

REPORT TITLE | **Confirmation for Minutes**

MOTION

Moved by *Cr Tim McMahon*, seconded by *Graham Cooke*

That the Minutes of the *Biosecurity Advisory Committee* dated *19 February 2021* be confirmed.

CARRIED

ORDER OF BUSINESS

DATE: 19 February 2021

OPENED: 9:05am

VENUE: Charlton Depot

PRESENT (as per sign on sheet):

Cr Nancy Sommerfield (TRC)	Matthew Parker (Com)
Cr Tim McMahon (TRC)	Matthew Warren (SDRC)
Mark Ready (TRC)	Shane Lampard (SRC)
Anthony McWatters (Com)	Adam Taylor (QPWS)
Carisa Hallinan (WDRC)	Peter Tatham (Com)
Kirsty Harrison (TRC)	Steven Moore (LVRC)
Graham Cooke (LCR)	Nathan Willis (QPWS)
Holly Hosie (SQL)	Kristy Gooding (LGAQ)
Rebecca Morrissy (GRC)	Denise Whyte (SBRC)
Garry Wilson (TRC)	Belinda Callahan (Agforce)
Janet Barker (Com)	John Robertson (DAF)
Uma Rajappa (Qld Health)	Susie Kelly (GRC)
Jim Edwards (Qld Health)	Clem Smith (GRC)
Peter Boland (Qld Health)	Craig Magnussen (SDRC)
Bill Lindsay (WDRC)	Ted Vinson (BQ)
Tracey Versace (LVRC)	Jim O'Sullivan (TRC)
Garry Turner (TRC)	Peter Cremasco (TRC)

APOLOGIES:

Nick Hauser (TRC)	John Cuskelly (DAF)
Bruce Lord (HLW)	Cr James O'Shea (TRC)
Steve Brennan (SRC)	Ian Stevenson (DDMRB)
Micheal Condren (TRC)	Adam Currie (TMR)
Peter Sparshott (TMR)	Craig Hunter (DAF)
Andrew Sinnamon (Agforce)	

Cr Sommerfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (20 Nov 2020)

Moved: Graham Cooke

Seconded: Matthew Parker

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 1. Contact Matt Parker to discuss coordinated Pig baiting program and onsite inspection of Mother of Millions.**
Actioned. Update provided by Matt in Partner Update section.
- 2. Arrange briefing with LGAQ, Qld Health, DAF and any other relevant parties regarding 1080 at our next Biosecurity meeting in February.**
Invited as Guest speakers to today's meeting.
- 3. Schedule a meeting with Holly regarding funding available on public lands Grassland Reserve Project.**
Holly supplied update in Partner Update section.
- 4. Prepare Letter from TRC to Chief Executive DAF requesting Pest Risk assessment of Willows Cactus and African Olive.**
Mark supplied update in Partner Update section.

PARTNER UPDATES

Denise Whyte (SBRC)

1. Working on our syndicate groups after managing to get another syndicate group formed. Our participation from landholders rises to 37 members across 74,600 hectares. Main aim is feral animal control (wild dog and pigs). Administration support is given by Council.
2. Successfully in receiving funding through The Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought Program. A 50/50 contribution over the next 12 months to the syndicate fund to assist with operational plans (e.g. professional trappers, workshops, cameras, etc).

Peter Tatham (Com)

1. The rain in January was welcomed.
2. Local newspaper increased a rising number of dogs. I have destroyed some feral cats.
3. The group Pest and Diseases within Peri urban environment starts again in March.

Ted Vinson (BQ)

1. We are working on the latest issue with Goondiwindi Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council and are conducting a meeting next week regarding Loctus committee.

Holly Hosie (SQL)

1. So public transport in my eyes and other people's average aboriginal Corporation is a
2. A couple of active projects –
 - a. Working with TRC, TMR and BPCA for a broad scale approach to Cultural burning for weed management on the roadsides to target the grassland areas. We are working on adopting the plan for the cool burn which is end of March/April.
 - b. Working with groups of Landholders in the Western Downs area to target mouse control and assist with monitoring.

- c. Grasslands sites we are assessing across the regions.

Graham Cooke (LCR)

1. Biggest problem has been mice over the last couple of months affecting the winter crops and now targeting the emerging summer crops.
2. The weather conditions have been patchy right across the downs. Some areas scored some rain but there are some very dry areas around the region.
3. Main focus for the landholders is survival due to weather conditions.
4. Small projects working with TRC to target lantana and Mother of Millions.

