



***Minutes for the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) Board Meeting held Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024 at Merredin Community Resource Centre Conference Room.***

**Chairperson:** Scott Stirrat.

**1. Opening of Meeting: 10.30am.**

**2. Attendance and Apologies:**

- a. Attendance:** Scott Stirrat, Lisa O'Neill, Adrian Chesson, Maria Lee, Corey Harken, Mark Crees, Dean Sinclair, Steve Palm, Brett Smith, Gary Guerini, Steve Hunt, Jamie Taylor, Clinton Mullen.
- b. Apologies:** Donna Crook, Mick Caughey, Peter Barnes, Ron Burro, Jim Sullivan, Stuart Putt, Ross Della Bosca, Len Armstrong.

**3. Disclosure of Interests:**

**Lisa O'Neill (Executive Officer)**– declared her recent election as a Councillor for the Shire of Merredin. This disclosure was noted by the Chairperson and recorded in the minutes for transparency and to manage any potential conflicts of interest in future discussions and decisions.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes:**

- a.** Meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, at Merredin Recreation Centre, Merredin.

**Motion:**

*That the minutes presented from the Annual General Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 are accepted as a true and accurate record.*

***Moved: M. Crees. Seconded: G. Guerini.  
Carried.***

**5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes: Nil.**

**6. Adoption of Financial Statement:**

- a.** 2023/2024 Financials presented.

**Motion:**

*That the financials presented to be accepted as true and accurate.*

***Moved: C. Mullan. Seconded: G. Guerini.  
Carried.***



**Motion:**

*That the Audit Partners Australia Audit of the EWBG's 2022/2023 financials were tabled at the meeting to the members.*

**Moved: S. Hunt. Seconded: B. Smith.  
Carried.**

**7. Agenda Items**

**a. EWBG LPMT Updates**

Report Provided by Jamie Taylor.

Lot more activity as water area starting to dry out. Emu's building up on inside of fence. Lots of large herbivores (Kawana and Jackson area). DBCA has provided signage which the EWBG have helped erect.

Adrian Chesson noted that if there is a need for Donkey control there would be support from DBCA, need to investigate impact on landholders or fence.

Written Report Provided by Seb Jenkin and Stuart McEwan.

**b. EWBG update**

**i. FAA - Financial Assistance Agreement** extended to June 30, 2025.

**ii. RBG Forum –**

1. Addressed by the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister expressed her support of Recognised Biosecurity Group's.
2. Wild Dog Advisory Group and new Wild Dog Action Plan is in planning phase. Scott Stirrat and Lisa O'Neill will meet with other RBG's and Industry in May to discuss the EWBG's involvement.

**iii. DPR- Declare Pest Rate** consultation period is due to commence in April. Consultation will be conducted through an online survey, which was the same as last year.

**iv. Capacity Building Grant project:** working with Livestock Collective to promote RBG's.

**v. Wild Rabbit Mixing Day:**

Delivered 372kgs. 7 Landholders. With an additional 4 permits that did not end up committing to oats.

**Action:** EWBG to look further into the process of Calicivirus release point.

**c. DBCA Update:**

- i. Adrian Chesson will be taking extended leave. Maria Lee based out of DBCA Narrogin will be the EWBG point of contact in the interim.

**8. General Business**

**a. Feral Cat control – MADFIG (DPIRD Grant).**

Feral Cat Management Grants are available for landscape scale, community-based projects to support feral cat management with conservation outcomes for WA's native fauna. Delivered by state government in conjunction with DBCA and NRM. \$500 000 available. Minimum \$10 000 and Max



\$250 000. Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG) have approached the EWBG to research the possibility of combining to apply for these Grants. The EWBG EO will meet with MADFIG to discuss further.

**9. Next Meeting:** Proposed Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2024.

**10. Close of Meeting: 11.42am.**