

OPERATIONAL PLAN

2025 - 2026







Operational Plan Financial Year 2025 - 2026

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Introduction & Purpose of our FY 2025-2026
Operational Plan

Introduction and Purpose of this Plan

The Leschenault Biosecurity Group Inc. (LBG) is a community-run, not-profit group, serving as a WA Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) operating in the Shires of Capel, Dardanup, the northern localities of Donnybrook-Balingup and the City of Bunbury. The group operates in its capacity as an RBG in alignment with the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act), with sets out to reduce the impact of declared pests by enabling community governance through RBGs and guidance and accountability with funding and resources.

LBG is passionate about uniting landholders together with shared project coordination, access to resources and engagement of crown, UCL, and LGA land managers within the LBG's operational area, to meet their legal requirements to control declared pest animals and plants on their private properties. We endeavour to raise awareness of the importance of managing declared pests and related available resources and to foster collaboration among stakeholders, promote and develop coordinated, collaborative strategies to significantly reduce the impact of these pests on the economy and the environment, on both a landscape and regional level.

Purpose: This Operational Plan provides direction FY 2025-2026 programs and activities to:

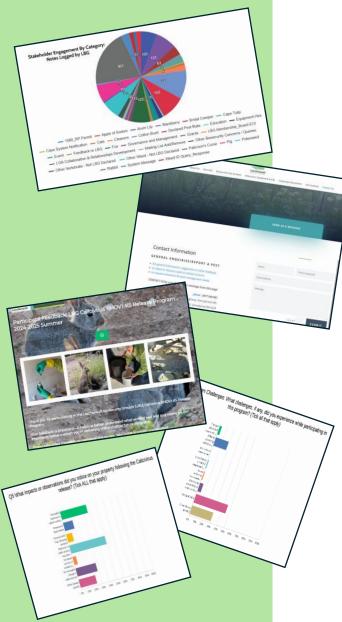
- broaden engagement with diverse community members and stakeholders to encourage, promote, and support ongoing, proactive declared pest awareness and management across all land tenures, and to
- reduce the severity and occurrence of priority declared pests throughout the LBG Operational Area.

By submitting this Operational Plan, LBG consents to the WA Minister of Agriculture's authorisation, permitting the Director General to transfer funds from the Declared Pest Account to the Group. These funds will be used to support declared pest management within the group's operational area. The following pages provide an overview of our proposed activities and associated budget for the upcoming financial year. These activities are subject to adjustment based on community input and emerging needs throughout the operational year.



Listening, learning, and adapting —

LBG encourages, values and tracks feedback from our community and staff to help inform our programs and drive continuous improvement.



How We Deliver and Demonstrate Impact

As we design and deliver our programs and projects, we are equally committed to ensuring accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement. To achieve this, we will:

- **1. Maintain financial accountability -** Provide clear, audited financial reports to DPIRD, in alignment with reporting requirements
- 2. Capture relevant data
 - Record the number and details of community and stakeholder engagements.
 - Track participation in programs such as the group's Rabbit Control Calicivirus RHDV1-K5 Release Program
 - Map and log field activities for future planning and evaluation.
- 3. **Embed continuous improvement -** Solicit feedback from participants in our programs to help us refine our approaches and processes with lessons learnt regarding successes, challenges and related relevance and best practices.
- 4. **Strengthen community engagement** Engage with landholders to promote awareness of impact of declared pests and related resources to support them and to encourage and facilitate their input on priorities, concerns and other feedback through:
 - Face-to-Face interactions at community and LBG events, LBG office visits, property site visits and other opportunities as may by applicable
 - Monthly newsletters
 - Targeted e-mail and mail campaigns
 - Social media, print media and community radio
- 5. **Provide practical information** Shared timely and relevant information to support achieving effective declared pest management outcomes.
- 6. **Collaborate with stakeholders** Work in partnership with organisations and agencies to support targeted pest management.
- 7. Measure the value of our programs to the communities we support in terms of:
 - Landholder participation levels in declared pest management activities
 - Feedback received from our stakeholders
 - A reduction in repeat pest reports
 - Number of engagements from ratepayers seeking guidance, equipment loan and other resources from LBG
 - Contributions to relevant bodies of knowledge through support of research across our Operational Area



About the Group



Collaboration and engagement with our community are essential to raising awareness about the importance of managing invasive species, providing meaningful support to facilitate and foster proactive, on-going approaches to sustainable pest management.

The Leschenault Biosecurity Group, a Recognised Biosecurity Group in alignment with the BAM Act 2007, is a community-based, not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting the diverse land uses and natural values of our region from the significant impacts of plant and animal pests. Through collaboration and resource-sharing, we work to support and enhance sustainable land management practices across our area.

Priority Focus on Declared Pests with Flexibility to Address Other Concerns

Our Vision

a region where effective and collaborative pest management is a shared priority, achieved through consistent, integrated efforts across all land tenures.

We envision landowners, managers, residents, and community members taking collective responsibility to proactively address and report pest incursions. This united approach will significantly reduce pest impacts, safeguarding our agriculture, native flora and fauna, diverse lifestyles, and the rich biodiversity of our unique region.

Our Mission

to support landholders in meeting their obligations to manage declared pests on private properties, while fostering a collaborative, integrated approach across communities and land tenures to reduce the prevalence and impact of priority pests.

Through partnerships with landowners, land managers, local governments, industry, peer organizations, and the broader community, we aim to promote shared responsibility and provide resources to proactively manage established pests and report emerging threats. Together, we can protect and sustain our environment, agriculture, and the unique biodiversity of our region.

A key part of our role is to support landholders in meeting their responsibilities to manage declared pests on their properties providing resources and guidance.





As a Recognised Biosecurity Group, our operations are funded through the Declared Pest Rate (DPR). In line with the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, we focus on promoting and supporting the management of priority declared pests across our operational area.

In addition, we provide guidance on managing other animal and plant pests where possible, responding to the needs and requests of our community.

Awareness, Collaboration and Resources for On-going Best Practices and Effective Long-term Impact

The group takes a positive and proactive approach to facilitating declared pest management and is focused on increasing community awareness of declared pests and the importance of their management; and on achieving onground outcomes to compliment the responsible land management and great pest management initiatives many individual landholders are already doing.

