

REPORT TITLE | **Confirmation for Minutes**

MOTION

Moved by *Graham Cooke*, seconded by *Anthony McWatters*.

That the Minutes of the *Biosecurity Advisory Committee* dated *19 May 2023* be confirmed.

CARRIED

ORDER OF BUSINESS

DATE: Friday, 19 May 2023

TIME: 9.15am

VENUE: TRC Principal Depot – Nass Rd Charlton, Ground Floor Room G.46

ATTENDEES:

Mark Ready (TRC - Chair) Anthony McWatters (Com) Brett Castle (TRC) Brian Potter (SDRC) Craig Magnussen (DDMRB)	Dale Debel (QP&WS) Graham Cooke (LC) Leanne Stevens (SQL) Marc Leman (HLW)	Matt Love (TRC) Peter Tatham (Com) Sam Noller (Com) Steven Moore (LVRC)
APOLOGIES:		
Cr Nancy Sommerfield (TRC) Cr McMahon (TRC) Cr O’Shea (TRC) Belinda Callahan (Agforce) Brett Keys (SBRC)	Brett Roberts (QP&WS) Carissa Hallinan (WDRC) Garry Wilson (TRC) Kevin Jefferies (TRC) Janet Barker (Com) Nick Hauser (TRC)	Peter Sparshott (TMR) Rebecca Morrissy (GRC) Shane Lampard (SRC) Ted Vinson (DAF)
GUESTS:	Biodiversity Australia –	
Joshua Dyke – LGAQ Lead, Natural Resources & Environment	Presentation submitted via email from Daniel Joyce Ecology Project Coordinator presented by Mark Ready	

COUNCIL SUPPORT:

Mark Ready (TRC)

Kellie Casagrande (TRC)

Matt Love (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 Jarroair 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.

0917 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (24 February 2023)



DOCS-#10920076-v2
A-Biosecurity_Advisor

Moved: Graham Cooke

Seconded: Marc Leman

CARRIED

0905 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Letter of support

Letter of Support sent out from BAC to SQLandscapes for Darren’s data collection and program which is currently underway.

TRC Biosecurity Plan

TRC Biosecurity Plan was sent out to all members for comment and review, this plan is currently still under review and cannot progress further until all members have commented. Mark apologised for the delay but advised we need that feedback from the committee and could those who haven’t please send through to Mark.

Shane Lampard or Steve Moore presentation

Garry Wilson has been tasked with arranging this presentation and will be followed up upon Garry’s return.

0926 TRC UPDATE

Matt Love

This has been the highest number of participants in the baiting program for quite some years. Bryan Potter mentioned that SDRC are currently in the process of baiting and that figures trended average with the last round. Matt mentioned that the bounty’s collected this period were healthy. TRC are organising fire breaks for the month of June 2023.

C&PM BAITING 27th to 30th March 2023

Southern			
Day/Date	Manufactured Baits	Meat Baits (KG x 4)	Participants
Monday	120	23KG (92)	8
Tuesday	0	105.5KG (422)	8
Wednesday	60	45KG (180)	4
Thursday	408	27.75 (111)	17
Totals =	588 Doggone	201.25 kg (805 baits)	37

Northern			
Day/Date	Manufactured	Meat Baits (kg x 4)	Participants
Tuesday 8 th November	255 Doggone	130.75kg (523 baits)	29
Wednesday 9 th November	315 Doggone Plus 10 – 18/5/23	24kg (96 baits)	13
Totals =	580 Doggone	154.75kg (619 baits)	42

Grand Total =	Manufactured	Meat Baits (kg x 4)	Participants
	1168 Doggone	356kg (1424 baits)	79

Next round will run from 12 -15 June 2023.

Following this the next proposed Coordinated baiting program is 14 – 17 August 2023.

Bounty Collection:

Customers can drop into our baiting stations, only promoted via word of mouth at baiting stations.

