



# Recognised Biosecurity Groups



## Declared pest rate – why it matters to you

The *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* allows a declared pest rate to be raised to manage priority declared pests

### Managing declared pests in WA

Widespread and established declared pests such as wild dogs, foxes, rabbits and cotton bush, blackberry and mesquite can cause serious problems for agriculture, the environment, and human health and safety.

The *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) sets out to reduce the impact of declared pests by allowing for community governance through the formation of **Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBG)**.

An RBG may have a rate raised, known as a declared pest rate (DPR), to support their work in coordinating strategic control of specific declared pests. The BAM Act requires the State Government to match all forecast rates dollar-for-dollar - doubling the funds available. The funds being made available to 12 RBGs and their communities in 2018-19 is \$6.29 million.

### A budget for declared pests

RBGs require a long term strategic approach to making coordinated pest management an accepted part of good property management. The DPR provides the certainty of funding needed for this to occur.

The DPR is spent on activities detailed in each RBG's annual operational plan, which identifies priority pests and management strategies. **Landholders are given a chance to provide input into these plans, and can have a say on how the DPR will be spent.**

Activities include information, skills development and guidance to help landholders become involved in pest management, coordinated across fence lines. In some instances RBGs complement landholder efforts with on-ground activities, such as contracting licensed pest management technicians for wild dog control.

RBGs can also be involved in landscape scale programs with other stakeholders, such as other RBGs, and state and local government.

### RBGs – local people making decisions about local pest problems

RBGs are not for profit organisations, managed by volunteers and regional representatives, that operate across a defined area. They are supported by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), and provide the opportunity for **shared responsibility** and **community led and coordinated control** of declared pests.

Under the BAM Act, landholders are responsible for managing declared pests on their own land. RBGs provide knowledge, skills and motivation to increase landholder participation, and provide opportunities for them to identify pest priorities in their area, and participate in planning and on-ground delivery.

RBGs provide a bottom up approach, and bring landholders, government and other stakeholders together to coordinate pest management at both a community level and across large regional areas. The goal is to engage and make the best use of all skills, funds and resources.

**The work of a RBG adds value to individual efforts – but does not replace it.**

**Consistent funding through declared pest rates allows for declared pest management efforts to be sustained over the long term, to make long-lasting impacts on pest problems.**

## Declared pest rates are not new

Five RBGs in WA's pastoral regions have been collecting a DPR since 2014. Prior to that, it was collected as the Agriculture Pest Rate under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

The RBG and DPR model has since been extended to the agricultural region, meaning some areas will this year be paying rates for the first time.

There are now 12 RBGs that have rates set in their respective areas for the 2018-19 financial year. Each group operates across different local government areas. In 2018-19, landholders from 51 local government areas will receive declared pest rate notices.

## How are the rates collected?

The Commissioner of State Revenue through the Office of State Revenue (OSR) is responsible for issuing and collecting declared pest rate notices. This is done in September/October each year.

The amount of rates to be collected are matched dollar for dollar with State Government funds and transferred to the Declared Pest Account (DPA), which is administered by DPIRD. Funds are then made available to each RBG.

## Calculating rate contributions

Each RBG covers a different area of the State, and is impacted by different species, the volume of pests, local industry, land use, environmental factors, population demographics and size. **Therefore, RBGs have varying pest control priorities, budgets and ways of operating, and may charge different rates.**

The process starts with RBGs and DPIRD working together to establish the group's annual operational plan, which forms the basis on which to calculate the DPR. DPIRD then advises the Minister what rate is required to deliver on these plans. The rate may be recommended as either the same amount for each property (a flat rate), or rates based on the unimproved value of land as provided by the Valuer General (an ad valorem rate).

Before the rates are finalised, landholders and affected parties are invited to make submissions on proposed rates.

Expenditure is detailed in RBG annual reports and audited financial statements, which are submitted to DPIRD, placed on the DPIRD website and tabled at RBG Annual General Meetings (open to the public).

## Postponement for pensioners

Eligible pensioners can apply to the OSR to have their rate payments postponed, provided they meet the requirements under section 136 of the BAM Act. For more information on how to apply, please contact the OSR.

### More information

Declared pest rate process and calculation of rates: [dpr@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:dpr@dpiird.wa.gov.au), 1300 374 731  
[agric.wa.gov.au/rbg](http://agric.wa.gov.au/rbg)

Find your local RBG, learn more about operational plans and priority declared pests:  
refer to details on next page

Office of State Revenue: web enquiry at: [osr.wa.gov.au/bama](http://osr.wa.gov.au/bama), (08) 9262 1199  
country callers: 1300 368 364 (local call charges)

## Recognised Biosecurity Group contacts

Biosecurity group	Contact	Email	Phone
Blackwood Biosecurity Inc	Sheila Howat	projects@blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au	0475 774 558
Carnarvon Growers Association	Ian Foxley	rbg@cga.org.au	0418 353 171
Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association	David Blood	crba_eo@iinet.net.au	0488 005 084
Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association	Linda Vernon	eocwba@outlook.com	0473 163 050
Goldfields-Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association	Ross Wood	rosswood1@bigpond.com	0439 918 492
Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association	Dick Pasfield	krbg@westnet.com.au	0418 959 832
Meekatharra Rangelands Biosecurity Association	Geoff Brooks	gpbrooks2000@yahoo.com.au	0499 343 828
Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group	Bill Currans	bill@billcurrans.com	0488 383 449
Southern Biosecurity Group	Kylie Fletcher	sbg.execofficer@gmail.com	0484 932 447
Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group	Jonelle Cleland	comms.phbg@gmail.com	
Esperance Biosecurity Association	Linda McCrea	eba.wilddog@outlook.com	
Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group	Lisa O'Neill	ewbg@outlook.com	0455 724 848