Matt Parker (Com)

1. Trapped and caught 98 pigs in the creek catchment.
2. Suffering from mice and have put out 600kg of MouseOff.

Anthony McWatters (Com)

1. Supported what Graham said about the weather.
2. The usual suspects in terms of pests and weeds continue to be a problem.

Nathan Willis (QPWS)

1. While traveling the Goombungee/Crows Nest Rd (Pechey-Maclagan Rd) its amazing the number of large trees (iron barks, grey gums) that haven't survived the drought.
2. We have been managing tree pear at McEwan State Forest outside Pittsworth. We have had success using a tree spear that we purchased from an individual in the Southern Downs.
3. We continue to manage lovegrass and cat's claw in Crows Nest area.
4. We installed approx. 30 cameras to assist with deer sightings at Perseverance reserve which captured 2 images over a 2-week period which was a week before the fires went through. Overall the numbers weren't high during this monitoring program. We are looking at going back and undertake another monitoring program shortly.

Janet Barker (Com)

1. Weeds Society Qld conference will be held in 2022 and is South West Regions turn to host which means we are looking for someone within this region to host, arrange a committee, sponsors and field trips. Numbers normally consist of 300-400people dependant of where it's held.
2. It was moved at our AGM last year that we should look at a name change to include pest animals.
3. Newsletters are dropping from 3-4 times a year to twice a year and are always looking for articles (100 words and 2 photos).
4. Locally in the Cambooya area is a post drought Parthenium outbreak due to an absentee landholder.

Steven Moore (LVRC)

1. 12 months program
2. Our Biosecurity Surveillance programme for restricted and prohibited matter was adopted by Council on Tuesday.

3. Our Biosecurity Plan is in draft form and was due to be workshopped next week however it has been postponed until the 3rd March for adoption on the 17th March. That is in line with developing our strategic projects.
4. We are working with DAF on a Parthenium bio control program. Our catchment officer is working on capturing areas to monitor.

Carisa Hallinan (WDRC)

1. We have had a few sightings of Parthenium along roadsides in the region due to transportation of hay.
2. We actively continue to work with our pest groups (most have been running since 2014). When they first started, they were fixated on pig control but have extended their focus to include wild dog and weed management.
3. In the South West region of the Western Downs Regional Council quite a lot has been spent on exclusion fencing privately. Council has put in a bid to try and map these areas.
4. We are at over 100 cameras on private property for our pest monitoring program.

Rebecca Morrissy (GRG)

1. Secured funding for our cactus program to work with neighbouring Councils.
2. A motion is going to Council next week to declare Willows cactus locally. If successfully we will need to advertise and allow community consultation.
3. Also secured funding through smart farms to go towards Indigenous burning practices on our stock routes and grass reserves.
4. In regard to our Wild Dog fence, Council manages and funds 220kms and replaces 5kms every year. The reality is most of the fence is at the end of its life and we can't keep up with only replacing 5kms a year. We have started some discussions with Inland Rail about whether we can realign the fence to work in with there corridors. If this project goes through it might assist with replacing 35km of the fence.

Garry Wilson (TRC)

1. All checklists under our Strategic actions in our Biosecurity Plan are developed and looking for a system to assist with monitoring and implementing.
2. We have refined our compliance administration system for issuing notices.
3. We are also ready to issue compliance infringement notices (failing to comply with a biosecurity audit) after completing training with BQ and registered with SPER.
4. Operationally we are doing a 3month trial with Quik Corp to add flow meters to our spray units to collect data flow of chemical usage.
5. Isolated Parthenium plants on the Warrego Hwy are working closely with RoadTek/TMR.
6. We continue to work closely with other TRC land managers to monitor cemeteries, quarries, waste facilities and engage them in pest management education and awareness.
7. Our next Coordinated baiting program kicks off in March. Baiting participant numbers have dropped.
8. In our last bounty collection program, we had quite a number of bounties come in from Yarraman but nothing in the South.

Mark Ready (TRC)

1. At our last meeting an action was created to prepare a letter from TRC to Chief Executive DAF requesting Pest Risk assessment be carried out on Willows Cactus, African Olive and Firethorn.
Please see below documents containing the letter sent to DAF and DAF's response:



Letter to DAF



Response from DAF

Matthew Warren (SDRC)

1. Council has officially taken away our Pest Control Scheme Policy. We are reviewing our Biosecurity Invasive Pest Strategic Plan in consultation with our Pest Management Committee. We hope to have something back in place very soon.
2. We have had a slight outbreak of Harris Cactus on the Goondiwindi/Toowoomba boarder around Leyburn. We have had officers out there to survey and treat all plants we found. We have also advertised on social media to make people aware.
3. In regard to cluster fencing we are at 25% complete and have put out a tender for a monitoring framework to look at the impacts of exclusive fencing.
4. Feral cat project funded through the Commonwealth Government but unfortunately the technology we were hoping to use to track feral cats has been delayed by 3-4months putting the project on hold.

