2026/27 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Midlands Biosecurity Group

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JANUARY 30, 2026

MIDLANDS BIOSECURITY GROUP
PO Box 137 Coorow, WA, 6515

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 2
OBJECTIVES 3
HISTORY & BOARD MEMBERS 3
STAKEHOLDERS 3
FUNDING 4
PLANNED PROGRAMS 2025-26 7
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION TIMELINE 9
BAITING CALENDAR 10
COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 12

INTRODUCTION

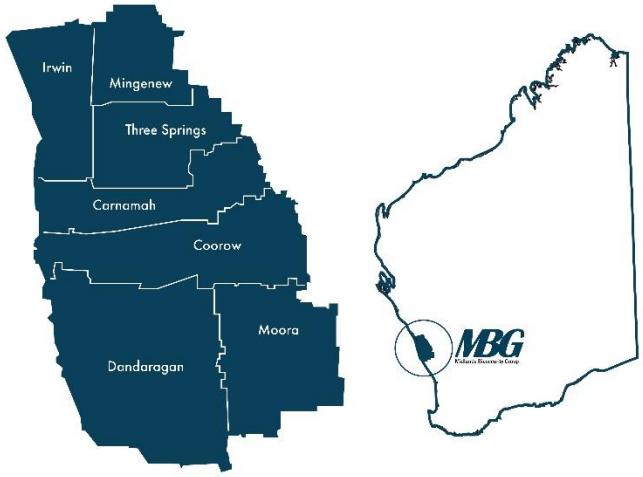
The Midlands Biosecurity Group (MBG) will initiate, promote and foster the control of Declared Pests in the Midlands region.

MBG will assist land managers to adopt sound biosecurity practices and provide members with a forum to exchange information, advice and assistance. The group has been established in response to the growing concerns of local farmers about the impact of wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs and rabbits on their farming operations and the need for a co-ordinated response to the issue.

The Midlands Biosecurity Group was incorporated on the 19th of June, 2019 and continues to liaise with the community to raise awareness of the group, building on initial work conducted by the West Midlands Group that commenced in 2018.

By ensuring clear communication between all relevant stakeholders, the MBG will raise awareness of issues and ensure a multi-faceted approach to pest control. This will include Landholders, Local Government Authorities, State and Federal agencies, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions and relevant industry bodies.

The area supported by the MBG is seven local government areas and includes Dandaragan, Moora, Mingenew, Carnamah, Coorow, Three Springs and Irwin. This area covers 24,523 km^2 of which over 4003km^2 is managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.



The Midlands Biosecurity Group was formed with the administrative support of the West Midlands Group. The West Midlands Group is a well-established grower group with a track record of managing project funding and reporting to funding bodies appropriately. An ongoing partnership between the two groups will allow for continued effective administration and communications.

The group is exploring all options for future funding of the group's operational plan and is currently implementing its sixth operational plan in 2025/26, funded through a declared pest rate. The Declared Pest Rate allows for locally collected funds to be matched 1:1 with state government funding. These funds can only be spent in the group's specified and prescribed area of operation.

This operational plan identifies how the funds will be spent. This system will provide our communities with guaranteed annual funds and sustainability to address priority declared pests using current best practice management techniques.

This operational plan details the organisation's activities including the budget considerations. The plan promotes integrated vertebrate pest control by promoting and providing support for control of foxes, wild dogs, feral pigs and rabbits. The plan also links to the MBG Wild Dog management plan

and Midwest Feral Pig Management strategies. These management plans aim to reduce to risks to agricultural production from the impacts of wild dog and feral pig activity through education, co-ordination and on-ground best practice control.

OBJECTIVES

The objects and purposes of the Midlands Biosecurity Group as described in the group's constitution are to:

- initiate, promote and foster the control of Declared Pests under section 165 of the BAM act in the Designated Area;
- encourage landholders and other persons to adopt sound biosecurity practices throughout the Designated Area;
- foster the sustainable development of the Designated Area;
- encourage the control of pests other than Declared Pests in the Designated Area;
- identify direct or indirect funding sources that can be made available for the development of the objects and purposes of the Association;
- provide Members with a forum to exchange information, advice and assistance where appropriate; and
- undertake any activity that the Board of Management shall from time to time determine to be in furtherance of the objects of the Association

HISTORY & BOARD MEMBERS

The decision to form a Biosecurity Group was made in December 2018 by local farmers and industry due to concerns around increasing numbers of Wild Dogs and Feral Pigs. The Interim Board had farmer representatives from throughout the region and regular meetings were held to start the RBG process and define the future objectives of the MBG. On the 6th of December 2019, the MBG members elected its first official Board of Management at its inaugural Annual General Meeting. Board member terms are 3 three years, with retirement dates staggered at the first AGM to ensure continuity of board members. The current MBG board members are listed below.