15 March 2023 – Clifton & Goombungee - bounty claims received:

Clifton

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

Goombungee

- Scalps collected/accepted = 12
- Number of scalps rejected = 0
- Number of claimants = 3

Bounty Collection:

17 May 2023 –Millmerran & Yarraman - bounty claims received:

Millmerran

- Scalps collected/accepted = 28
- Number of scalps rejected = 29 Frozen, customer will drop them out to a baiting station.
- Number of claimants = 3

Yarraman

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

Grazing Permits

No permit applications

Biosecurity Plan:**2023/2024 Priority Surveillance Areas**

Our surveillance areas for next financial year are:

- **Cooyar**
- **Yarraman**
- **Cambooya**
- **Domville**
- **Jondaryan**



397924_CPM Pest Surveillance Overview_2014-24



397924_CPM Priority Surveillance Areas_FY2

The C&PM team are working closely with the C&M team in a collaborative nature. Craig Magnussen asked if Council has seen rabbits in these areas whilst conducting this surveillance program and if TRC can also work together in conjunction with the DDMRB. Graham Cooke asked about the process involving collecting of this data, as to what weeds do TRC currently target? Matt advised that previously the equipment Council had limited what TRC could target, but now the vehicles are better equipped and larger and are able to carry more, therefore they are now suitable to target all variants of weeds and treat as the surveillance process progresses.

Operational Matters:

- Mechanical removal of restricted matter has occurred in Mt Peel (Westbrook) and Margaret Lloyd (Hampton).
- Fire Permits are in place for the Millmerran Area to control of Mother of Millions & Harissa Cactus.
- Capital work on the Wild Dog check fence project is nearly complete in the Bringalilly area. Total cost expense for 22/23 is 295K, this covered earthworks for erosion control and 12km of new fencing from chainage 1 to 12.
- Parthenium has only been found in low numbers this year.
- Currently the Pest Management team is focusing on Mother of Millions.

Biodiversity Presentation – Biosecurity Matter Monitoring Dashboard

This presentation was conducted by Mark Ready on behalf of Biodiversity Australia as Daniel Joyce Ecology Project Coordinator was unable to attend. Mark navigated the committee through this dashboard platform and explained that this platform provides a live feed from the field as well as progress indicators and dynamic filters.

Mark explained that this is a very good start to this dashboard and intends to share this information with neighbouring Council's providing security can be met, he also explained that this survey is conducted once during the summer and twice over the winter periods. However, it was noted that there are gaps within the road network and refinement needs to be conducted with the service provider. Steve Moore advised that LVRC also conducts mapping and agreed with the sharing of information would be of benefit.

Biodiversity weeds report and data attached.



ESQ5469-BEC-REP-
Toowoomba LGA Bios



ESQ5469-BEC-REP-
Toowoomba LGA Bios

0950 MORNING TEA**1020 GUEST PRESENTER - LGAQ – Joshua Dyke – Review into the DDMRB Fence Annual Payment Calculation Methodology**

Josh presented to the Committee the DDMRBF – Funding arrangements which included the 2022/2023 Annual Report (DDMRB) and the Annual Payment Review, Josh explained that the Options Report principles were to be **Fair, Transparent and Repeatable**. The Future management options was based on a modelled funding increase on all funding methodology options of 15%.

These Funding methodology options had 4 options being:

Funding Option 1 – Calculation of funding requirements based on the value of vegetable and hay production across the contributing councils.

Funding Option 2 – A two-part funding methodology

- a) Distribution of gross value of vegetable and hay production
- b) Distribution of control and compliance activities undertaken (i.e., landholder visits)

Funding Option 3 – A hybrid approach, whereby funding allocations across the councils are calculated based on an equal weighting of:

- a) Current funding arrangements
- b) Distribution of gross value of vegetable and hay production

Funding Option 4 – An alternative hybrid approach, whereby funding allocations across the councils are calculated based on an equal weighting of:

- a) The distance of fence running through each LGA
- b) Proportion of area at risk of rabbit infestation
- c) LGA rate base
- d) Gross value of agricultural production

Joshua is requesting feedback from the DDMRB Local Government areas regarding the options report, he asked that this feedback be submitted by COB 16 June 2023 to Joshua_Dyke@lgaq.asn.au.