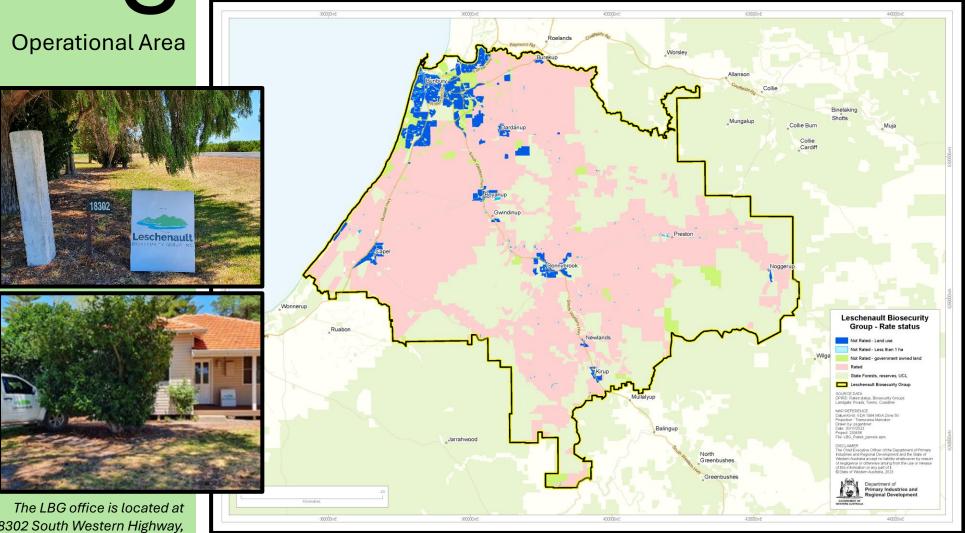
The LBG is dedicated to helping to protect the diverse land uses and natural values of our region from the significant impacts of plant and animal pests. Through collaboration and resource-sharing we work to support and enhance sustainable land management practices across our operational area. The group collaborates with landholders, land managers, Local Government Authorities, and other stakeholders across our operational area to foster integrated, consistent and cooperative pest management practices. *By addressing priority pests identified by the community, take a landscape-scape approach to declared pest management across all land tenures*.

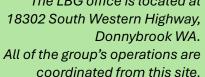
7 Principles of Pest Management

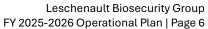
- 1. A PEST IS HUMAN CONSTRUCT.
- 2. ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS NEED TO BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED AND CONSULTED.
- 3. RARELY CAN PESTS BE ERADICATED.
- 4. MOST PEST MANAGEMENT NEEDS TO FOCUS ON THE OUTCOME, REDUCTION IN DAMAGE, NOT JUST KILLING PESTS.
- 5. A WHOLE-SYSTEM APPROACH IS REQUIRED FOR MANAGING PEST DAMAGE.
- 6. MOST PEST MANAGEMENT OCCURS IN ECOSYSTEMS IN WHICH OUR KNOWLEDGE IS IMPERFECT.
- 7. AN EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND EVALUATION STRATEGY IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS.



3 erational Area The LBG Operational Area consists of the Local Government Authorities of the Shires of Capel, Dardanup and Donnybrook – Balingup northern localities including Argyle, Paynedale, Beelerup, Queenwood, Lowden, Yabberup, Glen Mervyn, Mumballup, Noggerup, Thomson Brook, Charley Creek, Donnybrook, Brookhampton, Brazier, Newlands, Upper Capel and Kirup, and the City of Bunbury.









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Board of Management

Leschenault Biosecurity Group is led by a Board of volunteer members representing the community. The Board of Management members provide a diverse range of knowledge and experience for guidance and support of the group for our operations to address biosecurity issues affecting the environment, industry, agriculture, and lifestyle across our operational area. A primary responsibility of the board is to provide oversight and governance relative to the group's role, responsibilities and accountability as operating as a Recognised Biosecurity Group in accordance with the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act 2007).

Board Member	LGA Representing	Role	Term
Katrina Zeehandelaar-	Donnybrook-	Chairperson	Commenced 18/10/23
Adams	Balingup		
John Whyatt	Donnybrook-	Vice	Commenced 18/10/23,
	Balingup	Chairperson	Elected Vice Chair
			15/10/24
Carmel Boyce	Dardanup	Treasurer	Elected Treasurer
			15/10/24
Colleen Bandy	Donnybrook-	Secretary	Commenced18/10/23
	Balingup		
Wayne Irvine	Donnybrook-	Member	Commenced 18/10/2023
	Balingup		
Terry Mondy	Dardanup	Expert member	Commenced 2017
Stephen Newbey	Donnybrook	Member	Commenced 15/10/2024
	Balingup		
Andrew White	Capel	Member	Commenced 03/01/2025
Kate Mcinntyre	Donnybrook	Member	Commenced 20/12/2024
	Balingup		



SKey Stakeholders

Collaboration is key for effective pest management programs.

Pictured above: Community members, representatives from DPIRD and the LBG team engaged in robust discussion of priorities, challenges and successes at our Annual General Meeting conducted October 2024 in Dardanup.

LBG advocates for cross barrier pest management by working with of numerous of stakeholders towards the common goal of reduction of incursions and impact of declared pests. Collaboration among our diverse stakeholders is the most effective way to combat the increasing spread of pests, both plant and animal, and to develop strategies to significantly reduce the impact of these pests across our communities, our region and our state.

Our Stakeholders include:

- Landholders and other Community Members within our Operational Area
- Local Government Authorities: Shire of Capel
 - City of Bunbury
 - Shire of Capel
 - Shire of Dardanup
 - Shire of Donnybrook Balingup

State Government Agencies:

- o Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions
- Department of Communities
- Department of Water Environmental Regulation
- Forest Products Commission
- South West Development Commission
- Main Roads Australia

Other Stakeholders

- o Arc Infrastructure
- Geographe Catchment Council
- Leschenault Catchment Council
- Pomewest
- South West Natural Resources Management
- Recognised Biosecurity Groups (our peer groups across WA)
- Wespine
- Western Australian Plantation Resources
- Other Peer Organisations
- Local Pest & Weed Management Operators

Working together we can make greater impacts toward protecting our environment, agriculture, economy and natural biodiversity across our beautiful and unique area.



6 Pillars of Operation

LBG aims to promote, facilitate and support effective management of priority declared pests at a landscape scale across our communities with our accountability tracked under six identified pillars of operation.

LBG's FY 2025-26 focus will continue to be to promote, facilitate & support effective management of priority declared pests at a landscape scale, across our communities with our accountability tracked under the following six pillars of our operations.



Feral Pig Management

The management of feral pig population spread, and growth is essential and an on-going need within the LBG operational area, requiring awareness, collaboration, persistence and resources.

Rabbit Control



As the most destructive agricultural pests in the country, on-going rabbit control efforts remain essential to protect our natural biodiversity and diverse land uses from the significant damage caused by this pest.

Fox Program & Other Vertebrates



Foxes have survived throughout the world despite almost constant attempts by humans to reduce numbers or to eradicate them. Nevertheless, it is possible and essential in specific areas to protect livestock and native fauna from fox predation.

