

MEEKATHARRA RANGELANDS BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION INC.
(MRBA)
Committee of Management Meeting
Monday 12th February 2024

1. Opening & welcome

Meeting opened at 9.30am

2. Attendances/Apologies/Proxies

2.1 Attendees

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| - Liam Johns, Chair | Killara |
| - Mayne Jenour | Jingemarra |
| - Ashley Dowden | Challa |
| - Clyde Hall | Neds Creek |
| - Jorgen Jensen | Yoweragabbie |
| - Jarrad Blair | Milgun Woodlands |
| - Rob Lefroy | Nalbarra |

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Margi Weir

OBSERVERS

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| - Weldon Percy | Sylvania |
| - Damien Swain | DPIRD |

2.2 Apologies:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| - Angus Nichols | Edah | Committee Member |
| - Greg Watters | Mt Clere | Committee Member |
| - Murray Pens | Mt Gould | Committee Member |
| - Corey Folezzani | Windsor | Committee Member |
| - Chandra Ridley | Bulloo Downs | MRBA Member |
| - Jim Miller | LPMT | Contractor (LPMT) |

2.3 Proxies – None received

3. Disclosure of Financial and Non-Financial Material Personal Interests in AGM Matters
(record on Register of Conflict of Interest)

3.1 Ashley Dowden declared he is the S7 retailer and provides poison for the group.

3.2 Rack Coordinators – coordinate the bait rack days and distribution of baits in their area:

- Ashley Dowden
- Liam Johns
- Mayne Jenour

3.3 Dogger Coordinators – coordinate the activity of doggers in their area and approve reports and invoices prior to payment. The following 4 committee members are also Dogger Coordinators:

- Ashley Dowden
- Liam Johns
- Jorgen Jensen

3.4 LPMTs (contract to MRBA)

- None present

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Committee of Management Meeting 17th October 2023

MOVED: Jorgen Jensen

SECONDED: Jarred Blair

That the Minutes of the Committee of Management meeting held on 17 October 2023 be accepted as a true and correct record, and that the committee notes the business arising from this meeting.

CARRIED

5. Business arising from these Minutes

- EO is still chasing up an RTO to auspice dogger training
- EO to contact Nigel's Services in Geraldton to see if they can provide / auspice the course. (REMP)
- EO to send letter to landholders with **excerpt from Land Administration Act** of requirement to control declared pests on their pastoral leases. Wording can be as per previous minutes. These include: Narndee, Windsor, Wanarie, Wynyangoo, Koonmarra. COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO FILL THIS LIST AND PROVIDE NAMES TO EO. Begin with general email letter to all leaseholders. (EO)
- EO to speak with Damien Swain about compiling list of status of ALL LEASEHOLDERS and the currency of their RCP permits.

6. Report from the Executive Officer

6.1 Declared Pest Rate Funding Scheme (DPRFS) Progress Report

EO has submitted Progress Report on DPRFS. This is what triggers the next payment from the DPRFS. The amount due to be paid to MRBA is \$209,674.

6.2 Wild Dog Action Plan / Royalties for Regions funding

The EO confirmed that DPIRD have pledged to continue to provide \$250,000 per year to the MRBA under the R4R program until June 30, 2025. Next payment of \$125,000 has now been invoiced and MRBA can expect to receive payment of this in February 2024.

6.3 DPRFS – historical records

There have been queries from other RBGs on the accuracy of funds disbursed through the DPA (now DPRFS). There is currently investigation going on (within Treasury Dept) to try to ascertain if any groups have NOT received the amounts they should have received over the last XX number of years. Whilst it is not likely that MRBA has missed out on any funds, it will be interesting to see the results of these investigations.

6.4 DPRFS – comparison of rates paid in different areas

Clyde Hall asked the EO if there was any way of comparing the amount of rates collected from leaseholders inside the vermin cell with those outside. Legally MRBA is not permitted to have access to details such as this. However, the EO has asked DPIRD if such information can be provided, either as de-identified data or as a total amount (with no reference to individual payments) for each group. There is currently a discussion between DPIRD (ORBG) and State Treasury regarding what information can be interrogated and disclosed.

- 6.4.1 Some leases in the north of MRBA pay ~\$14K in rates.
- 6.4.2 Stations outside the cell get \$170 - \$200K / year of “service”
- 6.4.3 General agreement that more funding into LFH culls and bait meat for dogging is needed for the northern area.

7. MRBA Financial Position as of 31 Jan 2024

The MRBA Financial Position as it currently stands is shown in the following table:

MRBA Financial Position as at 31 January 2024	
Bendigo Account Balance	\$ 2,752
Debit Card Balance	\$ 961
Sandhurst Transaction Account Balance	\$ 92,504
Minus GST Payable to ATO	\$ 20,967
Plus GST Refundable from ATO	\$ 42,433
Term Deposit	\$ 100,996
Term Deposit	\$ 100,996
Term Deposit	\$ 100,896
Term Deposit	\$ 100,996
Total	\$ 563,501
<u>Which is made up of:</u>	
AWI Funded Wild Dog Control Training	\$ 21,939
Declared Pest Account	\$ 239,165
R4R WDAP	\$ 139,170
LFH Reserve	\$ -
DPIRD Bait Trial	\$ 13,227
API Community Support	\$ 150,000
Contingency Funds	\$ -
Total	\$ 563,501
Plus Outstanding Payments due Feb 2024:	
DPRFS	\$ 209,674
R4R	\$ 125,000

8. Adoption of 2024/2025 DPA Draft Budget and Operational Activity Management Plan

EO sent draft 2024/2025 budget to CoM members for consideration, review and approval. EO also sent draft Operational Activity Management Plan to CoM members for review and approval prior to uploading to DPIRD system.