Bruce Lord (HLW)

1. Bruce was unable to attend but provided an update via email:

In terms of the update from SEQ we are busy planning a significant number of workshops & field days as part of our NLP2 Sustainable Agric project and NRIP Grazing best practices project. These include series of Pasture Management sessions with DAF, Property Management Planning, Fire Management Planning , Soil testing & follow up soil testing sessions, series of Erosion control & Climate Adaptation sessions with DAF, USQ & industry groups.

In terms of activities in TR:

- *planning Fire Management info night at Ravensbourne in March & follow up Fire Management Planning workshop on 17th April with QFBC & local Landcare Group & Brigade. Just waiting for final confirmation of dates from locals for Info night 17th or 24th March to then plan night with QFES, Council, QPWS, NRM*
- *possibility to run one of Pasture establishment & management sessions locally*
- *note that Emu Creek Landcare are interested in running session on African boxthorn control – will follow up.*

Also continuing to support other weed & pest initiatives in SEQ , including delivery of Seqwater funded riparian weeds program targeting Cats claw creeper & Madeira vine and helping deliver Somerset Council's Lantana Chemical subsidy program funded through Australian Government Combatting Weeds & Pests in Drought initiative.

Belinda Callahan (Agforce)

1. One of our hot issue at the moment is mice throughout the region. We have coordinated aircraft and on ground baiting.
2. Fall armyworm's have emerged in the Eastern Downs around Allora and Clifton. Currently targeting young sorghum and corn crops.


3. Locust issue in the Goondiwindi, Meandarra, Tara and Warra areas in low densities which we will continue to monitor.
4. We have a meeting this afternoon at Warra to discuss locust and mice.

Shane Lampard (SRC)

1. Copy of partner update supplied:  SRC - Partner update

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF 1080

QLD Health –

1. Uma Rajappa and Jim Edwards presented this PowerPoint presentation and answered questions – 
2. Fact sheets to be created and distributed

John Robertson (DAF) - 1080 Update

1. The current supply of 1080 that the State Government has was brought in the 1970's and that stock has lasted and is now coming to an end.
2. Now discussions are being had as to what happens next once the stock is gone. A number of options have been discussed about how this transition will occur.
3. Consumables (e.g. Deed Poll Books, signage, etc) – BQ stated 'as long as the product is provided by us, we are obligated to provide deed poll books. Once we stop providing the product and it's no longer in our control, we will stop supplying books'. DAF has taken signage requirements on board to investigate further.
4. Assistance with investigations:
 - i. Qld Health will contact Local Government Councils to check if a baiting program has occurred in the region at the time of the incident.

Kristy Gooding (LGAQ) - 1080 Update

- From a LGAQ prospective the 2020 annual conference resolution came about around 1080 and was identified 7% of Councils wanting 1080 to be provided. The resolution is that Government continue to supply 1080 at no cost to Council to enable the supported continuation of coordinated baiting programs across the state. Obviously with all this talk happening and the consultation that occurred, I gathered data last year on how much it would cost to Councils if we had to transition to commercial supply – how many landholders are engaged, what stockpile Council's have, staffing costs, material costs, etc. What we came out with was the commercial cost to Councils for 1080 was around \$160,000-\$200,000 for all Councils involved. But by far in the way of cost of materials and staffing costs for running the coordinated baiting programs are just above and beyond. (Cost of materials \$1,000,000 and staffing \$840,000 per year). The coordinating and running the programs is much more substantial than the cost. The feedback on the ground I am getting is that Councils see this as an ideal partnership approach that Council are doing their bit, State Government are doing their bit and landholders are doing their bit (on the ground work and if relevant supplying the meat) and it's an ideal framework to continue going forward. Just further to that, I have raised this many times with the Minister and his Chief of Staff in most recently 2 weeks ago and this item is on the agenda for

next weeks meeting. But what I have heard is some positive movements in terms of how much managed funds going forward even though it will be a transitional framework, but nothing is set in stone until it is signed off and announced.

Next meeting is 21 May 2021

Cr Sommerfield thanked everyone for their attendance.