Declared Plants Management



Invasive pest plants pose significant challenges to our local ecosystems and land uses, demanding ongoing vigilance and innovative management approaches. Guidance and support to encourage and facilitate effective control programs and practices is a key focus of the LBG.

Community Engagement



Together we can better protect our unique and beautiful area from the significant impact of invasive pests. Building and contributing to community awareness of priority pests, potential threats and related best practices and resources is key to achieving effective pest management and reduction of related biosecurity risks.

Governance & Administration

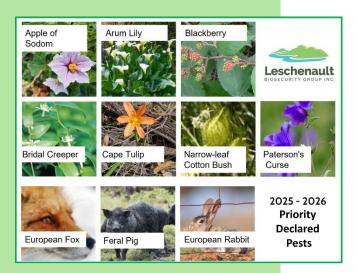


The group operates under a strong governance framework, led by a volunteer, skills-based Board of Management. This leadership is supported by well-developed policies and procedures. We implement efficient systems and processes that promote the safety and wellbeing of our staff and contractors, strategic direction, accountability, and financial transparency for successful outcomes and responsible management of resources.



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Planned Actions & Programs for Priority Declared Pest Plants and Animals



Eligible activities that can be supported by DPA funds are stated in Section 138 of the BAM Act and are summarised as follows:

- Measures and activities to control declared pests on, or in relation to the areas for which the rates were collected.
- Public awareness activities that promote the measures being taken or required to be taken to control declared pests.
- Administration, training, or skills development expenses related to the functioning and operations of the RBG.
- Administration, training, or skills development expenses related to the delivery of pest management measures and activities.
- The purchase of capital assets required for controlling declared pests and promoting public awareness of declared pest control measures. These activities will be reviewed during the assessment process.2025-26 Declared Pest Rate

Through our planned 2025-2026 programs and actions the group aims to:

- broaden engagement with diverse community members and stakeholders to encourage, promote, and support
 ongoing, proactive declared pest awareness and management across all land tenures.
- reduce the severity and occurrence of priority declared pests throughout the LBG Operational Area.
- promote awareness and related actions as may become applicable to emerging biosecurity pests

Programs and actions are presented by category of priority declared pests, on the following pages in order as follows:

A. Declared Pest Plants

C. Fox & Other Vertebrates

B. Feral Pigs

D. Rabbits

These activities are subject to adjustment based on community input and emerging needs throughout the operational year.



A. Declared Pest Plants

Weeds are plants that can grow in locations where they are not desired and can have adverse effects on the environment and economy.



Declared Pest Plants

A diverse range of weeds, including many widespread and established declared pest weeds and threats of emerging risks to our biosecurity, presents significant and on-going challenges for the preservation of vulnerable flora and ecosystems across the LBG operational area. The LBG will continue to implement robust programs of awareness and support for proactive, on-going, effective weeds management efforts.

Focus on Priority Declared Pest Plants:

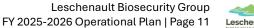
LBG will continue to provide a resources and programs to promote, facilitate and support the management of declared pest weeds identified as priorities within our operational area. Additionally, the group will share timely information about awareness of and actions for arising potential threats.

The group will conduct weed pest-specific control programs, including community engagement with timely information, control guidance, equipment loan, site visits and other resources and services as applicable to the specific pest type, severity of infestation and/or risk of spread and other biosecurity risks. The group will continue to facilitate and promote pest-specific programs, including community engagement and awareness building activities, and coordinated control efforts.

Our 2025-2026 focus will be on the following identified priority declared pest weeds for our area:

- Apple of Sodom
- Arum Lily
- Blackberry
- **Bridal Creeper**
- Cape Tulip

- Cleavers
- Cotton Bush
- Paterson's Curse
- Other biosecurity threats that have emerged or may arise





Declared Pest Plants continued





















Aim to Promote, Facilitate & Support Proactive, Sustained Pest Management Across Tenure

Throughout the FY 2025-2026 the LBG will implement actions of this operational plan actions with the aim to reduce the impacts of identified priority Category C3 Declared Pest Plants to production, environmental and public values within our operational area by supporting private land managers to control declared pests, and preventing unreasonable impacts from these pests spreading across property boundaries where neighbouring occupiers are actively managing the pest. We aim to achieve this by triaging incoming pest reports or complaints from community members, logging the report in our CRM database, providing advice, referring to existing program registrations on our website, or endeavouring to contact property manager to commence engagement in land management practises that reduce damage to assets.

Objectives and goals for Declared Pest Plant Programs presented in this plan include:

- Manage the impacts of priority declared pest plants to an acceptable level.
- Minimise the spread of declared pest plants across property boundaries through proactive management.
- Invest strategically in areas where targeted action will achieve meaningful and lasting outcomes.
- Leverage co-contributions from Local Government Authorities and public and private land managers to enhance Declared Pest Rate contributions and maximise return on investment.
- Adopt a tenure-blind approach to engaging land managers and securing resources (e.g., equipment, infrastructure, expertise, funding) for infestations within State or Local Government-managed reserves.
- Support private land managers through a contractor-devolved grant program, providing subsidised herbicide spraying for those facing financial hardship or capability barriers.
- Provide accessible resources and guidance to empower land managers in developing and implementing long-term integrated pest management plans.
- Increase community awareness of the importance of proactive, coordinated, and collaborative pest plant management, along with best practices and available resources.

LBG will continue to promote, facilitate and support proactive, coordinated and sustained management of declared pest plants across our operational area, providing:

- Control Guidance
- Property-specific Advice
- Equipment Loan
- Opportunities to participate in community wide pest-plant specific initiatives





<u>Declared Pest Plants</u> continued



Collaborative Approach Maximises Effectiveness of Weeds Management Programs

Some of the broader collaborative weeds management initiatives in which LBG will participate in FY 2024 – 2025 include:

Arum Lily Control - Four LGAs, One Weed

LBG will continue our role as Program Administrator, for the final phase of implementation of the "Four LGAs, One Weed" Arum Lily Control program. This is a State Natural Resources Management (SNRM) grant-funded program to tackle Arum Lily infestations through ground-based reconnaissance, mapping, treatment, and monitoring., in which our group is partnering with the environmental and natural resource management teams in the Shires of Capel and Harvey and the Cities of Bunbury and Busselton. This targeted initiative aims to address and control Arum lily spread in eligible sites, helping to protect and preserve local ecosystems with much needed grant funding. LBG is providing overall administration of this program in addition to other project implementation tasks.

In 2025 we will build on previous efforts from this program with aims to tackle Arum Lily infestations through ground-based reconnaissance, guidance and support for private landholders to undertake Arum Lily control on their private properties and monitoring & mapping of identified infestations and control efforts.

Blackberry Control NRM Grant Program Support

LBG is promoting landholder access to funding support for blackberry control efforts as defined by a State Natural Resource Management grant obtained by the Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup and Collie. This grant provides for a Natural Resource Recovery Program supporting the community to engage with and restore the natural landscape through activities including blackberry control, rehabilitation of endemic vegetation, fencing, community events and educational workshops.

With this grant program in its second phase during this Financial Year, LBG will continue to support the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup in promotion of this program, including encouraging participation. The group will also continue to provide direct support to landholders within the LBG operational area participating in this program with control guidance, equipment loan or other resources as available to help them most effectively implement the grant funds for blackberry control for their property.



Species	Program Area	Actions	Measurement	Delivery Date
Arum Lily (Zantadeschia	Stratham, Gelorup, Capel, Wellington	Year two as project manager for State NRM and acquittal	Final program audit &	Nov 2025
aethiopica); and 1 leaf Cape Tulip (Moraea	Mills, Donnybrook, Bunbury, Dardanup West, The Plains	and in-kind contributions as approved in workplan	metrics	
flaccida)		Partner with private and public land managers to	Register of participants	
		implement control work	and case notes	Aug - Oct 25
		Equipment Loan (spray reel and weed wipers)	Number of equipment hires	Aug - Oct 25
		Herbicide Decant	LPMT contract and	Aug - Oct 25
			decant tracking	
		Infestation mapping, herbicide application records, photo	LPMT contract and	Aug - Oct 25
		points	decant tracking	
Blackberry (Rubus sp.)	Private tenure where evidence of previous	Continued steering committee participation in Shire of	Meeting	Year round
	control or intent to control is observed.	Donnybrook & Collie Blackberry grant program Steering committee	attendance/minutes	
	Waterways where LGA, Crown land	Inspect sites/properties within the program area upon	Photo monitoring point	Oct 25-Mar 26
	manager, and Traditional owners have	receipt of a community report or complaint	collection during active	
	been engaged		growth season	
	Where control supports existing vertebrate pest management activities	QuikSpray Unit Loan Program (\$250 deposit from user)	Equipment hire log #s	Oct 25-Mar 26
	undertaken in coordination with LBG or private works.	Provide guidance & advice on effective control methods	Register of participants and related case notes	Oct 25-Mar 26
	private works.	Contractor spray program- 1st treatment fully subsidised*,	LPMT quotes to	Oct 25-Mar 26
		2nd treatment 1:1 cost recovery from land manager, 3rd	landholder and	OCC 25-14a1 20
		treatment at the expense of land manager based on quote	invoices	
		*as applicable to property-specific circumstances		
		Update client database and map with detail of Report to	Register of participants	Oct 25-Mar 26
		Outcome	and related case notes	
		Partner with private and public land managers to	Register of participants	Oct 25-Mar 26
		implement control work	and related case notes	

Species	Program Area	Actions	Measurement	Delivery Date
Cottonbush (Gomphocarpus fruticosis)	Compliance reported properties (Private, public, State Gov and UCL land reported)	Inspect sites/properties within the program area upon receipt of a community report or complaint-active growth period	Final program audit & metrics	Dec 2025
		Engagement with land manager with support from DPIRD ISEB	Register of participants and related case notes	Aug - Oct 25
		Refer for compliance where engagements have not been successful or no control has been observed	Number of equipment hires	Aug - Oct 25
		provide advice on effective control methods	LPMT contract and decant tracking	Aug - Oct 25
		Contractor spray program- 1st treatment fully subsidised*, 2nd treatment 1:1 cost recovery from land manager, 3rd treatment at the expense of land manager based on quote	LPMT contract and decant tracking	Aug - Oct 25
		Update client database and map with detail of Report to Outcome	Register of participants and related case notes	Year round
		Partner with private and public land managers to implement control work	Register of participants and related case notes	
All other priority declared pest plants: Apple of Sodom, Bridal Creeper, Cleavers and Patterson's Curse	Private tenure where evidence of previous control or intent to control is observed.	Inspect sites/properties within the program area upon receipt of a community report or complaint-active growth period.	Photo monitoring point collection during active growth season	June 26
	LGA reserves where authorised by LGA.	provide advice on effective control methods	Participants register & related case notes	June 26
		Contractor spray program- 1st treatment fully subsidised*, 2nd treatment 1:1 cost recovery from land manager, 3rd treatment at the expense of land manager based on quote	LPMT quotes to landholder and invoices	June 26
		Update client database and map with detail of Report to Outcome	Register of participants and related case notes	June 26
		Partner with private and public land managers to implement control work	Register of participants and related case notes	June 26



7.B. Feral Pigs

















Feral Pigs are a cause of serious agricultural and environmental damage within the Leschenault Biosecurity Group's operational area and remain one of the group's priority pests. Feral Pigs have a considerable impact on the environments in which they become established causing damage to both animal and plant biodiversity The most obvious damage caused by feral pigs is when they turn over soil, logs and rocks while searching for roots of edible plants and invertebrates. Disturbance caused by this activity can promote weed establishment, alter vegetation structure and contributes to soil erosion and contamination of waterways. There is also evidence that pigs spread Phytophthora (dieback). Pigs are also susceptible to several significant exotic diseases of livestock not yet present in Australia. It is important to manage feral pigs to prevent build-up of large numbers.

Use of HOGGONE Feral Pig Control System: LBG will continue to use the HOGGONE® Feral Pig Control System, as a highly effective, humane component of our Feral Pig Control Program. Since initial successful trials in 2020 with this system, the group has effectively used this system across our operational area collaborating closely with landholders for monitoring and pre-feeding phases of this program.

The LBG have found this be a highly effective, fast acting and humane feral pig management alternative, because:

- Threat of off target damage is small
- It does not require formal training or qualifications to purchase or use
- Safe for operators (when used in alignment with manufacturers' instructions) Relatively low cost (Bait boxes are shared for use by multiple landholders)

Research & Development & Capacity Building: LBG will regularly liaise with the National Feral Pig Advisory Group to share knowledge, be across latest research and techniques and to promote Feral Pig management across our operational area. We will continue to upskill staff with trapping techniques and latest methodology for effective feral pig management through training and participation in the WA Feral Pig Advisory Group and other opportunities that may become available through the year.

Collaboration with Multiple Stakeholders: The group will continue to actively seek opportunities to collaborate with private landholders and other land managers for effective monitoring and management of feral pigs within our operational area. We will also continue to work closely with the Feral Pig team at DPIRD with the aim of sharing information, knowledge and best practices.

LBG works closely with landholders to implement effective feral control programs that best fit their property-specific circumstances, including use of our robust HOGGONE system, trapping support and assistance with 1080 baiting permit applications and best practices guidance.



	Feral Pig Management Programs & Actions FY2025 – 2026 (page 1 of 3)			
Species	Program Area	Actions	Measurement	Delivery Date
Feral Pig (Sus scrofa)	Private lands with reports of suspected and/or sighted feral pig activity within the Shires of Capel, Dardanup and Donnybrook-Balingup*, and for which the landholder has capacity to collaborate with the group or facilitate the same for on-ground monitoring and control efforts. *Program area extends to northern localities of the Donnybrook-Balingup Shire as applicable to the LBG Operational Area.	Respond to landholder reports of sighted and/or suspected feral pig activity on their private properties with: 1. Site visits: LBG follow-up site visits and assessment of best next action relative to: • LBG sighted/suspected pig activity • the landholder's capacity & circumstances • applicability to land setting and use 2. Post-Site Visit Actions may include: • surveillance camera loan, set-up & monitoring • implementation of LBG's HOGGONE feral pig control system, including pre-feeding phase, loan & set-up of HOGGONE bait boxes, support with HOGGONE placebo and bait • trapping support	Documentation of related contacts and follow-up actions stored in group's contacts management database.	Year-round
		respond to landholders' queries regarding applicability of use of 1080 baiting for feral pig management on their private property provide guidance and support for 1080 permitting applications to eligible landholders	Documentation of related contacts and follow-up actions stored in group's contacts management database. # of submitted permit applications supported by LBG	Year-round



Species	Program Area	Actions	Measurement	Delivery Date
Feral Pig (Sus scrofa)	Private lands with reports of suspected and/or sighted feral pig activity within the Shires of Capel, Dardanup and Donnybrook-Balingup*, and for which the landholder has capacity to collaborate with the group or facilitate the same for on-ground monitoring and control efforts. *Program area extends to northern localities of the Donnybrook-Balingup Shire as applicable to the LBG Operational Area.	Refine and expand LBG's flagship HOGGONE feral pig management program through: • Lessons learnt on-going refinement of program processes and best practices for this system with incorporation of insights gained through HOGGONE program implementation • Staff development: on-going staff development and refreshment of staff's knowledge of feral pig behaviour and evolving best practices for use of this system • Building landholders' capacity to monitor & implement HOGGONE control programs on their private properties, including loan of HOGGONE bait boxes & program support	Documentation of: Details of each LBG HOGGONE system installation including: - # of pigs sighted on surveillance cameras - # of cameras and bait boxes used - pre-feeding process and duration - uptake of placebo and bait - noted removal of feral pigs from property resulting from implementation of HOGGONE program - property-specific circumstances - landholder involvement - noted lessons learnt as applicable Annually confirmed or updated Best Practices Guidance for program, incorporating "lessons learnt" and/or new guidance as may be applicable Feedback from landholders	Year-round



Feral Pig Management Programs & Actions FY2025 – 2026 (page 3 of 3)				
Species	Program Area	Actions	Measurement	Delivery Date
Feral Pig (Sus scrofa)	LBG Operational Area – specific location to be determined	Implement Trapping Research & Development Initiative with landholders with aim to establish a year-round game trail and cluster feeding site for on-going research & development, including: Installation of sighted and/or suspected feral pig activity on their private properties with: • Strategically selected program site for installation of one remote camera and pre-feeding • Progression to Static trapping using a Matlock trap with remote monitoring	# of contacts and follow- up actions stored in group's contacts management database	30 June 2026
	Site to be determined within the LBG Operational Area	Feral Pig Control System Deployment & Training Day with Government, NFP and Community Stakeholders	Number of participants Participant Feedback	30 June 2026
	LBG Operational Area	Development / Evolve Feral Pig Management Guidance Resources for Landholders, including factsheets and online resources	Related resources available to landholders on LBG website and as printed materials	30 June 2026
	LBG Operational Area	Promote awareness of importance of feral pig management and related available resources through the group's newsletter, website, social media, local community publications and events	# of feral pig related queries # of reported feral pig activity sightings # of landholder support requests	30 June 2026
	Total FY 2025-	2026 Budget Allocated for Feral Pig Management Program:	\$ 63,560.00	

7.C. <u>Foxes &</u> <u>Other Vertebrates</u>



Foxes have survived throughout the world despite almost constant attempts by humans to reduce numbers or to eradicate them.

Proactive action is the best option is to control foxes - implement control strategies before they become a problem.

Fox Management Support for private landholders across the LBG Operational Area

In the 2025-2026 Financial Year, Leschenault Biosecurity Group will continue to support private landholders within our Operational Area to address their fox management needs with a range of resources and services including:

- Trapping Support:
 - free loan of surveillance cameras & traps
 - o trapping set-up and trapping strategy support
 - o post-trapping animal dispatching plan
- 1080 Baiting Support:
 - Restricted Pesticide Permit application assistance and fee subsidy through LBG
 - Liaise with DPIRD for guidance and training
- Community Education & Awareness Outreach regarding impact of foxes, control methods and strategies and use of "Feral Scan" app to facilitate mapping and coordinated control, through:
 - Events
 - Website online resources
 - Social Media

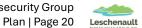
Collaboration Across Communities: LBG encourage, facilitate and work with collective groups of neighbouring properties to develop and implement community coordinated fox control efforts across tenure.

We will also continue to liaise with DPIRD, DBCA and other stakeholders to remain abreast of latest, evidence-based methods for effective, strategic and coordinated fox control efforts. Where applicable the group will work with our local Shires and others for participation in collaborative fox control efforts.

Collaboration to Address Challenges of Fox Control within Peri-Urban areas of LBG Operational Area:

LBG will explore options with the City of Bunbury and Shires of Capel & Dardanup for collaborative approach to address peri-urban fox management needs for problem peri-urban fox dominated localities of Yabberup, Gelorup, Dardanup & West, Argyle.

Other Vertebrate Pests: LBG will respond to community concerns regarding other pest vertebrates, such as feral cats and deer with best practices guidance, reporting advice and referrals as applicable. Where feasible, and within the parameters of permitted use of our Declared Pest Rate funding, LBG will also endeavour to support and promote LGA and State initiatives regarding other vertebrate pests as may become applicable. Any further engagement beyond our core remit will be considered contingent upon our available financial and staff resources, including opportunities supported through alternate funding sources.



Species	Program Area	Actions	Measurement	Delivery Date
Red Fox <i>(Vulpes vulpes)</i> & Other Vertebrates	Private lands with reports of suspected and/or sighted fox activity within the Shires of Capel, Dardanup and Donnybrook-Balingup*, and for which the landholder has capacity to collaborate with the group or facilitate the same for on-ground monitoring and control efforts. *Program area extends to northern localities of the Donnybrook-Balingup Shire as applicable to the LBG Operational Area.	Promote and provide fox management resources to available to landholders within the LBG Operational Area, including:	Documentation of related contacts and follow-up actions stored in group's contacts management database. # of landholder enquiries # of cameras loaned # of traps loaned	Year-round
	Yabberup and adjacent Preston River communities proximal to the southern boundary of the Wellington National Park in Donnybrook-Balingup Shire	Deliver Yabberup/upper Preston River community fox control program. • Provide LPMT contractor service to support eligible properties • Provide free loan of surveillance cameras	# of participants Participant Feedback # of sighted foxes # of dispatched foxes Participant feedback	30 June 2026
	Peri-Urban localities within the LBG Operational Area across each of the four LGA's in which the group operates Operational Area	Create face-to-face and/or virtual forum to share concerns, successes & challenges and facilitate related networking for problem peri-urban fox dominated localities of Yabberup, Gelorup, Dardanup & West, Argyle. Collaborate with City of Bunbury and Shires of Capel & Dardanup for collaborative approach to address peri-urban fox management needs	Documentation of # of participants Participant Feedback # of sighted foxes # of dispatched foxes Participant feedback	30 June 2026
	City of Bunbury, Eaton & Millbridge	Investigate potential for Research & Development for Urban Fox Management Program with DPIRD & the National Fox Management Coordinator	R&D program proposal accepted for implementation	30 June 2026

7.D. Rabbits



Our annual summer Calicivirus RHDV1-K5 Release Program continues to see strong landholder participation across the LBG operational area, with consistently positive reports of noticeable reductions in rabbit numbers.

A key strength of the program lies in encouraging and supporting landholders to build on the success of the virus release by implementing follow-up control measures suited to their property. This collaborative approach helps achieve longer-term, more effective rabbit management outcomes.

Support for Integrated Control Methods Approach for Effective Management of Rabbits

Over the 2025 – 2026 Financial Year, Leschenault Biosecurity Group will continue to support and facilitate assists landholders with development of an integrated management approach to rabbit control using variety of control methods and tools.

European rabbits (Oryctolagus cuniculus) are declared pests of agriculture in Western Australia under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007. As such, landholders are required to control rabbits on their properties. Even landholders not actively using their property are still legally obliged to control rabbits to protect their neighbours' land from the impact of rabbits.

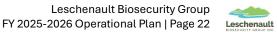
Persistence and integration of varied tools and methods to best address property-specific circumstances is key to effective rabbit control. LBG will continue to provide rabbit control support to landholders within our operational area, including:

• Property-specific rabbit control advice and support, including:

- Biological Control _ Calicivirus RHDV1 K5 Release Program (conducted during summer months)
- Harbourage reduction
- Exclusion fencing
- Warren ripping
- Baiting and trapping
- o Free loan of surveillance cameras and traps
- Other as may be applicable to property-specific circumstances

• Calicivirus RHDV1 K5 Release Program including:

- Promotion and support for participation across the LBG Operational
- o LBG team members holding accreditation to mix the virus and inoculate a medium to facilitate targeted virus releases. LBG uses clipped oats for this purpose.
- o Conducting free community workshops to promote program and explain process for participants
- Planning for and facilitating releases, pre-ordering virus supply, promote program, track participant registration, landholder pre-feeding reports and the estimated number of rabbits and feeding sights at each property registered for participation and mix and distribute virus-inoculated oats to landholder participants
- Seeking participant feedback and provide guidance and support for property-specific, post-release actions to take advantage of reduced rabbit populations
- Free Community Workshops providing information regarding varied rabbit control methods, including promotion of the group's Calicivirus "K5" program and explain process for program participants
- Community Education & Awareness Outreach providing and promoting information and resources at community events, on LBG's website and social media and.



	Feral Rabbit Management Programs & Actions FY2025 – 2026			
Species	Program Area	Actions	Measurement	Delivery Date
European Rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)	Private lands within the LBG Operational Area	Promote and provide feral rabbit management resources to available to landholders within the LBG Operational Area	# of landholder enquiries # of hired equipment # of Calicivirus Release program participants	Year-round
	Private lands within the LBG Operational Area	Deliver Rabbit Biocontrol Program – Calicivirus RHDV-1 K5 Release Program with goal to engage 300 properties with a maximum of up to 125 vials of dispensed across the LBG Operational Area, including:	# of participants Participant Feedback	30 June 2026
		 Promotion of this as an important tool in an integrated control method approach to rabbit management Land manager education/training for pre-feeding and baiting process through factsheets, online resources & free community workshops Provision of Calicivirus to registered program participants Promotion & facilitation of post-release rabbit management initiatives 		
	LBG Operational Area	Develop/Evolve Rabbit Management Guidance Resources to promote & facilitate integrated controls approach for rabbit management, including factsheets and online guidance and other resources	# of types of resources available to community members	30 June 2026
	LBG Operational Area and neighbouring areas not supported by a Recognised Biosecurity Group, as applicable to the group's capacity and non-DPR funding	Collaborate with LGAs or other public land managers and peer organisations to provide for targeted rabbit control programs, funded by land managers or other non-DPR related funding	Contracts for related services and documentation of actions taken	30 June 2026
	Total FY 2025-2026 Budget Allocated for Rabbit Management Program: \$83,320.00			

8

Communications Strategy



Awareness Building Guidance & Support

LBG will promote awareness of the importance of and proactive actions for effective management of declared pests with:

- Printed & Digital Resources
- Articles in Local Newspapers
- Website Content
- Social Media Content
- Hosting Workshops
- Radio Interviews
- Biosecurity Issue-specific Videos

Community Engagement

Our goal is to serve as a trusted, valuable resource for our communities and other stakeholders, fostering strong and collaborative relationships throughout our operational area. By raising awareness about the significant impact of declared pests and potential emerging biosecurity threats, we aim to empower community members with the knowledge and tools needed for proactive, sustainable pest management. We offer resources and support to assist landholders in fulfilling their responsibilities to manage declared pests on their properties while also aiming to empower the broader community to help protect our environment, agriculture, diverse land uses, and unique natural biodiversity.



Face-to-Face Engagements

LBG will have face-to-face engagement with community members at events across our operational area, including:

- Community Markets & Other Events
- LBG facilitated pest management workshops
- Site Visits to Individual Properties
- On-ground Support Working in Collaboration with Landholders



Collaborative Pest Management Programs

LBG will continue to develop, facilitate and promote participation in community coordinated pest management programs, such as our:

- Annual Calicivirus RHDV1-K5 Rabbit Control Program
- Feral Pig Control Program
- Species-specific Weeds Management Programs



Community Engagement

We are committed to engaging with our community members in ways that best suit their needs and preferences.





Community Events & Workshops Participation in local markets and other community events, as well as LBG led pest

Participation in local markets and other community events, as well as LBG led pest management workshops provides valuable, direct interaction with community members. Attendees and our team members are able to readily discuss priorities and concerns and to share pertinent and timely information. These events also provide opportunities to help raise awareness of pest management responsibilities and related available resources.



Site Visits and On-ground Services Direct engagement through site visits allows us to work hands-on with community

Direct engagement through site visits allows us to work hands-on with community members, providing personalised advice, demonstrating best practices, and fostering trust by being present and accessible in addressing pest management concerns.



Collaboration & Partnerships

Partnerships with local organisations, government agencies, and community groups help strengthen our impact by pooling resources and expertise, enhancing the ability to deliver effective pest management solutions and promote shared responsibilities.



Newsletter, Newspapers, Flyers & more

Regular updates through newsletters and newspapers keep our community informed about ongoing activities, upcoming initiatives, and success stories, ensuring transparency and providing relevant information that supports community awareness and involvement. Additional promotion of programs and pertinent news updates are made through targeted mailings, "letter drops", distributed flyers, posters, roadside signage and other physical printed materials.



Website & Online Resources

Our website serves as a hub for up-to-date information, guides, and resources, offering easy access to tools and information to support pest management and awareness of related biosecurity priorities, programs and support.



Social media platforms enable us to connect with a broader audience, share timely updates, promote community achievements, and create interactive opportunities for dialogue, making pest management more accessible and relevant to all community members.



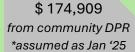
	Communications P	Programs & Priority Actions FY2025 – 2026	6
Month	Planned Priority Activities	Channels of Communication	Purpose
July 2025	Promotion of Arum Lily, Bridal Creeper, Cape Tulip, Cleavers, Foxes, Pigs Management & Related Resources	LBG E-Newsletter; Social Media; LBG Website; Project- specific E-mail Campaign; Media Releases; Printed Materials, i.e., Flyers, Posters, Handouts	- Promote awareness of pest management needs and resources available for assistance.
August 2025	Declared Pest Rate Focus Promotion of Arum Lily, Bridal Creeper, Cape Tulip, Cleavers, Foxes, Pigs Management & Related Resources Promotion of Equipment Hire & Other Available Resources	LBG E-Newsletter; social media; LBG Website; Project- specific E-mail Campaign; Media Releases; Printed Materials, i.e., Flyers, Posters, Handouts	 Provide information to stakeholders regarding DPR purpose/ benefit and raised concerns, priorities. Education re Seasonal Weeds & Vertebrate Pests Impact & Control
September 2025	Promotion of Arum Lily, Cape Tulip, Cleavers, Foxes, Rabbits, Pigs Management & Related Resources Promotion of upcoming Biosecurity Blitz (DPIRD)	LBG E-Newsletter; Social Media; LBG Website; Project- specific E-mail Campaign; Media Releases; Printed Materials, i.e., Flyers, Posters, Roadside Banners, etc.	- Feedback from and information to Community stakeholders to understand priorities & promote awareness of related resources Education re Seasonal Weeds & Vertebrate Pests Impact & Control
October 2025	Promotion of Arum Lily, Blackberry, Bridal Creeper, Cleavers Management & Related Resources Stallholder at Dardanup Bull & Barrel Festival Community Event Promotion & Facilitation of LBG Annual General Meeting	Face to Face Engagement; LBG E-Newsletter; Social Media; LBG Website; Topic-specific E-mail Campaign; Media Releases; Printed Materials, i.e., Flyers, Posters, Roadside Banners, etc.	Collect information on community pest mgmt priorities/concerns. Promotion of available resources
November 2025	Promotion of Apple of Sodom, Blackberry, Cotton Bush, Rabbit Mgmt Promotion of Equipment Hire Promotion Participation in Local Market or other community event Promotion of upcoming Calicivirus "K5" Release Program	Face to Face Engagement; LBG E-Newsletter; Social Media; LBG Website; Topic-specific E-mail Campaign; Media Releases; Printed Materials	 Promote awareness of pest management needs and resources available for assistance. Collect information on community priorities/concerns.
December 2025	Promotion of Apple of Sodom, Blackberry, Cotton Bush, Rabbit Mgmt	E-Newsletter, Website; Social Media, E-mail campaign	- Feedback on past and current programs
January 2026	Promotion of Rabbit, Blackberry, Cotton Bush, Management Promotion of Calicivirus "K5" Release Program	E-Newsletter, Topic-specific E-mail Campaign; Social Media; Media Releases; Local newspapers/newsletters	 Engagement with landholders registered for Calicivirus "K5" Release program & on-going promotion of program & related LBG workshops
February 2026	Promotion of Rabbit, Blackberry, Cotton Bush, Feral Pig Management Promotion of Calicivirus "K5" Release Program Participation in Local Market or other community event	Face to face (Calicivirus Program events); LBG E- Newsletter; Social Media; LBG Website; Topic-specific E-mail Campaign; Media Releases; Printed Materials	- Share and collect information with and from community members
March 2026	Promotion of Rabbit, Blackberry, Cotton Bush, Feral Pig Management	Face to Face Engagement; LBG E-Newsletter; Social Media; LBG Website; Topic-specific E-mail Campaign; Media Releases; Printed Materials	- Share and collect information with and from community members
April 2026	Promotion of Apple of Sodom, Blackberry, Cotton Bush, Paterson's Curse, Feral Pig Management Stallholder at Community Events including, Balingup Farm Field Day, Donnybrook Apple Festival	LBG Newsletter, LBG Website, Local Publications (e.g., printed/digital newspapers, newsletters, etc), Social Media, Face-to-Face Engagements	- Share and collect information with and from community members Promote awareness of LBG (RBGs) role & benefits to communities within our operational area
May 2026	Promotion of Cape Tulip, Cotton Bush, Paterson's Curse, Feral Pig Mgmt Calicivirus Release program Participant Feedback	Face-to-Face Engagements, LBG Newsletter & Website, E-mail campaign re Feedback Surveys, Social Media	- Share and collect information with and from community members
June 2026	Winter Weeds Workshops Tell Us Your Priorities	LBG Newsletter, LBG Website, Local Publications (e.g., printed/digital newspapers, newsletters, etc), Social Media, Face-to-Face Engagements	Arum Lily impact & control information Share and collect information with and from community members
	Total FY 2025-2026 Budget Allocated for C	Communications & Community Engagement:	\$ 86,710.00



Operational Budget

Forecasted Operational Budget FY 2025 – 2026

Budget Source and Allocation Overview



\$ 218,637

from State Government
(matching funds)

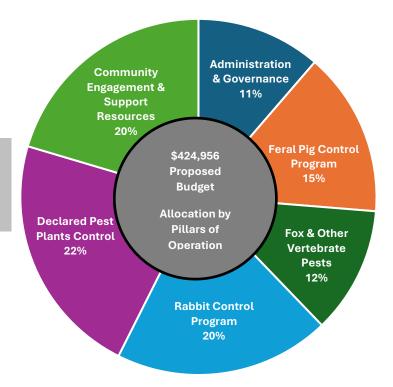
\$ 31,410

Granted from LBG

Declared Pest

Account Reserve

Proposed
Operational
Budget
\$ 424,956



Declared Pest Rate (DPR) applicable to private properties* within the within the LBG Operational Area for FY 2025 – 2026 (as defined below):

1-10 ha Rate = \$54.40; >10 ha Rate = \$69.35

* Freehold land described as urban farming on the non-rural valuation roll and freehold land on the rural valuation roll maintained under the Valuation of Land Act 1978.

Declared Pest Account (DPA) – A Declared Pest Account is established for each of Western Australia's Recognised Biosecurity Group for deposit of Declared Pest Rate funds collected from landholders within the correlating RBG, as well as the State's matching funds. This account provides for a dedicated funding source for long-term, strategic pest management efforts, fostering a shared responsibility approach between the government and landholders.

Any DPR funds not used by the RBG within a specific Financial Year are held in the corresponding RBG's DPA and must be requested for use by the same RBG through

Budget

guiding principles

for development and use of our budget



Outcomes Oriented, Robust Planning

- Focus on meaningful and measurable outcomes
- Resources directed toward initiatives with greatest impact
- Comprehensive planning methods
- Strateaic resources allocation
- Responsive & adaptive to current needs & emerging challenges.



Focus on Achieving Value for Money

- Our budget aims to achieve the highest impact for use of funds
- Focus on maximizing effectiveness of our programs
- Focus on minimizing unnecessary expenditure.



Sound Governance & Transparent Accountability

- Board of Management oversigh
- Sound policies & procedures
- Strong governance practices
- Transparent financia management
- Independent accountant
- Regular reporting to DPIRD
- Annual independent financial
 audit



Proportionality

- Strategic funds allocation in alignment with ourpillars of operation
- Effective use of resource
- Fair assessment of intended us
- Support for operational goals.



Evaluation & Improvement

- Continuous evaluation to assess financial performanceto learn form past and drive
- Responsive budgeting to adapt to evolving needs for maximum effectiveness
- Incorporate feedback & insights into ongoing improvement to refine resource allocation & optimise impact



10 Appendix

The complexities and circumstances of our shared challenges and successes in achieving proactive, collaborative, and sustainable pest management continue to provide opportunities for learning and improvement.

On the following page, we offer:

• A Timeline – showing the evolution of WA's mandated and supported pest management framework, along with the Leschenault Biosecurity Group, created by LBG.



Evolution of WA mandated & supported Pest Management

& the Leschenault Biosecurity Group

TIMELINE

APB Established

- WA Agriculture Protection Board was a statutory authority of the Western Australian State Government
- Responsible for overseeing quarantine measures
- Managed vermin and pest control
- Oversaw the management of noxious weeds

1951

BAM Act Legislated

Biosecurity & Agriculture Management Act established to:

- Prevent new pests, weeds and diseases from entering Western Australia & manage the impact and spread of those pests already present in the state.
- Provided for community-led pest management supported by Recognised Biosecurity Groups

2007

LBG is Incorporated

- Formally organized as an incorporated organization in 2016
- Certified by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
- Recognized as a not-for-profit,
 community-led organization

2016

BAM Act Review

This review, still on-going commenced to:

- Evaluate effectiveness of the Act in addressing WA's biosecurity challenges
- Identify gaps for improvement
- Update regulatory framework
- Strengthen Prevention
- Adapt to changing conditions and more

2022

<u>T</u>

2005

APB Phased Out

- Early 2000 policy shifts led towards more community-driven biosecurity efforts, leading to a reduction in the scope of the Agriculture Protection Board
- Government Restructuring: Funding and resources were redirected towards community initiatives, diminishing the Board's role.
- Pest management support gradually assumed by the Department of Agriculture and Recognised Biosecurity Groups

2014

LBG Community Group

- Formed in 2014 as a community group
- Comprised of passionate landholders in the Donnybrook area
- Concerned about the impact of declared pests
- Focused on addressing issues affecting local producers and landholder

2017

LBG becomes RBG

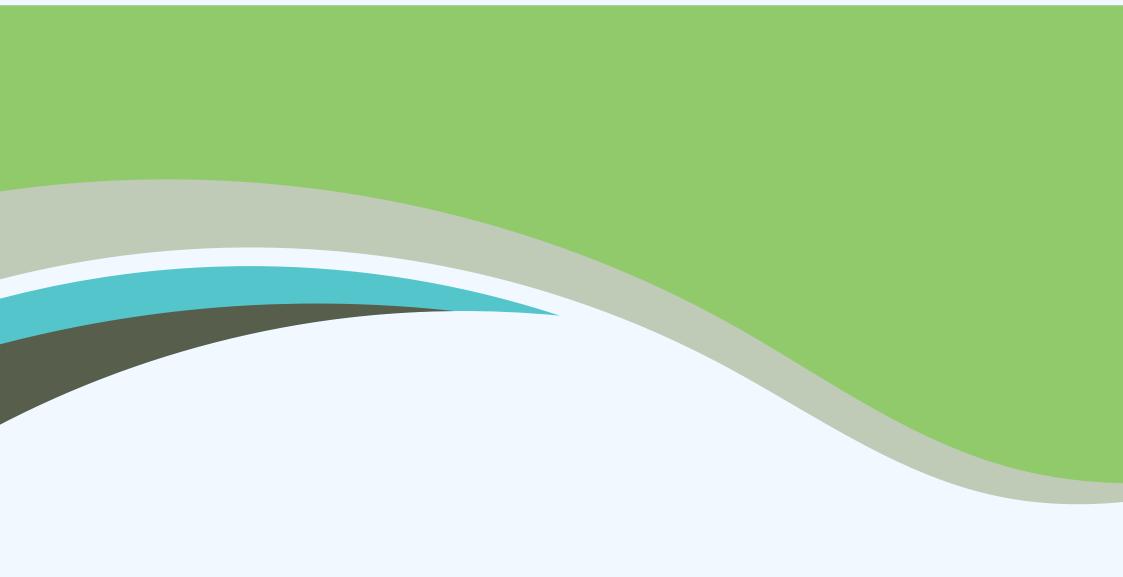
- Became a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) in 2017
- Recognised in accordance with the BAM Act 2007
- Aim to reduce the impact of declared pests
- Support community governance through RBGs

2024

LBG Present & Future

- The group has significant community participation in robust pest management programs
- Maintains ongoing collaboration with diverse stakeholders
- Focus on understanding community priorities and supporting effective pest management efforts







YOUR LAND YOUR FUTURE