No changes were suggested or discussed, so EO will now upload the Operational Activity Management Plan to DPIRD system and to MRBA website.

9. LFH Cull Report

Damien Swain (DPIRD) spoke about DPIRD's LFH summary report on October 2023 LFH Cull.

If MRBA allowed 8 days/year to conduct LFH cull operations then LFH populations might begin to be reduced. Allow \$120K/year.

EO to ask Greg Brennan to research **Carbon cost benefit per LFH animal culled** to prove worth of e.g. mining companies to contribute.

EO to speak with Amanda Day at GNRBA re Paroo / Yandil LFH coverage.

MOVED: Mayne Jenour SECONDED: Jarred Blair

That the MRBA utilise funds in current year budget which were carried forward from 2023/2024 to engage DPIRD to conduct an LFH control operation in October or November 2024.

CARRIED

- EO to plan tentative date for LFH cull October or November 2024. Also to investigate other options so that we can have a fall-back plan should DPIRD not be available to conduct the cull. Speak with CRBA and GNRBA as to who they use to conduct aerial cull.

Weldon can provide some names of who we can use and requirements, e.g.:

CASA requirements / approval – might now be Operator's Procedures.

Also National TAFE course as Aerial Platform Shooter.

10. Dogger Co-ordinator Reports

- a. Ashley Dowden – coordinator for Paynes Find South, Mt Magnet East and Cue doggers.

- i. Greg Scott is recovering from heart surgery, so currently away until March.

- ii. Jim Miller doing very long days. Does MRBA want to put a limit on hours per day that doggers can operate?

MOTION: That MRBA doggers work a MAXIMUM of 12 hours per day.

MOVED: Rob Lefroy SECONDED: Jorgen Jensen

CARRIED

- iii. Ashley will be retiring from MRBA Committee at October 2024 AGM and also as Dogger Coordinator and Rack Coordinator, also as S7 Retailer. Need to find person/s to replace him in all these roles.
- b. Murray Pens – coordinator for Meekatharra West dogger. No report submitted.
- c. Jorgen Jensen – coordinator for Paynes Find North and Mt Magnet dogger.
 - i. Reg Seaman: 21 dogs and 16 cats since July; concerned about R4R funding post June 30, 2025.
 - ii. Jorgen will speak to Colin deGrussa, MLC, and Mem Beard, MLA, and invite them to MRBA meeting re R4R funding.
- d. Justin Rowe – coordinator for Yalgoo dogger. No report submitted.
- e. Liam Johns – coordinator for Doolgunna, Yagahorn East and Yagahorn West doggers.
 - i. Tim Mahoney has been busy managing Paroo and hence doing less dogging days. Might be worth ceding his 25 days on Yagahorn East contract, this saving could be moved to LFH cull operations.
 - ii. Greg Hobson – finding his feet and making progress on the Yagahorn West contract area. Still waiting on RCP permit for Koonmarra so wild dog control can be carried out there.

Compiled Monthly Dogger Reports

# Dogs TOTAL	# Dogs Trapped	# Dogs Shot	# Baits	Cats	Donkeys	Camels	Horses	Foxes
143	134	9	17990	43	59	10	5	0

11. Bait Rack Program – 2024

- Dates and Quantities discussed and noted.
- Weldon Percy requested more bait meat for Ilgarrarie - at their own expense. Also more aircraft time to distribute baits. Committee agreed that this is acceptable.
- Rick Clements – Pass Street, Geraldton – is also a pet meat supplier. EO to contact him.
- Preference is roo meat. Top dollar is only payable for roo meat.
- EO to draft MRBA promotional info to pass to Weldon to propose to Centurion that they provide freight for bait meat.
- EO approach all pet meat suppliers requesting quotes – possibly for both Spring and Autumn baitings.

12. General Business

- RBG Forum – February 14/15, Perth
 - EO will be attending

- Items to raise at this forum:
 - 1. R4R funding beyond June 30, 2025
 - 2. DBCA not controlling vermin on ex pastoral leases
- Report from Yalgoo LPMT (John Darling)
 - Consumption of alcohol at bait rack days
Response: Individual RCP permit holders are responsible for management of their own baits. LPMT is not responsible.
 - Signage on properties (Jim Miller raised this issue too)
Response: Obligation is on leaseholders to utilise their stencils to paint signs. EO to email all leaseholders stating that all properties are to be compliant with signage as per RCP permit requirements.

Issues between neighbours affecting wild dog control

Response: EO to advise LPMTs that this is not an MRBA issue, nor an LPMT issue. This is between neighbouring leaseholders and they need to work out amicable solutions between each other.

- Ashley reminded the meeting that he will not be renominating after the October 2024 AGM.
- EO will be away for most of April 2024. During her absence, any necessary payments can be made by Treasurer Mayne Jenour and bank signatory Ashley Dowden, with EO cc'd into all correspondence so nothing is omitted from filing system.

13. Next Meeting Date / Close

- **Next Meeting: TUESDAY 15th October 2024 – Annual General Meeting and Committee Meeting**
- **Meeting Closed: 1.37 pm**