

ORDER OF BUSINESS

DATE: Friday, 19 August 2022

TIME: 9.00am

VENUE: TRC Principal Depot – Nass Rd Charlton, Ground Floor Room G.49

ATTENDEES:

Cr Nancy Sommerfield (chair) Garry Wilson (TRC) Nathan Willis (QPWS) Craig Magnussen (DDMRB) Mat Warren (SDRC) Ted Vinson (DAF)	Anthony McWatters (Com) Mark Ready (TRC) Marc Leman (HLW) Andrew McCartney (SQL)	Via SKYPE: Carissa Hallinan (WDRC) Rebecca Morrissy (GRC)
APOLOGIES:		
Bruce Lord (HLW) Peter Tatham (Com) Janet Barker (Com) Ted Parish (DAF)	Nick Hauser (TRC) Pamela Murphy (SQL) Holly Hosie (SQL) Belinda Callahan (Agforce)	Peter Sparshott (TMR) Graham Cooke (LC) John Cuskelly (DAF)
GUESTS:		
Joshua Dyke – LGAQ Lead, Natural Resources & Environment	Craig Thomasson Dept of Agriculture & Fisheries	Michael Lancaster Dept of Agriculture & Fisheries

COUNCIL SUPPORT:

Mark Ready (TRC)

Leonie Mackay (TRC)

Garry Wilson (TRC)

WELCOME

Acknowledgement of Country:

I wish to acknowledge the Aboriginal parties whose song lines traverse these lands we meet on today, the Western Wakka Wakka, Giabal and Jarowair Peoples and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the knowledge, rich traditions and bold ambitions of Australia’s first peoples.

0900

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (20 May 2022)



DOCS-#9322196-v1
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Moved: Anthony McWatters

Seconded: Marc Leman

0905 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**0910 DAF Presentation – Animal diseases Update (Foot & Mouth Disease, African Swine Fever & Lumpy Skin Disease) – attached.**

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Discussion: If there is an outbreak how long is the shutdown – approximately 2-3 yrs. Work being done to prevent the spread of Foot & Mouth Disease (F&MD) in feral pigs. Monsoonal conditions help transport the virus. F&MD most likely caused by contaminated foods (imported legally and more commonly illegally) being fed to pigs.

Cr Sommerfield would like to see consideration be given to washdown facilities (there are currently none in the TRC area).

0940 LGAQ – Joshua Dyke – Presentation regarding 1080 programs across LG, included outcomes from 2022 1080 Baiting Survey and overview of new 1080 framework.

LGAQ
Presentation_TRCPN

DAF 1080 concentrate must be disposed of by December 2022 (at LG expense).

Local Governments to move to commercial 1080 concentrate in January 2023.

1010 MORNING TEA**1025 PARTNER UPDATES****Craig Magnussen:**

The Board adopted a new strategic plan (+ communications strategy – completion of Qld Government funded Optimising Rabbit Biocontrol Project – continuation of targeted social media and billboard campaigns).

The Board adopted a compliance framework at its last meeting. Framework included addition of new compliance resource, Strategic Compliance Coordinator to our establishment. The position will be funded through a departure from a compliance contractor arrangement and via introduction of a fee for service rabbit control/harbour removal model. The new role was influenced by feedback from the LGAQ (Synergies) review. One of their first jobs will be to communicate with Local Governments and finalise compliance strategy + convene forum of LG & other stakeholders to improve communication, build relationships and share knowledge, value add to each other's work.

We continue to implement our housing strategy which includes disposal of a number of freehold properties. Our Karara property sold in July and we are working towards disposing of Brigalow, Millmerran and Mt Gipps with the proceeds reinvested in our core business and providing for asset management.

The annual audit has been run as we work towards submission of our Annual Report to Parliament and a 5 yearly revaluation of our fixed assets (fence and house) has been undertaken.

December 2021 flood repairs continue to be delayed by rain events and access issues.

Refurbishment of 30kms of dog height fence between Cullendore and Cottonvale completed.

2019 bushfire replacement job all but complete – 27kms replaced in total with ongoing and compounding rain and flooding events resulting in the job duration running out to 2 years.

Called tenders for replacement of a 13km end of life section of rabbit fence with dog height near Chinchilla.

Top netting accounts for 22/23 issued (Western Downs, Toowoomba and Southern Downs) – now up to 220km of 555km dog height.

Wrote to incoming Federal Agriculture Minister re ongoing program funding for biocontrol, Chair raised DDMRB with him during disaster meeting at LVRC.