Board Director	Role	Shires Farming	Term Expiry
1. Charles Wass	Chairperson	Coorow	AGM 2026
2. Maria Griffiths	Deputy Chairperson	Mingenew, Dandaragan	AGM 2028
3. Peter Summers	Board Director	Irwin, Three Springs	AGM 2028
4. Christine Brown	Board Director	Moora, Dandaragan	AGM 2027
5. Carl Forward	Board Director	Irwin, Mingenew	AGM 2027
6. Chris Patmore	Board Director	Three Springs	AGM 2027
7. Quinton Bricknell	Board Director	Moora	AGM 2026
8. Jim Heal	Board Director	Three Springs	AGM 2028
9. Chris O'Callaghan	Secretary/Treasurer (Non-voting)	MBG Executive Officer	

STAKEHOLDERS

Identified stakeholders of the MBG include, but are not limited to:

- Local Landholders in the Shires of Moora, Dandaragan Coorow, Carnamah, Three Springs, Mingenew and Irwin.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (formerly DAFWA)
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (formerly DPAW)
- Shire of Moora, Dandaragan, Coorow, Carnamah, Three Springs, Mingenew, Irwin.

- State Natural Resource Management Program
- Northern Agricultural Catchment Council
- Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management
- Adjacent Shires (Gingin, Chittering, Victoria Plains)
- Australian Wool Innovation Limited
- Meat and Livestock Australia
- Livestock firms (Elders, Nutrien, Primaries)
- Adjacent Recognised Biosecurity Groups (Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association, Northern Biosecurity Group)
- Iluka Resources
- Tronox Ltd.

FUNDING

The Midlands Biosecurity Group has attracted funding from a number of different sources, these are:

Past Funding:

Australian Wool Innovation: 2019 Wild Dog Funding. $34,000 over 6 months. This funding provided a contribution to the West Midlands Group Wild Dog control program. Finished June 2019.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development: Development of Midlands Biosecurity Group for Recognition. $100,000 over 18 months. The purpose of this grant is to contribute to a large-scale, multi-tenure response to declared pests and includes, Biosecurity Group support, communications, capacity building, research and monitoring and evaluation. Finished June 2020.

Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme: Wild dog eradication Grant. $168,000 over three years. The purpose of this grant is to ensure landholders are well-supported in their wild dog control efforts, through co-ordination with neighbouring landholders, and other stakeholders such as local government and the state departments of Biodiversity, Conservations and Attractions and Primary Industries and Regional Development. Finishes June 2022.

National Drought Funding: Wild dog action plan. $250,000 over 1 year. The purpose of this funding is to provide enhanced wild dog operations in the shires of Gingin, Victoria Plains, Lower Chittering, Moora, Dandaragan, Coorow and Carnamah, preventing further establishment in areas to the south. Finished Oct 2020.

WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding: Wild Dog Funding. $25,000 over 12 months. Funding is a state government contribution to Wild Dog management in the Midlands Region. Funds LPMT time. Finished June 2021.

Australian Wool Innovation: In December 2020, AWI committed $38000 to the group to complete landholder training activities for vertebrate pests. Finished June 2022.

WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding: Wild Dog Funding. $25,000 over 12 months. Funding is a state government contribution to Wild Dog management in the Midlands Region. Funds LPMT time. Finished June 2022.

CWBA Feral Pig Project:

Funding for a collaborative feral pig project covering the shires of Mingenew and Morawa. $30,000 for 2021/21.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development:

Camera Monitoring Project: Collaborative project with CWBA, NBG and MBG, being led by DPIRD to increase monitoring activities across the Midwest for Feral Pigs and Wild dogs. Trials the use of EVORTA face recognition technology. $46,200 for 22/23.

Financial Year 2026 Funding

CWBA Feral Pig Project:

Funding for a collaborative feral pig project covering the shires of Mingenew and Morawa. $37,500 for 2025/26.

WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding: Wild Dog Funding. $25,000 over 12 months. Funding is a state government contribution to Wild Dog management in the Midlands Region. Funds LPMT time.

Financial Year 2027 Potential Funding:

CWBA Feral Pig Project:

Funding for a collaborative feral pig project covering the shires of Mingenew and Morawa. $37,500 for 2024/25.

WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding: Wild Dog Funding. $25,000 over 12 months. Funding is a state government contribution to Wild Dog management in the Midlands Region. Funds LPMT time.

