

1st Half	Review	2nd Half	Review
1 July 2022 \$ \$415,000	1 October 2022	1 January 2023 \$415,000 less Unspent DPA Funds from 2021/22 as per audit	20th February 2023

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 2021-25
- Rangelands NRM Regional Plan
- Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy
- Draft National Feral Pig Action Plan
- Western Australian Feral Pig Strategy

PROPOSED OPERATIONAL PROGRAM

ACTIVITY	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	BUDGET
1. Reduce impact of feral donkeys in Kimberley				\$120,000
Undertake ground control of feral donkeys	Pastoralists & land managers	Ongoing		In-kind/obligation
Maintain control program with three tracking runs in each region from June 2021 to July 2022.	KRBA via DPIRD	Dry season	18 days	\$120,000
Monitor and report donkey numbers on property.	Pastoralists & land managers	Ongoing		In-kind/obligation
2. Increase calf survival through control of wild dogs				\$215,000
Land managers undertake ground baiting for wild dogs	Pastoralists & land managers	Dry Season		In-kind/obligation
Provide injection service to pastoralists	KRBA via contactor or pastoral injectors	May & September	20 days	\$50,000
Provide funds to Pilbara RBG to service stations - Mandora, Anna Plains and Wallal	KRBA	Ongoing		\$20,000
Conduct 2 x baitings per year – plane, fuel, poison, bags, signs, advertising	KRBA via contractor	May & September		\$75,000
Conduct bait injection course for pastoralists	KRBA via contractor	May & September		\$10,000
Coordinate aerial baiting using contractor	KRBA via contractor	May & September	20 days	\$58,000
Signage for Indigenous community and pastoral stations		May & September		\$2,000

ACTIVITY	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	BUDGET
3. Keep feral pig population to current levels				Nil
Undertake ground control of feral pigs	Pastoralists & land managers	Ongoing		In-kind/obligation
Target pigs as part of donkey shoot	KRBA via DPIRD	Dry Season		Nil
Undertake aerial control work on request from pastoralists as opportune conditions exist.	KRBA via DPIRD	Dry Season		Nil
Opportunistic partnerships with the North Kimberley LCDC and/or landholders for pig control activities.	KRBA, NKLDC, AWC, DBCA and landholders	Dry Season	<i>To be defined</i>	Nil
4. Establish buffer zone between desert and pastoral country to control feral camels				\$10,000
Target camels as part of annual DBCA program	DBCA	Dry Season	<i>Aerial control along UCL desert fringe and Park tenure.</i>	In kind
Undertake aerial control of feral camels	KRBA via DPIRD/contractor	Dry Season	<i>To be defined</i>	\$10,000
Get data/reports from property owners to identify population numbers	Pastoralists & land managers	Ongoing		In-kind/obligation
5. Reduce populations of feral horses				\$25,000
Undertake ground control of feral horses	Pastoralists & land managers	Ongoing		In-kind/obligation
Undertake aerial control of feral horses	KRBA via DPIRD/contractor	Dry Season		\$25,000
6. Maintain control and work towards eradication of Rubber Vine, Prickly Acacia, Mesquite and Gamba Grass				\$170,000
6.1 Rubber Vine				
Partner with Lake Argyle Rubber Vine Advisory Committee as stipulated in funding application and agreement.	Lake Argyle Rubber Vine Advisory Group	Ongoing		\$60,000
Partner with West Kimberley Rubber Vine Steering Group as	West Kimberley Rubber Vine Committee	Ongoing		\$60,000

stipulated in funding application and agreement.				
6.2 Prickly acacia				
Nulla Nulla Infestation; Maintain current control program.	KRBA	Ongoing		\$20,000
Gordon Downs infestation: Landholder to control.	Pastoralists and Land managers	Ongoing		In-kind/obligation
6.3 Mesquite				
As a priority species provide additional resources to contain & eradicate the infestations;	KRBA	Dry Season	Yeeda and Thangoo	\$20,000
6.4 Gamba Grass				
Partner with the Gamba Grass Steering Committee as stipulated in funding application and agreement.	Gamba Grass Steering Committee	Dry Season		nil
6.5 Bellyache Bush, Parkinsonia, Rubber Bush and other declared weeds, Mapping to identify infestations and outlier populations and other activities as required.	KRBA	Ongoing		\$10,000
Undertake control of declared weeds	Pastoralists & land managers	Ongoing		In-kind/obligation
7. Subsidy program to assist Pastoralists with Declared Pest Management				\$100,000
Undertake control of declared pests	Pastoralists & land managers	Ongoing		In-kind/obligation
Provide a chemical subsidy of up to \$7,500/lease and an ammunition subsidy of up to \$1,000/land holder for declared pest management.	KRBA	Ongoing		\$100,000
8. Administration – Fund financial services, Executive Officer, accommodation & travel costs for members	KRBA			\$185,000
TOTAL	KRBA Budget			\$825,000

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

ENGAGEMENT

Membership

The KRBA has a number of activities within its membership engagement strategy, they are as follows –
Newsletters: Hard copy newsletters are distributed to all pastoral leases on a quarterly basis each year. This provides the membership with operational and budgetary information as well as progress on the various partnership programs the KRBA is involved in.

Surveys: Are undertaken every two years to identify station and regional priorities and gauge the effectiveness of KRBA programs.

Industry meetings: The KRBA attends and presents at various industry meetings when able to provide the membership with information on various aspects of the organisation's operational and strategic direction.

Stakeholders

The KRBA likewise has a number of activities within its stakeholder engagement strategy, they are as follows –

Newsletters: Electronic copies of newsletters are distributed to relevant stakeholders on a quarterly basis each year. This provides those organisations operational and budgetary information as well as progress on the various partnership programs the KRBA is involved in.

Industry meetings: The KRBA attends and presents at various industry meetings when able to provide stakeholders with information on various aspects of the organisation's operational and strategic direction.

Website: A website is kept up to date providing an overview of the organisation and its activities.

Community

The KRBA also has a number of activities within a community engagement strategy, they are as follows –
Website: A website is kept up to date providing an overview of the organisation and its activities.

Pamphlets: Are provided to visitor's centres and roadhouses within the region to provide the community with information on pastoral activities, tips on appropriate conduct on pastoral land and biosecurity issues and activities within the region.

Signage: Has been placed around the region on roads, 24 hour rest areas and on boundary gates warning the community of dog baiting activities on pastoral land.

STAKEHOLDERS

The KRBA works closely with a number of stakeholder organisations through its partnership program. Currently the stakeholders the KRBA has an active role with include –

- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Main Roads Western Australia
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- North Kimberley Land Conservation District Committee
- Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group

Additionally the KRBA recognises that there are a number of other stakeholders within the region and wider that are linked to biosecurity activities and as a result have been in the past or may be in the future enacted with as opportunities are created. Examples include –

- Other Regional Biosecurity Groups on a State-wide basis
- Kimberley-Pilbara Cattleman's Association
- Kimberley Land Council (and various smaller Indigenous Councils)
- Rangelands NRM
- Regional Councils
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- Pastoral Land Board
- Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment