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2023/24

MIDLANDS BIOSECURITY GROUP

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This year saw the group continue to focus on the feral pig issues while maintaining activity on rabbits and wild dog monitoring. We have made good progress with some government land access following many years of effort and negotiation. This will allow better control of feral animals within an entire target area where we have previously been restricted in where we can access.

The other issue to note has been the BAM act review which could prove a risk to our long term viability. We have worked hard with other groups through this process and pleasingly have been given an undertaking from the minister that at least in the medium term there will be no changes.

Again I would like to thank the board, Executive Officer and the LPMT's for all their work over the last 12 months.

Thank you,

**Charles Wass**

Board Chairperson 2023/24

As presented at the 2024 Annual General Meeting

# MBG BACKGROUND

## **The decision to form a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) in the Midlands region was made in December 2018 by local farmers and industry due to concerns around increasing numbers of wild dogs and feral pigs.**

An interim board was established and had farmer representatives from throughout the region and regular meetings were held to start the RBG process and define the objectives of the group. The MBG was incorporated on the 19th of June, 2019, recognised by the Minister of Agriculture and Food on the 25th of October, 2019 and on the 6th of December 2019, the Midlands Biosecurity Group (MBG) members elected its first official Board of Management at its inaugural Annual General Meeting.

The primary aim of the group is to initiate, promote and foster the control of Declared Pests in the Midlands region. The MBG assists land owners and managers to adopt sound biosecurity practices and provides members with a forum to exchange information, advice and assistance. 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 Midlands Biosecurity Group covers seven shires in the Midlands region being the Shires of Moora, Dandaragan, Coorow, Carnamah, Three Springs, Mingenew and Irwin. These shires have been chosen due to the geographical features that link all seven shires as well as having similar land-uses across the region.

The Midlands Biosecurity Group was formed with the administrative support of the West Midlands grower 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. This partnership between the two groups allowed for effective financial and project management as well as the ability to utilise already-established communication networks. As a result of this initial support, the Midlands Biosecurity Group is now a stand-alone organisation and fully functional recognised biosecurity group.

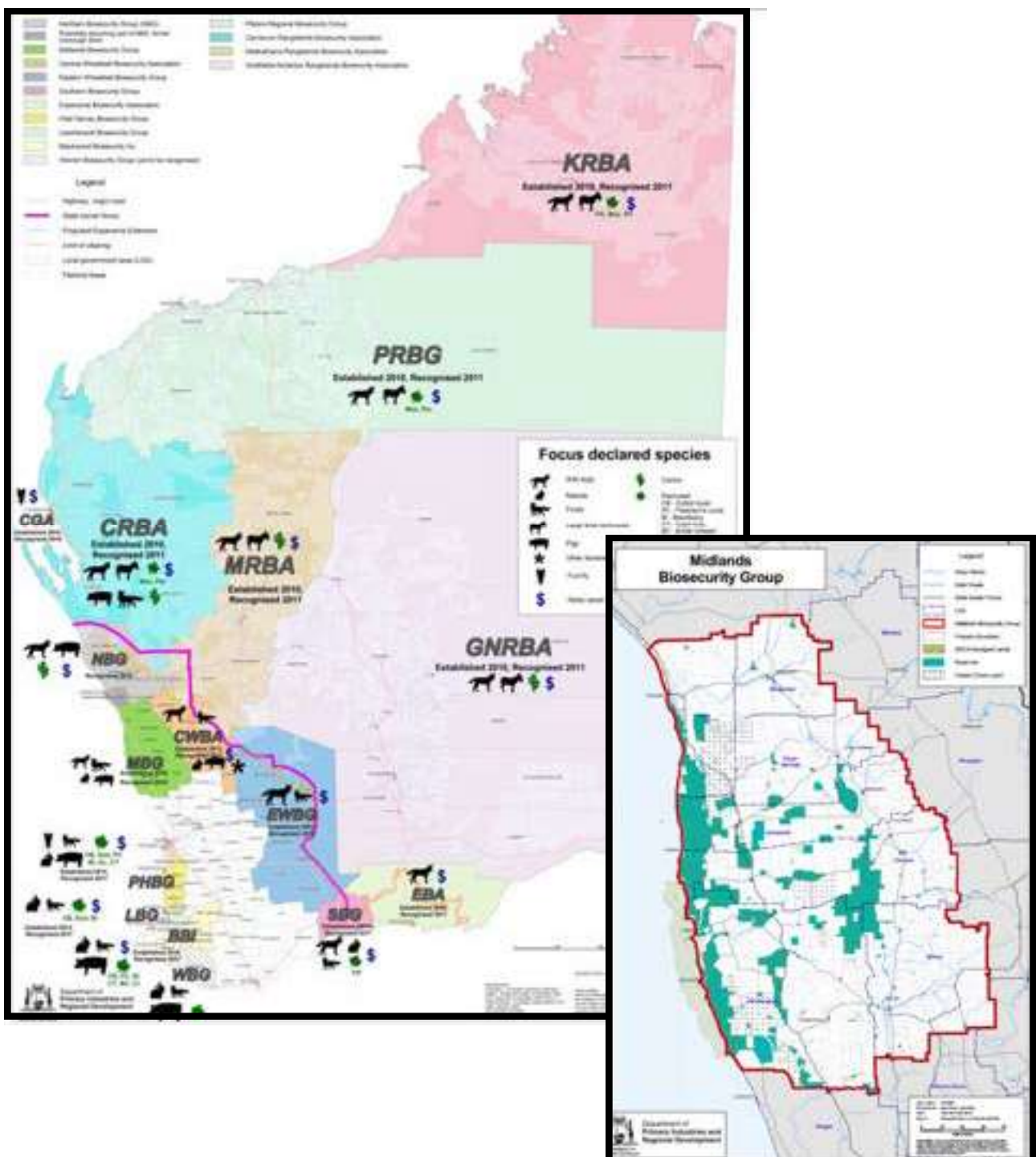
# MBG OBJECTIVES

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

# RECOGNISED BIOSECURITY GROUPS

Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are not-for-profit and locally governed organisations recognised under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act (2007). There are currently 14 RBG's in Western Australia.



# THE MBG TEAM

The following people made up the board of management of the Midlands Biosecurity Group in 2023/24.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Term Expiry</b>	<b>Shire/s Farming</b>
Charles Wass	Expires AGM 2025	Coorow
Maria Griffiths	Expires AGM 2025	Mingenew, Dandaragan
Peter Summers	Expires AGM 2025	Irwin
Christine Brown	Expires AGM 2024	Moora, Dandaragan
Carl Forward	Expires AGM 2024	Irwin, Mingeneu
Chris Patmore	Expires AGM 2024	Irwin, Three Springs
Quinton Bricknell	Expires AGM 2026	Three Springs, Carnamah, Coorow

<b>Support Staff</b>		
Chris O'Callaghan	Ex-officio Secretary/Treasurer	Coordinator (Non-Voting)

# THE MBG TEAM

The following personnel have been contracted by the MBG to deliver pest management and administration services to the group.

<b>Contractor/ Company</b>	<b>Summary of work completed 2023/24</b>
<b>Paul Pitaro</b> Vertebrate Pest Management Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mingenew/Morawa feral pig program</li><li>• Aerial Marksmanship</li><li>• Irwin pig monitoring</li><li>• Wild dog monitoring, baiting and trapping work – Three Springs, Mingenew, Irwin shires</li><li>• Rabbit work - 1080 grain mix-ups and Calici release oversight - Coorow and Moora shires</li></ul>
<b>Andy Lockey</b> WA Feral Animal Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Badgingarra feral pig program</li><li>• Arrowsmith feral pig program</li><li>• Wild dog monitoring Dandaragan, Moora Shires</li><li>• Rabbit calici releases Dandaragan &amp; Moora shires</li><li>• Feral Pig Control - Arrowsmith UCL &amp; Wilson NR.</li></ul>
<b>Andy Walker</b> Midwest Professional Shooting and Pest Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wild dog monitoring, baiting, trapping work Coorow, Dandaragan, Gingin shires</li><li>• Rabbit 1080 grain mix-ups, calici release oversight Dandaragan, Coorow, Moora shires.</li><li>• Fox baiting program - Watheroo NP &amp; Pinjarrega NP</li></ul>
<b>Kirra Holley</b> Golden Hour Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communications incl. e-newsletter, website, local press</li></ul>
<b>Shayne Wass</b> Harold Park Ag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bookkeeping/General Administration</li></ul>



# 2023-2024 DECLARED PEST RATE FUNDING

At the group's 2023 Annual General Meeting, the MBG members endorsed the group's 2023/24 Operational Plan, including a total budget of \$449,322, which included, \$145,254 of landholder rates, plus \$241,568 matching funds and declared pest account drawdowns, \$25,000 from the WA Wild Dog Action Plan and \$37,500 from the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association for the ongoing Morawa/Mingenew Feral Pig Program.

The MBG Board of Management then moved to request the implementation of a Declared Pest Rate as follows:

The Midlands Biosecurity Group request the Minister of Agriculture to approve an Ad Valorem declared pest rate for 2023/24 of \$181,000, on land in the local government areas of Irwin, Three Springs, Mingeneu, Carnamah, Coorow, Moora and Dandaragan that is:

- a) freehold land,
- b) a minimum 100 hectares,
- c) with a minimum \$104.50 per VEN

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

The MBG, as part of our consultation process posted letters to all landholders in the region, outlining the groups planned activities and request to implement a declared pest rate in the area.

The Midlands Biosecurity Group Board of Management have been very pleased with the on-going support of landholders within the region for the implementation of the declared pest rate and pest management programs. The declared pest rate allows for long term sustainability of funding to implement effective control programs for declared pests.

# 2023-2024 PROJECT FUNDING

In the 2023/24 financial year, the Midlands Biosecurity Group has attracted funding from a number of different sources, these are:



## **WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding**

Wild Dog Funding. \$25,000 per annum. Funding is a state government contribution to Wild Dog management in the Midlands Region. Funds LPMT time. Finishes June 2025.



## **CWBA Feral Pig Project**

Funding for a collaborative feral pig project covering the shires of Mingenew and Morawa. This project support MBG LPMT Paul Pitaro to complete co-ordinated feral pig control in the Morawa shire. \$37,500 per year.



## **DPIRD Commonwealth Camera Monitoring**

Funding for the establishment and maintenance of a camera monitoring network throughout the Midwest. \$11,000 for 12 months.

# 2023-2024 PEST PROGRAMS

## Wild Dogs & Foxes

*Vision: Through cooperative management prevent domestic stock losses and conserve biodiversity*

The wild dog and fox program is guided by the MBG board's wild dog management plan which aims to encourage strategic, integrated wild dog management across all land tenures. The strategy focuses on monitoring for signs and symptoms of wild dog movement, such as scats, tracks, live sightings and howling as well as investigating all suspicious stock attacks/deaths for signs of wild dog predation. Field cameras are deployed to assist with monitoring which allows for shorter follow-up times on suspicious activity. In 2023/24 no stock losses have been reported to the MBG, the first time this has been zero in 5 years. However, wild dog activity has been observed in the Dandaragan, Three Springs and Morawa shires close to the Mingenew shire boundary.

Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) support landholders by ground baiting in hotspot areas and providing landholders with meat baits, canid pest ejectors and 1080 impregnated oats for distribution throughout the year. Meat baits are made cost-effectively using 1080 concentrate (which can only be handled by LPMTs), injected into cubes of fresh meat and then frozen on farms throughout the Midlands.

### 2023/24 Quick Stats

26%

5481 Total Dog Baits  
(4333 in 2023)

1 Trap Set (1 in 2023)

0 Reports of Stock  
Damage (33 in 2022)



Camera monitoring in the Cataby area

# MBG Meat Bait Registers

Bait Freezer Location	Host	No. of baits removed by landholders
Watheroo	Kevin McLean	1050
Warradarge	Will Browne	1050
Three Springs	Adam Thomas	1650
Irwin	Paul Pitaro	1656
Cervantes	Andy Walker	75
<b>Meat Bait Total</b>		<b>5481</b>



Wild dogs tracks identified in East Three Springs



Locations of LPMT activity and landholder control/baiting activities in the Midlands region. .

Bait rack stations have been set up at Watheroo, Warradarge, Three Springs, Arrowsmith, Irwin, Cataby and Cervantes. Each station contains a locked freezer that holds around 1600 baits in bags of 25 with safety tags and warning signs made available for farmers. Farmers taking baits are required to have a restricted chemical permit and sign a register.

LPMT's are also able to set wild dog traps where appropriate and in 2023/24, traps have been set on a property near Three Springs where wild dog activity has been observed.

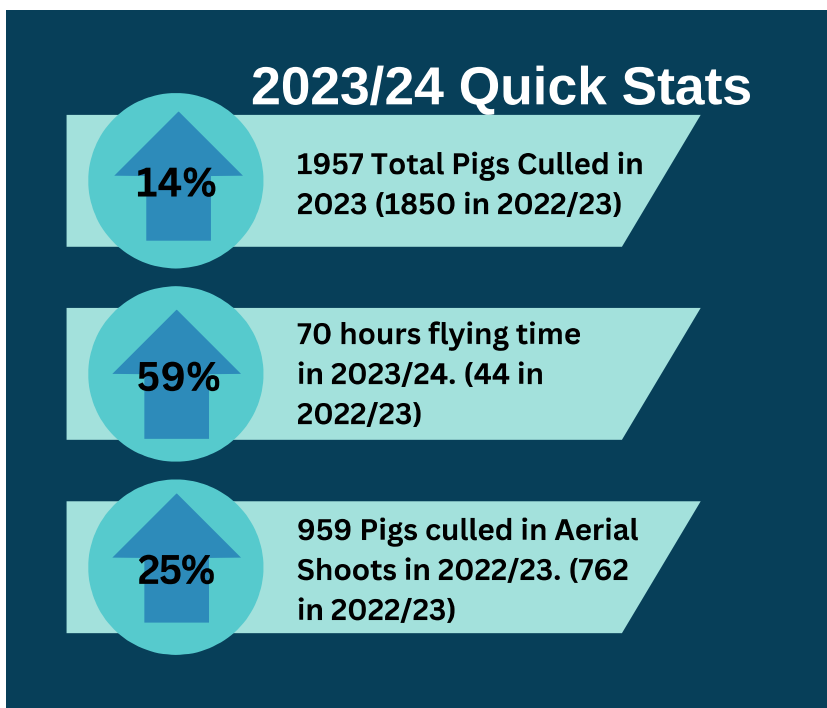
# Feral Pigs

***Vision: Sustainable grains and livestock industries in the Mid West where risks to production from feral pigs are reduced and natural and built environments are protected.***

Feral pigs have a destructive impact on landscapes. Pigs impact on soil and water quality, destroy native flora and fauna including threatened species, flatten crops and predate on lambs. The MBG continued its feral pig program in 2023/24. The program is guided by the Midwest Feral Pig Management plan which has been developed by the Midlands, Northern and Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group's.

This plan aims to achieve co-ordinated feral pig management in the Midwest region of Western Australia using effective and ethical control techniques.

The management of feral pigs in the Midlands focusses on co-ordinating efforts between landholders around known hotspot areas. Licensed Pest Management Technicians Andy Lockey and Paul Pitaro have been working with growers in Irwin, Arrowsmith and Badgingarra to control feral pigs using 1080 grain baiting in conjunction with remote cage trapping. Increased time on the ground and in the air has seen an increase in feral pigs culled, with the aim to reach a population control of at least 80% to ensure a decline in the total pig numbers.



Location	Timeframe	No. of Pigs Destroyed	Control Method
Mingenew/Morawa	August 2023	216	Aerial Shooting
Mingenew/Morawa	November 2023	281	Aerial Shooting
Three Springs Shire (Farmland)	July 2023-June 2024	575	Baiting/Trapping
Three Springs Shire (UCL & Nature Reserve)	July 2023-June 2024	241	Baiting/Trapping
Mingenew/Morawa	July 2023-June 2024	70	Baiting
Mingenew/Morawa	March 2024	339	Aerial Shooting
Mingenew/Morawa	May 2024	123	Aerial Shooting
Irwin Shire	July 2023-June 2024	90	Baiting/Trapping
Badgingarra/Warradarge	July 2023-June 2024	22	1080 Baiting
<b>Total</b>		<b>1957</b>	

*Note an additional 522 pigs have been culled by private efforts that has been reported to the MBG.*



*Location of Midlands Biosecurity Group Feral Pig work in 2023/24, including through the joint MBG/CWBA pig project.*

## Mingenew-Morawa Pig Project

The Mingenew-Morawa pig project was instigated due to a need to consistently fund and work across RBG and local government boundaries. Continuing in 2023/24, this project aims to deliver a coordinated and collaborative response to the issues of feral pigs in the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA) and Midlands Biosecurity Group region of Western Australia. The project has involved coordinated baiting, trapping and aerial shooting programs across land tenures.

The project contracts Paul Pitaro of Vertebrate Pest Management Australia for 100 days over an 11-month period, with MBG & CWBA committing to fund 50 days each of work in the area and the NBG contributing to the aerial culls. The LPMT contract is held by the Midlands Biosecurity Group. Local landholders have contributed extra dollars to this project to allow for a second aerial cull to occur.

# Rabbits

In 2023/24 the Midlands Biosecurity Group continued its control program for European Rabbits in the Midlands Region which focuses on landholder engagement and control methods using 1080 and RDHV1-K5 Calicivirus releases.

Farmers are required by law to utilise appropriately trained personnel (Licensed Pest Management Technicians) to mix grain baits for rabbit control. This is a significant benefit of having an RBG in the region. In 2023/24, a total of 13L of 1080 concentrate was used and 6 K5 Calicivirus releases were conducted. Landholders are encouraged to utilise an integrated approach to rabbit management that involved more than 1 control technique to achieve meaningful impact on rabbit numbers.



Poison oats laid on a property near Arrino

## 2023/24 Quick Stats

6

Calicivirus release sites in 2024 (1 in 2022/23)

38%

13L Total 1080 Concentrate used in 2023/24 (21L in 2022/23)



Rabbit 1080 baiting and RHDV-K5 release sites and monitoring sites in the Midlands region.

# Registered Pesticide Permits

*The MBG provides support to landholders to apply for Registered Pesticide Permits (RPPs) for their properties.*

The permit process has some complexity around what is required to meet the regulations set by the Department of Health for the use of schedule 7 poisons, (1080 and Strychnine) and the group can support farmers to ensure they comply with the law and are operating safely. The restricted chemical permit form acts as a legal document in which the permit holder is taking full responsibility for the use of restricted products on their farms, which includes all persons using the approved products including MBG LPMT's. Therefore, it is crucial that applications are completed correctly and farmers understand their responsibilities.

The group encourages all farm businesses to put their workers through a 1080 accreditation course which will allow them to use products on their properties. Landholders are also encouraged to add "MBG Approved LPMT" to their permits to allow the MBG's LPMTs to supply and handle products on their properties. LPMTs are licensed by the Department of Health to do this and the MBG contracts practitioners who are experienced and knowledgeable in the use of these products.

Given many permits are issued for 5 years, and the MBG has been in operation for 5 years, there are quite a number of permits that will expire in 2024.

LPMTs have also been issued with 2 year permits on targeted government managed land throughout the district.

## 2023/24 Quick Stats

5

MBG LPMTs have baiting permits on 5 Reserves and UCL Block totalling \$73,000ha

13%

516,000 ha covered in 2023/24 (458,000 in 2022/23)



Registered Pesticide Permits in the Midlands region.



# Environmental Impacts

*As a result of consistent best practice efforts in the fight against feral pigs and invasive predators, the improvement in the environment can not be underestimated.*

This year, rabbit warrens continue to devastate native vegetation and paddocks. In more positive news, the efforts of our LPMTs to remove dense feral pig populations in our northern Shires have resulted in the rehabilitation of Mallee Fowl habitats with birds returning to breed in the area.

**Rabbit Damage**



**Mallee Fowl Nests**



## Community Engagement

*The community engagement program of the MBG is to ensure information about the group's activities are communicated regularly and landholders have regular opportunities to get involved with the group.*

The activities related to this program are outlined below with the communication strategy located in Appendix 2.

In 2023/24, the MBG continued to engage with family farms, corporate landholders and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to ensure a coordinated approach to pest control across the region.

The group's Annual General Meeting also acts as the key forum for the year for members and the community to engage with the group and its activities.

The MBG also attends local field days and events including the Mingenew Expo and grower group Spring Field Days. Members and landowners within the MBGs Shires are often in attendance and it is often a great opportunity to engage with these stakeholders.



*Paul Pitaro (LPMT), Chris O'Callaghan (MBG EO) and Maria Griffiths (MBG Deputy Chair) at the 2023 Mingenew Expo. The group's stall included a "Pig-Brig": a new design of feral pig soft net trap, designed to allow pigs to enter the trap but not leave.*

Every year a mailout is delivered to all landholders in the Midlands region providing information about the group's upcoming activities and opportunities to become a member of the group. The MBG's membership eligibility criteria is as follows:



### **Full Member**

Open to individuals who own or occupy 100 hectares or more in the Midlands region



### **Associate Member**

Open to any legal entity that controls, cares or manages land in the Midlands region, represented by an authorised nominee.

To date the MBG has 98 members as well as an additional 240 subscribers to the group's E-Newsletter. There is no charge to being a member of the MBG, with the key advantage of being an MBG member is that it gives people a say in the governance process of the group. Furthermore, the MBG cannot automatically make individuals a member, due to privacy laws preventing the group from accessing to contact details of landholders in the region.

The MBG encourages landholders to become members as it allows them to have a greater level of engagement with the group. This is significant when it comes to declared pest management. Members are able to have their say on priority species, board members and the activities in the group's operational plan.

# Community Engagement

Month	Planned Activity	Medium	Purpose
August 2023	Mingenew Expo	Presence, Brochures, Demonstration	Consultation & Inform
		Workshop	Participation & Inform
September 2023	MBG Update	E-news	Participation
		Presence, Brochure, Demonstration	Inform
October 2023	MBG Annual General Meeting	Local Papers, MBG e-news, Social Media, Email	Consultation & Inform
November 2023	MBG Update	E-news	Inform
	Rabbit Control Info and Bait Days DPR Information	Local Papers, E-news	Inform & Participation
December 2023	MBG Update	E-news	Inform
	Working Dog Safety and Welfare when Baiting Information	E-news	Inform
	Community Rabbit Baiting Program	Local Papers, E-news, Social Media	Participation & Inform
March 2024	Wild dogs Update	Local Papers, E-news	Inform
	MBG Update	E-news	Inform
	Feral Pigs Update	Local Papers, E-news	Inform
May 2024	Letter to Midlands Region Ratepayers	Mailout	Inform
	Domestic animals welfare when 1080 baiting information	Mailout	Inform
June 2024	MBG Update	E-news	Inform

## Monitoring & Evaluation

***The MBG has established a cloud-based database that acts as a store of all the groups activity in the region. The database is tailored for the MBG and allows the group to keep accurate records of work completed, pests destroyed, permits completed and membership information.***

The database has fully integrated workflows, allowing seamless information transfer from LPMT's in the field to the Executive Officer and the MBG Board. This system significantly cuts down administration costs associated with Monitoring and Evaluation of field activities and membership applications.

The MBG also utilise Feral Scan to report into national databases of declared pest management. Feral Scan has limitations to local operations, however can inform decision makers at a national level as to the significance and locations of different pest species.

The group has also utilised facial recognition technology in some of its field cameras to assist with the monitoring of key pest species in the region. The system, called EVORTA, is able to assess images of animals to determine which species is present and send an alert via SMS to LPMT's if a target species is identified.

## Governance

***The MBG is a not-for-profit association, governed by a Board of Management, elected at the group's Annual General Meeting. The group also contracts experienced and professional people to ensure a high quality of work is completed.***

The governance program allows for an Executive Officer and a Bookkeeper to be contracted on a part-time basis to oversee the executive and regulatory requirements of running an association and recognised biosecurity group.

The Executive Officer oversee's the following tasks:

- Board Processes (meeting oversight, information gathering, administrative duties)
- LPMT Co-ordinator (Job planning, resource allocation)
- Bookkeeping (MYOB coding, invoicing, payments, BAS, Board reports, work with Auditor)
- Data Management (Database maintenance and reporting)
- Restricted Chemical Permits (Support and submit applications on behalf of farmers)
- Stakeholder Liaison (DBCA, DPIRD, Mining, Events & Workshops)
- Grant funding management and reporting

The governance program ensures the group has appropriate insurance and subscriptions to allow the group to run professionally and efficiently as well as coverage for administration costs such as printing, meeting room hire and catering where necessary.

# SUMMARY & FUTURE CHALLENGES

***The MBG has overseen the implementation of its third Operational plan and Declared Pest Rate in the 2023/24 financial year. This has been well supported by the community with consistently high payment rate, good engagement with permits and on-ground activity and a steady increase in membership over the last 12 months.***

The continuity of the MBG team and having a stable and engaged board of management as well as an experienced Executive Officer, Communications Officer, Bookkeeper and Licensed Pest Management Technicians has allowed the group to progress and function seamlessly.

The groups LPMTs Paul Pitaro, Andrew Lockey and Andrew Walker are now quite familiar with the landscape and much of the farming community which allows for on-ground work to be completed in a timely manner.

Feral pig populations are under significant pressure from the efforts of the Biosecurity Groups LPMTs. Hotspot areas in Arrowsmith and Irwin have had a strong focus in 2023/24 in order to significantly reduce numbers. The group increased its resources into feral pig control with the aim to try and hit the required 80% population decline. The last few pigs are going to be the hardest and most expensive ones to kill but continued pressure must be maintained in order to prevent further build-up.

The group has also established a good relationship with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, with baiting permits now issued to MBG LPMTs across 5 major parks in the Midlands Region. These permits are issued for 2 years and are regularly reviewed.

In 2022, the Minister announced there would be a review into the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management act, which is the legislation that enables the Recognised Biosecurity Groups to access a consistent source of funding that can be focussed locally into pest management. This review is currently in progress and pending the outcome may create challenges for the group going forward. The MBG, along with other Biosecurity Groups have contributed to this review process as appropriate over the last 12-24 months. It is unlikely that any changes resulting from this review will be implemented until after the next state election and the Recognised Biosecurity Groups have been advised that there will be no changes until at least 2027.

Other challenges include maintaining social license to operate and increased scrutiny on animal welfare outcomes. This scrutiny is very likely to lead to increased regulation around how chemicals are used by land managers.

The group is a grass-roots organisation and relies on the community driving the activities and getting engaged with the programs. To date this has been very successful and is a testament to the commitment of the landholders who took the risk to establish the group and volunteer their time to achieving the outcomes. The group has much work to do and challenges to overcome, but is well on its way to achieving its goals of co-ordinated, nil tenure declared pest management.



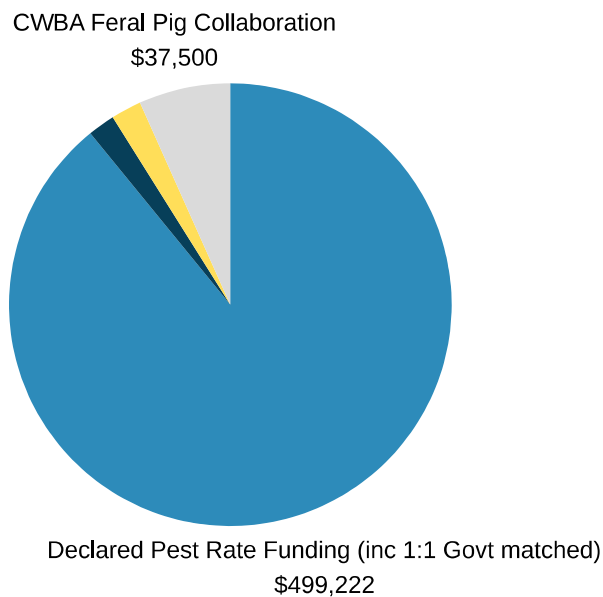
# FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24

## Financial Breakdown

*The Midlands Biosecurity Group operates on a July-June financial year and accesses funding from a range of sources to support the group's on-ground activities.*

The figure below breaks down the income sources for the MBG for the 2022/23 financial year, highlighting roughly a third of the group's activities are funded by grant funding and the majority is funded through the declared pest rate. The declared pest rate funding is made up of 1:1 landholder rates and government-matched funding. MBG expenditure is focussed on on-ground support to land managers to monitor and control declared pests.

### **Midlands Biosecurity Group income breakdown FY2022/23**



The above declared pest rate income represents income budgets for the 2023/24 financial year *plus* budgeted income for the 1st quarter of the 2024/25 financial year which allows for a continuation of funding between financial years.

# FUNDING SOURCES BREAKDOWN

## *Declared Pest Rate Funding*

The declared pest rate funding is provided through landholder rates and matching funds. The amount collected is determined by the MBG Operational Plan. The BAM Act legislation requires funds to be spent within the 12 month timeframe indicated in the operational plan ie July-June. To cover any shortfalls at the start of the 2025 Financial Year, an additional \$87,602 was provided for.

<b>Declared Pest Rate Funding</b>		
<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>4,936.40</b>
Income	Declared Pest Rate Income	469,487.60
	Aerial Shoot Cost Recovery	29,735.09
<b>Total</b>		<b>504,159.09</b>
Expenditure	MBG Bookkeeping	273.61
	MBG Admin Costs	2011.16
	MBG Community Consultation	2,071.43
	MBG Insurances	10,979.08
	MBG LPMT Contractor	204,450.00
	MBG Registered Pesticide Permits	778.00
	MBG Consumables	2,225.45
	MBG Executive Officer Contractor	22,555.10
	MBG Communications Contractor	4,012.04
	MBG Travel	412.18
	MBG Aerial Shoot	58,613.78
	MBG Baiting Meat	5,850.00
	MBG Audit Expense	2,300.00
	MBG Camera Equipment	5,830.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>322,361.83</b>
<b>DPR Balance as at 30 June 2024*</b>		<b>\$181,797.26</b>

Note: This amount will be deducted from future DPA account transfers



## Central Wheatbelt Mingenew/Morawa Pig Project

This project supports feral pig work across LGA and RBG boundaries, funding MBG LPMT Paul Pitaro to complete feral pig co-ordination, monitoring and control in the Morawa shire.

Central Wheatbelt Mingenew/Morawa Pig Project		
<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>600.00</b>
Income	Project Income	37,500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>48,100.00</b>
Expenditure	MBG - LPMT Contractor	37,500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>37,500.00</b>
<b>Project Balance as at 30 June 2024</b>		<b>600.00</b>

## WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding

This project is funded by the WA government, through the WA wild dog action plan and supports the work of an LPMT in the Midlands region and surrounding areas not covered by an RBG. This project is funded on an annual basis. The current project runs until June 2025.

WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding		
<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>350.00</b>
Income	Project Income	12,500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,850.00</b>
Expenditure	MBG - LPMT Contractor	13,300.00
Expenditure	MBG - Audit Costs	500
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,800.00</b>
<b>Project Balance as at 30 June 2023</b>		<b>-\$950.00</b>

## APPENDIX 1 – Operational Plan Details

<b>Program 1 Wild Dogs &amp; Foxes</b>				
<i>Actions</i>	<i>Input</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Bait Rack & Monitoring Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LPMT Time</li> <li>- Dried Meat Baits</li> <li>- RCP's</li> <li>- 1080</li> <li>- Strychnine</li> <li>- Signage</li> <li>- Traps</li> <li>- Cameras</li> </ul>	<p>At least 10,000 wild dog strength baiting products deployed (baits, CPEs, Traps)</p> <p>At least 10 cameras deployed to monitor the region for declared pests.</p>		<p>March-April</p> <p>August - November</p>
LPMT Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LPMT Contract</li> </ul>	LPMT/s Contracted.		July-June
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$126,000</b>	

<b>Program 2 Feral Pigs</b>				
<i>Action</i>	<i>Input</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Co-ordinated Integrated Feral Pig Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grain</li> <li>- Poison</li> <li>- LPMT</li> <li>- Cameras</li> <li>- Signs</li> <li>- RCPs</li> <li>- Aerial Shoot</li> <li>- Traps</li> </ul>	<p>At least 40 baiting sites implemented in hotspot areas.</p> <p>Camera Monitoring implemented across MBG area.</p>		<p>Baiting: January – May &amp; August - November</p>
Morawa-Mingenew Pig Program Co-ordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LPMT Time</li> </ul>	100 day LPMT Contracted (includes CWBA Morawa Pig Project Contribution)		July-June (Ongoing monitoring)
Aerial Shooting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helicopter Contractor</li> <li>- Ammunition</li> </ul>	2 aerial shoots held per year.		July & February
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$215,642</b>	

<b>Program 3 Rabbits</b>				
<i>Action</i>	<i>Input</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Community Rabbit Baiting Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LPMT Time</li> <li>- Grain</li> <li>- Poison</li> <li>- RHDV</li> <li>- Baiting Trailer</li> </ul>	At least 20 landholders engaged in co-ordinated baiting program.		January - March

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RCP's</li> <li>- LPMT time</li> </ul>	At least 8 RHDV release sites.		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$13,000</b>	

<b>Program 4 Community Engagement</b>				
<i>Action</i>	<i>Input</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Budget</i>	
Community Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting and Field Day attendance</li> <li>- Brochure</li> <li>- Workshops</li> <li>- Social Media</li> <li>- Print Media</li> <li>- Website</li> <li>- Newspapers</li> <li>- Mail Out</li> <li>- E-newsletter</li> <li>- Communications contractor + on costs</li> </ul>	<p>DPR is supported across all shires.</p> <p>Annual General Meeting held annually.</p> <p>At least 6 E-newsletters produced.</p> <p>Website maintained</p>		<p>Field days and workshops: August-September</p> <p>AGM: October</p> <p>Letter to landholders: March</p> <p>See consultation timeline for more detail.</p>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$16,680</b>	

<b>Program 5 Governance &amp; Administration</b>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Input</i>	<i>Measurement</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Executive Officer</li> <li>- Bookkeeper</li> <li>- On-Costs</li> </ul>	Executive and administration services contracted		July-June
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IT</li> <li>- Insurance</li> <li>- Travel</li> <li>- Office Space</li> <li>- Bookkeeper</li> <li>- Data Management</li> <li>- Reporting &amp; Auditing Costs</li> <li>- Admin/Comms</li> <li>- Meeting costs</li> <li>- Staff Professional Development</li> </ul>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$78,000</b>	

## APPENDIX 2 – Communications Strategy

Goal	Timing	Detail	Who
Regular column in local papers/e-news	July, September, October, February, March, June	Papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Badgingarra Sandpaper</li> <li>• Dandaragan Redgum</li> <li>• Coorow Squawk</li> <li>• Northern Valleys News</li> <li>• On the Mat Carnamah and Eneabba</li> <li>• Craytales Jurien Bay</li> <li>• Leeman/Greenhead Snag Island News</li> <li>• Three Springs Yakabout</li> <li>• Moora Herald</li> <li>• Mingenew Matters</li> <li>• Dongara-Denison Local Rag</li> <li>• Watheroo Wag Tails</li> </ul>	Comms + EO
Regular E-News Update	July, September, October, February, March, June	Local paper content to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Baiting Day information</li> <li>• Activities updates</li> <li>• Restricted Chemical Permits</li> <li>• Latest Information/Research</li> <li>• Declared Pest Rate</li> </ul>	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.	



Midlands Biosecurity Group

# **Midlands Biosecurity Group**

MBG AGM 2024

Prepared on September 24 2024

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## Profit and Loss Review

Cash mode

01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2024

	Total	
	Actual	Last Year
<b>Income</b>		
Project Income	\$61,000.00	\$108,700.00
Declared Pest Rate Income	\$469,487.60	\$308,674.04
Aerial Shoot Cost Recovery Income	\$29,735.09	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$560,222.69</b>	<b>\$417,374.04</b>
<b>Cost Of Sales</b>		
MBG - Audit expenses	\$2,800.00	\$3,300.00
MBG - Camera Equipment	\$5,830.00	(\$1,490.19)
MBG- Bookeeping (MYOB Subscription)	\$329.97	\$316.78
MBG - Admin Costs	\$1,588.93	\$245.90
MBG - Community Consultation	\$2,071.43	\$2,794.26
MBG - Insurances	\$11,338.65	\$9,244.55
MBG - LPMT Contractor	\$257,613.64	\$293,436.36
MBG - Travel	\$412.18	\$0.00
MBG - Baiting/Poison Supplies	\$0.00	\$9,406.64
MBG- Permits	\$389.00	\$759.10
MBG - Consumables	\$1,905.45	\$3,633.78
MBG - Executive Officer Contractor	\$22,555.10	\$40,250.00
MBG - Communications Contractor	\$4,012.04	\$4,131.85
MBG - Rabbit Baiting Product	\$0.00	\$4,900.00
MBG - Aerial Shoot	\$57,866.48	\$10,847.96
MBG - Baiting Meat	\$5,850.00	\$3,120.00
<b>Total Cost Of Sales</b>	<b>\$374,562.87</b>	<b>\$384,896.99</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$185,659.82</b>	<b>\$32,477.05</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Other Payroll Expenses	\$261.54	\$136.50
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$261.54</b>	<b>\$136.50</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>\$185,398.28</b>	<b>\$32,340.55</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$185,398.28</b>	<b>\$32,340.55</b>



## Balance Sheet Review

Cash mode  
30 Jun 2024

	Total	
	Actual	Last Year
<b>Assets</b>		
MBG Bank Account	\$319,625.93	\$103,341.72
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$319,625.93</b>	<b>\$103,341.72</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
GST Balance	\$22,822.99	(\$8,062.94)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$22,822.99</b>	<b>(\$8,062.94)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$296,802.94</b>	<b>\$111,404.66</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	\$111,404.66	\$79,064.11
Current Year Earnings	\$185,398.28	\$32,340.55
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$296,802.94</b>	<b>\$111,404.66</b>

**MIDLANDS BIOSECURITY GROUP**  
**ABN: 11 513 539 345**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (WA) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112	Income Taxes
AASB 110	Events after the Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an cash basis.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**a) Income Tax**

The Association is a non-profit organisation and thus exempted from income tax liability by virtue of section 23(3) of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

**b) Goods & Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

**NOTE 2: PROJECT INCOME**

**WA Wild Dog Action Plan Funding**

2 year grant totalling \$50,000 with \$12,500 received in FY24

**Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group Feral Pig Collaboration**

In July 2020 a collaborative feral pig program was launched by the Midlands Biosecurity Group and Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association to manage a feral pig population in the shires of Mingenew and Morawa. The Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association contributed \$37,500 towards this project in FY24, with the Midlands Biosecurity Group taking on the administration role. This money was used to contract a Licensed Pest Management Technician to co-ordinate the control program.

### **NOTE 3. DECLARED PEST RATE INCOME & AERIAL SHOOT COST RECOVERY**

\$469,487 was drawn from the state government Declared Pest Account. As part of the Collaborative Mingenew-Morawa Feral Pig program, costs for Aerial Shooting have been shared between the two groups with the MBG taking on the contracting role. Cost recovery income is received from the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association for 50% of total Aerial shoot costs paid by the MBG.

### **NOTE 4.**

The included balance sheet also acts as a statement of equity as no assets or liabilities, have a market value different from the book values.

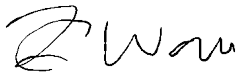
## STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

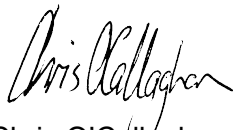
In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Midlands Biosecurity Group as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Midlands Biosecurity Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Charles Wass  
Chairperson



Chris O'Callaghan  
Treasurer

Dated this 1 August 2024

## AUDITORS CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

In my opinion, the attached Final Report of the DPIRD funding for the Declared Pest Rate Funding for 2024 is, in all material respects, in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

The Financial Information contained in the Final Report is based on proper accounts and presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash Receipts and Payments for the Project in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

### QUALIFICATIONS

#### Accounting Entries - Allocation of Expenses

The acquittal of grant funding includes an allocation of expenses of the entity. The entity is often concurrently involved with a number of services. It is not practical or cost efficient for the audit to determine whether the allocation of costs over the projects is reasonable. Our examination of the records has not addressed this issue. Accordingly the management allocates expenses to individual services on a basis of subjective approximation.

Dated: 21 August 2024



DANIEL PAPAPHOTIS  
Registered Company Auditor  
#410503  
Francis A Jones Pty Ltd  
154 High Street  
FREMANTLE WA 6160

# Job profit and loss report

## Midlands Biosecurity Group

PO Box 137, Coorow, WA, 6515

01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2024

Job number		Income (\$)	Cost (\$)
<b>DPR Funding</b>		<b>499,222.69</b>	<b>322,361.83</b>
	<b>Category name</b>		
Opening Balance			<b>4,936.40</b>
Income	Declared Pest Rate Income		469,487.60
	Aerial Shoot Cost Recovery Income		29,735.09
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>499,222.69</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>504,159.09</b>
Cost of sales	MBG- Bookkeeping (MYOB Subscription)		273.61
	MBG - Admin Costs		2,011.16
	MBG - Community Consultation		2,071.43
	MBG - Insurances		10,979.08
	MBG - LPMT Contractor		204,450.00
	MBG - Travel		412.18
	MBG- Permits		778.00
	MBG - Consumables		2,225.45
	MBG - Executive Officer Contractor		22,555.10
	MBG - Communications Contractor		4,012.04
	MBG - Aerial Shoot		58,613.78
	MBG - Baiting Meat		5,850.00
	MBG - Audit expenses		2,300.00
	MBG - Camera Equipment		5,830.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>322,361.83</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>			<b>176,860.86</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>			<b>181,797.26</b>