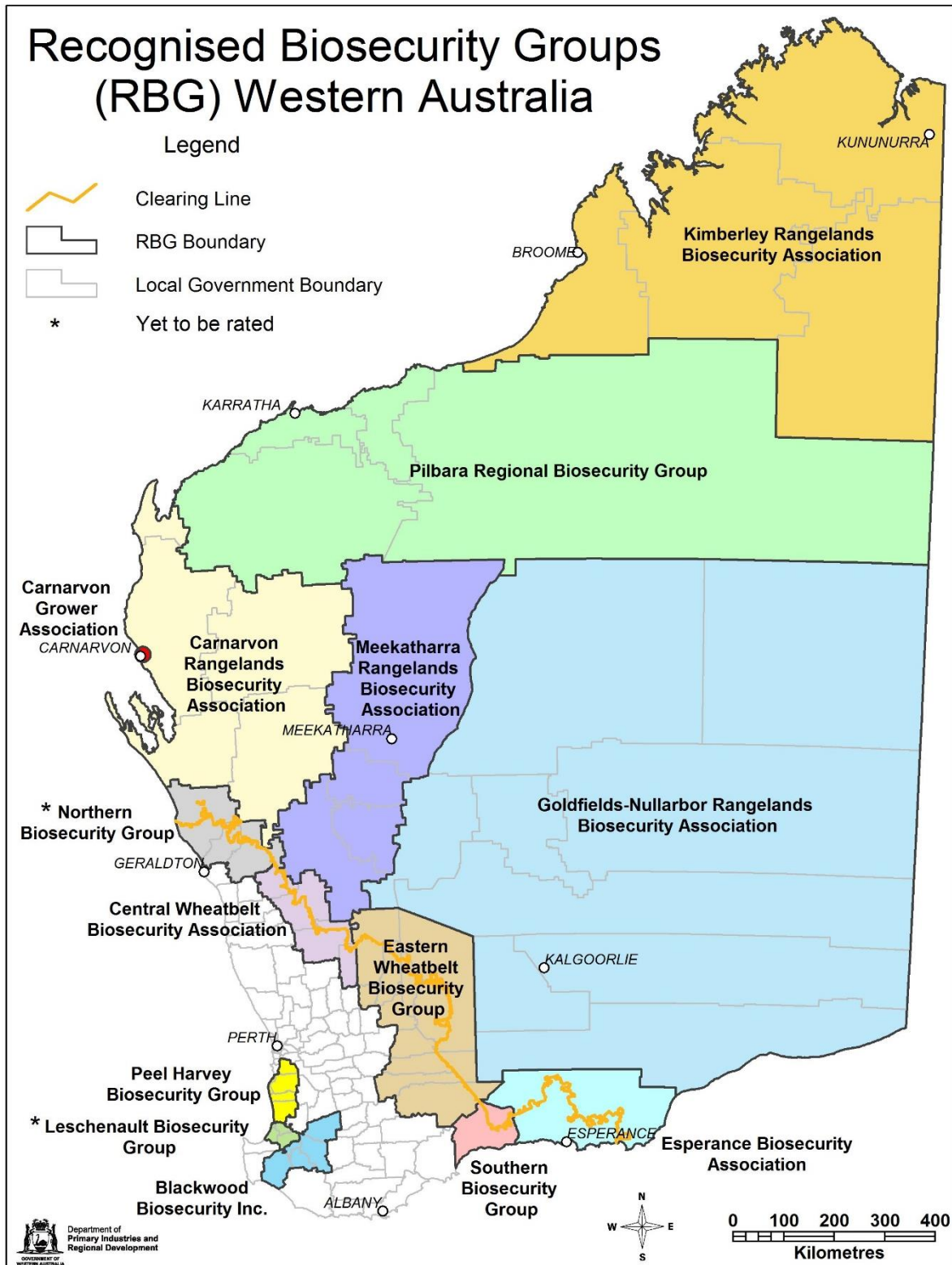
## Flat rate (fixed sum) tables

Declared pest rates for five RBGs have been determined using a flat rate. These are listed here. Contact your RBG for ad valorem rates.

Southern Biosecurity Group	
Hectare range	Flat rate (\$)
50ha or less	\$24
>50 – 200	\$39
>200 – 500	\$75
>500 – 1000	\$141
>1000 – 2000	\$200
>2000 – 3500	\$377
>3500 – 5000	\$528
>5000 – 7500	\$698
>7500 – 9000	\$848
>9000	\$1107
Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group	
Flat rate (fixed sum) applied on land 1ha+ (urban and rural)	\$30

Blackwood Biosecurity Inc	
Urban residential	\$40
Rural	\$50
Esperance Biosecurity Association	
Hectare range	Flat rate
100 – 500	\$50
>500 – 1500	\$100
>1500 – 5000	\$165
>5000 – 10 000	\$380
>10 000	\$600
Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group	
Hectare range	Flat rate
20 – 1000	\$30
>1000 – 2000	\$45
>2000 – 5000	\$140
>5000 – 10 000	\$250
>10 000 – 15 000	\$400
>15 000	\$600

## Recognised Biosecurity Group operational areas



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