BUDGET 2026-27

	RBG BUDGET (GST ex)	2026/27	
		DPA	Other
REVENUE			
DP Rate Revenue (80% collected)		$153,600.00	
State matched funds (100%)		$192,000.00	
Other sources	WDAP, CWBA Pig Project	$0.00	$62,500.00
Interest		$0.00	
DPA unspent funds allocated		$0.00	
DPA unspent funds unallocated		$0.00	
Existing DPA funds to be used		$66,860.00	
	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	**$412,460.00**	**$62,500.00**
EXPENDITURE	**Program 1 - Animals**		
	Wild Dogs & Foxes	$104,050.00	$25,000.00
	Pigs	$198,730.00	$37,500.00
	Rabbits	$13,000.00	
		$0.00	
	Total Program 1	**$315,780.00**	**$62,500.00**
	Program 2 - Declared Plants	$0.00	
	Blueberry	$0.00	
	Cottonbush	$0.00	
	Paterson's curse	$0.00	
	Arum Lily	$0.00	
	Total Program 2	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
	Program 3 - Community Engagement		
	Materials & Stationary	$2,000.00	
	Communications	$13,680.00	
	Meeting Costs	$1,000.00	
	Total Program 3	**$16,680.00**	**$0.00**
	Program 4 - Governance & Administration		
	Staff Contracts	$61,000.00	
	General Adminstration & Subscriptions	$5,000.00	
	Audit	$3,000.00	
	Insurance	$11,000.00	
	Total Program 4	**$80,000.00**	**$0.00**
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**$412,460.00**	**$62,500.00**
	OUTCOME	$0.00	$0.00

PLANNED PROGRAMS (Full Budget) 2026-27

Program 1 Wild Dogs & Foxes				
Actions	*Input*	*Measurement*	*Budget*	*Timeframe*
Bait Rack & Monitoring Program	- LPMT Time - Dried Meat Baits - RCP's - 1080 - Strychnine - Signage - Traps - Cameras	At least 10,000 wild dog strength baiting products deployed (baits, CPEs, Traps) At least 10 cameras deployed to monitor the region for declared pests.	$25,000	March-April August - November
LPMT Contract	- LPMT Contract	LPMT/s Contracted.	$104,050	July-June
TOTAL			**$129,050**	

Program 2 Feral Pigs				
Action	*Input*	*Measurement*	*Budget*	*Timeframe*
Co-ordinated Integrated Feral Pig Control	- Grain - Poison - LPMT - Cameras - Signs - RCPs - Aerial Shoot - Traps	At least 40 baiting sites implemented in hotspot areas. Camera Monitoring implemented across MBG area.	$131,230	Baiting: January – May & August - November
Morawa-Mingenew Pig Program Co-ordination	- LPMT Time	100 day LPMT Contracted (includes CWBA Morawa Pig Project Contribution)	$75,000	July-June (Ongoing monitoring)
Aerial Shooting	- Helicopter Contractor - Ammunition	2 aerial shoots held per year.	$30,000	4/annum. August, October, February, June.
TOTAL			**$236,230**	

Program 3 Rabbits				
Action	*Input*	*Measurement*	*Budget*	*Timeframe*
Community Rabbit Baiting Program	- LPMT Time - Grain - Poison - RHDV - Baiting Trailer - RCP's - LPMT time	At least 20 landholders engaged in co-ordinated baiting program.	$13,000	January - March
TOTAL			**$13,000**	

Program 4 Community Engagement				
Action	*Input*	*Measurement*	*Budget*	
Community Consultation	- Meeting and Field Day attendance - Brochure - Workshops Social Media - Print Media - Website - Newspapers - Mail Out - E-newsletter - Communications contractor + on costs	DPR is supported across all shires. Annual General Meeting held annually. At least 6 E-newsletters produced. Website maintained	$16,680	Field days and workshops: August-September AGM: October Letter to landholders: March See consultation timeline for more detail.
TOTAL			**$16,680**	

Program 5 Governance & Administration				
Activity	*Input*	*Measurement*	*Budget*	*Timeframe*
Staff	- Executive Officer - Bookeeper - On-Costs	Executive and administration services contracted	$61,000	July-June
Administration	- IT - Insurance - Travel - Office Space - Bookkeeper - Data Management - Reporting & Auditing Costs - Admin/Comms - Meeting costs - Staff Professional Development		$19,000	
TOTAL			**$80,000**	
Grand Total All Programs			**$474,960**	