Compliance – 64 new and 116 follow-up inspections of properties in TRC, 2 pet rabbits.

National rabbit managers network, facilitated by Foundation for Rabbit Free Australia (Bilbies not Bunnies).

Board meeting to be held on 20 & 21 October at Millmerran. Hope to be able to meet with Council, field tour etc.

Mat Warren:

Pest/Weed surveillance program underway, starting with Harrisia Cactus in the Leyburn area.

Cat Management Strategy consultation had closed with 63 submissions received. Next steps are to analyse the feedback and amend the strategy and seek Council endorsement.

Coordinated Wild Dog, Fox, Feral Pig and Feral Cat baiting program dates for this financial year have been set as follows:

- Spring – 07 to 09 September 2022
- Summer – 16 to 18 November 2022
- Autumn – 08 to 10 March 2023
- Winter – 03 to 05 May 2023

Council has also funded a winter aerial baiting program targeting areas of the region that are difficult to access with conventional ground baiting. The proposed date for the aerial baiting program is 09 to 10 May 2023.

Nathan Willis:

Some burning undertaken (16,000 hectares) around Inglewood.

Very boggy conditions while undertaking works.

Works to reduce impacts of Mother of Millions at Yarraman, Lantana at Ravensbourne and Cats Claw at Crows Nest.

Suggestion for TRC website to advise that due to recent rains weeds are flourishing.

Budget meeting held – would like to see good funding for feral pig management.

Mark Leman:

We were recently involved with DAF Qld to jointly run a series of (3) free **Grazing Farm Business Resilience Planning Workshops** held at:

- Tuesday 21 June – Toogoolawah
- Wednesday 22 June – Gatton
- Thursday 23 June – Boonah

The sessions provided attendees with information, resources and support to help them develop a Business Resilience Plan for their property as well as provide an overview of Queensland's new drought reforms and how Farm Business Resilience Plans are a key requirement for accessing drought preparedness assistance, grants and loans.

Landholders were able to develop a Farm Business Resilience Plan for their property, based on: natural resources, production, business goals and consideration of climate, environmental, biosecurity, market and financial risks. The workshops involved landholders working through self-assessment checklists of recognised industry practices to help identify key risks and plans and discuss management actions to improve resilience.

This actually links in with HLW assisting landholders to develop management plans and how to manage and plan their property, understand their land limitations, native vegetation and gain an understanding of the biosecurity issue in regard to weed management and farm biosecurity.

There are a number of future workshops and field days planned in cattle grazing management, land conditions, soil health and land management principles and will include the topical issue of biosecurity and cover fire ants, fireweed and future animal health concerns.

Anthony McWatters: (Haden – NE Downs District)

Signs of an abundant season with animal and plant pests plentiful.

Lots of examples of Landholders and TRC working effectively and diligently to manage pest plants and animals on the land.

Concern is high amongst farmers and graziers about the possibility of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease in Australia.

Good season for controlled burning across our landscapes and many landholders have commenced.

Anthony appreciates the risks and work addressed by the committee and the regular updates by members and guests on Biosecurity issues.

Andrew McCartney:

Reviewing some of our products/services including the Vertebrate Pest and Wildlife Management are in consideration of the evolving biosecurity environment (work in progress).

Recruited another Conservation Detector Dog Handler, after training will double our capacity in this area, also looking at wider opportunities.

SQL is a partner in the USQ Drought and Innovation Hub project – host a node at our Roma office.

Have invested a lot of time in developing relationships with First Nations (28 nations in our region), engagement guided by our Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP).

New Qld government environmental investment program – Natural Resources Recovery Program (NRRP), submitting new proposal on 22/08/2022.

12 months left to run the Australian Government program – Regional Land Partnerships (RLP), no indication of new program as yet.

Qld Government Environmental Recovery Package is open, Council's not able to apply directly, happy to take information and add to our proposal.

Ted Vinson:

Locust Workshop was held in Toowoomba on 04 August, 10 C&PM staff attended.

If anyone has excess stocks of DAF1080 concentrate (that they will not be able to use by end 2022) please contact a local biosecurity officer for distribution to other Council's.

DAF representatives have been visiting farmers markets and nurseries and talking to them about plants that they may be selling that are restricted plants.