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION TIMELINE

Month	Planned Activity	Medium	Purpose
February 2026	RCP & Pest Control Workshops (As required) Feral Pig Control Information Rabbit Control Information Information for Domestic Dog Owners	Workshop Social Media, Local Papers Social Media, Local Papers Local Papers	Consultation & Inform Inform Inform Inform
March 2026	Wild Dog/Fox Bait Rack Days Letter to Midlands Region Ratepayers (Operational Plan) Local Farmer Q&A MBG Update	Bait Rack workshops Mail Out Local Papers, Enews Local Papers	Participation Inform Inform
April 2026	Wild Dog/Fox Control Information	Social Media, Local Paper	Inform
May 2026	MBG Update DPR Information	Local Papers Local Papers	Inform Inform
June 2026	Wild Dog/Fox Control Information	Social Media, Local Papers, MBG Enews	Inform
July 2026	Wild Dog/Fox Control Information MBG Update	MBG Enews, Local Paper Press Release, Local News	Inform Inform
August 2026	Dowerin Field Day DPR Information	Presence, Brochures Local Papers	Consultation & Inform Inform
September 2026	Community Wild Dog/Fox Bait Rack Days	Local Papers, MBG Enews, Social Media Presence, Brochure, Demonstration	Participation Inform

	Grower Group Spring Field Day's MBG Annual General Meeting	Email to Members, Local Papers	Inform
October 2026	MBG Annual General Meeting Rabbit Control Information	Local Papers, MBG Enews, Social Media Local Papers	Consultation & Inform Inform
December 2026	Rabbit Control Information Feral Pig Control Information DPR Information	Local Papers Local Papers Local Papers	Inform Inform Inform
November 2026	Rabbit Control Information MBG Activities Update	Local Papers Local Papers	Inform Inform
February 2027	Community Rabbit Baiting Program	Local Papers, MBG Enews, Social Media	Participation
March 2027	Community Feral Pig Control Program MBG Update Local Paper Update Letter to Midlands Region Ratepayers (Operational Plan)	Local Papers, MBG Enews, Social Media, Enews Local Papers Mail Out	Participation Inform Inform Inform
April 2027	Community Wild Dog Bait Rack program DPR Information	Local Papers, MBG Enews, Social Media Local Papers	Participation Consultation & Inform
June 2027	MBG Enews Update Local Paper Update	MBG Enews Local Papers	Inform Inform

BAITING CALENDAR

JAN	FEB	MARCH	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Rabbits	Rabbits & Feral Pigs	Rabbits, Feral Pigs, Wild Dogs & Foxes	Feral Pigs, Wild Dogs & Foxes	Feral Pigs, Wild Dogs & Foxes	Wild Dogs & Foxes		Feral Pigs, Wild Dogs & Foxes	Feral Pigs, Wild Dogs & Foxes	Feral Pigs, Wild Dogs & Foxes	Feral Pigs, Wild Dogs & Foxes	

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Goal	Timing	Detail	Who
Regular column in local papers/e-news	July, September, October, February, March, June	Papers: • Badgingarra Sandpaper • Dandaragan Redgum • Coorow Squawk • Northern Valleys News • On the Mat Carnamah and Eneabba • Craytales Jurien Bay • Leeman/Greenhead Snag Island News • Three Springs Yakabout • Moora Herald • Mingenew Matters • Dongara-Denison Local Rag • Watheroo Wag Tails	Comms + EO
Regular E-News Update	July, September, October, February, March, June	Local paper content to include: • Community Baiting Day information • Activities updates • Restricted Chemical Permits • Latest Information/Research • Declared Pest Rate	Comms + EO
Mail Out	March	Operational Plan & Group update.	Comms + EO
MBG card (digital + printed)		What and where to report sightings. For WMG staff and MBG Board to distribute as needed.	Comms + EO
Twitter Handle	Regular Posts with latest information & activities	See @midlands_group	Comms
Facebook Page	Regular Posts with latest information & activities	Search Midlands Biosecurity Group	Comms

Presentations to Local Government as required/requested	Ongoing	Provision of updates and progress of the group.	EO + DPIRD support
Community Baiting Day(s)	February, March, April September	Conducted at known feral pest hotspots.	EO, Dogger co-ordinator, LPMT's, Board
MBG Website/Webpage update	July	Content added as received. DPR information, operational plans, contact details etc.	Comms
Board Members Communication	Ongoing	Board member are key communicators in the designated area. Inform the community of group activities	Board
Landholder Training	As requested	Training to complete RCPs, improve control strategies, governance, provide feedback to researchers.	EO
Brochure	August	Update MBG brochure annually to ensure information stays relevant and catchy	EO + Comms.
Flyer	September	Flyer developed for community notice boards.	Comms
Identification of Key Stakeholders	On going	Identify and inform key stakeholders of group activities. Collaborate where appropriate with other groups including Mingenew-Irwin group, Liebe Group, NACC, DBCA, WA Police.	