Garry Wilson:

C&PM BAITING June 2022

Southern			
Day/Date	Manufactured Baits	Meat Baits (KG x 4)	Participants
Monday	210	350	11
Tuesday	40	90	2
Wednesday	260	454	15
Thursday	155	18	10
Totals =	665	912	38
Northern			
Day/Date	Manufactured	Meat Baits (kg x 4)	Participants
Tuesday 14 th June	26	86 kg [344 baits]	12
Wednesday 15 th June	140		3
Totals =	166	86 kg [344 baits]	15
Grand Total =	Manufactured	Meat Baits (kg x 4)	Participants
	831	998 baits	53

Next Coordinated baiting program will run 22nd – 25th of August

Bounty Collection:

20 July – Clifton & Goombungee - bounty claims received:

Clifton

- Scalps collected/accepted = 0
- Number of scalps rejected = bag of frozen pup scalps
- Number of claimants = 1

Goombungee

- Scalps collected/accepted = 18
- Number of scalps rejected = 0
- Number of claimants = 1

Grazing Permits

One permit application

Biosecurity Plan

- Councils 1st Biosecurity Order review.

- Continuation of private property surveys including Council owned property within the focus areas.
- High level of compliance noted.
- We are still yet to issue an infringement notice for failure to comply with a GBO.

Operational Matters:

- Giant Rats Tail program continued in the North, Millmerran sighting has been treated and monitored.
- Planned burns in the Millmerran area for the control of invasive weeds and an opportunity to work with other stakeholders and improve officer training.
- Parthenium surveys have been continuing with minimal amounts being found to date, expected to find actively growing plants over the coming weeks due to warmer weather.
- 7 x new spray units are on Rangers vehicles and working very effectively.
- Biosecurity Mapping and Reporting (21-23) – 160742 – tender completed.
- Support Biosecurity Programs on Other Council Lands and Roads – 160743.
- Support Biosecurity Extension Program – 160744.
- Pest Management involvement in BPAC Boodua Cultural Burn field day.
- Pest Management staff attended a Locust training day held by DAF in Toowoomba.

1130 GENERAL BUSINESS**Baiting Program:**

- Uptake through the Toowoomba Regional Council Coordinated Wild Dog/Fox baiting programs have been on the decline since 2019. Both participation rates and numbers of baits supplied have declined considerably since the outbreak of Covid in 2019.
- The drought conditions during 2019 and 2020 was also a contributing factor to falling numbers.
- Other contributors to the decline in participation and uptake of baits includes the higher rate of city and peri urban landholders coming to the region, lack of knowledge and will and generational change (younger generations have a different view on wild dog management and the use of 1080).
- Other key stakeholders of the Biosecurity Advisory committee have also indicated they are seeing a downwards trend in participants in their coordinated baiting programs. Some other contributors to the decline are the placement of exclusion fencing around properties or several conjoined properties. This may be an effective way to manage wild dogs and landholders don't find the need to use 1080 baits.
- Many of the local baiting syndicates have gradually declined, which has created a breakdown of participation amongst baiting groups.

Future Options:

- Given it is becoming very clear there is a downwards trend for landholders to involve themselves in coordinated baiting programs and the Biosecurity Act holds landholders responsible for their own methods of wild dog management, many stakeholders are considering scaling back coordinated baiting programs or not running them at all.
- Licensed Contractors are becoming available to provide a baiting service similar to the traditional way Councils & State do. Therefore, landholders now have an option to engage a contractor to provide a baiting service on their property whenever it suits them.

- TRC offers registered baiters 20 free manufactured baits per year/property, however this has proven to be a minor incentive, as there are a fair percentage of participants that only bait once a year with the free baits which is ineffective wild dog management.
- After lengthy discussions with relevant stakeholders there doesn't appear to be any silver bullet solution to attracting a greater percentage of baiting participants. It has generally become accepted amongst industry that Landholders are gradually moving away from the traditional method of wild dog management involving 1080 baiting.
- TRC offers 4 coordinated baiting programs across the region per year. Ad hoc baiting as required, 20 free manufactured baits per year per property and additional manufactured baits at cost price. Perhaps it's time to review the real need for the programs to continue.

1200 LUNCH AND CLOSE

NEXT MEETING: 18 November 2022

General meetings will be held on the third Friday of the months of August, November, February and May (except for Local Government Election Years where the May meeting will be foregone to allow for establishment of the new Committee).

Action Items

Meeting Date	Action Officer	Action	Due Date	Action Date
20 May 22	Garry W	Email Carissa with details of a TRC contact with regard to road permits	30 May	27 May
20 May 22	Garry W	Garry to forward Angela Whitehall's contact details on to all attendees.	30 May	27 May