Joshua explained that the LQAG will then collate all these responses to be provided to the Minister from DAF to review and decide Council's needs. He asked that we please bear in mind that we are going through an election and that there may be a delay in receiving a response from LQAG.

Joshua advised that it is a 50% co-contribution by State Government as well and that the cost to run this project determines how much we are spending as it is not as great, based on previous modelling. LGAQ is trying to determine a transparent model and making it fair for everyone. Mark Ready advised that TRC will not be able to pass this through as a Council resolution and TRC will be opting as a response from the CEO instead as the time frame for a resolution is not viable.

Joshua advised that he could share his presentation to help present this to all Council's, attached a copy of the presentation.



DDMRB_Review into
the Annual Calculator

Please Note: as advised by Craig Magnussen DDMRB via email on the 3 July 2023 regarding Josh's presentation.

Josh stated that the DDMRB maintains 28 camps. This is not the case – DDMRB have 8 camp huts in total and one transportable donga.

Updates on Biosecurity

Joshua shared that Biosecurity Commons is a website readily available and that commons is a ground-breaking project that will deliver a cloud-based decision-support platform for modelling and analysing biosecurity risk and response and access is free and available now.

<https://www.biosecuritycommons.org.au/>

State Government Department species on crown land can be identified and that it must be State land, advised that water ways are difficult and high-level principals are working together. Joshua advised that he attended a Pest Management meeting last month which had set out a list of principles which

were adopted from his last meeting and that he is working with Local Governments in collaboration with crown land, also suggested that if any Local Governments interested to please inform him.

Feral Pig Funding – has a special four rounds across the State to drive feral pig activity it is a small operational budget for baiting and workshops and if you are interested to start having these discussions and it will be framed around foot and mouth disease.

African swine fever advised fewer Local Governments funding with only two Local Governments receiving this funding. One Local Government area is in the process of testing, then these options will be given to all Local Governments. SQL Landscapes is funded using pig collars and it is anticipated that a Local Government Aerial control program will be up and running soon.

The Federal budget feral pig action plan ends this FY and we are advocating a new rabbit project, awaiting an announcement. Joshua explained the 1080 changes with Qld Health and how they are assisting Local Governments. He advised that aerial baiting can now be done with landholders getting involved by doing their own injecting provided they are supervised by a registered 1080 officer. Land holders can now operate their own coordinate baiting syndicates if they undertake the same training as our 1080 officers and we can list the landholders, they too can store the products.

Mark thanked Joshua for presentation.

1100 PARTNER UPDATES

Ted Vinson

Was an apology, but provided a report on Regional Round up of BQ Activities for Pest Management

South Region IP&A Updates TRC Biosecurity Advisory Committee Meeting 19 May 2023

- Staff continue to work with Local Governments on maintaining biological control options for cactus in the Southwest.
- Staff continue to work with local government on biosecurity plans.
- Staff working with Western Downs on the Pest and Weed Symposium for Dalby later in the year.
- Compliance activities continue with Toowoomba and Maranoa regions.
- Working with DDMRB field staff on GBO and general biosecurity.

Mark Leman:

Healthy Land & Water update

- Currently running a Project funded under the FDF- Future Drought Fund to demonstrate and promote best practices to build drought resilience in SEQ.
 - Increase land managers capacity to trail and adopt to sustainable land management practices.
 - Strengthen collaborative network between farmers and land managers to support increasing adoption of LM practices.
 - Demonstrate the effectiveness of LMP.
 - Called for EOI from landholders to participate.
- Currently running a new project to improve the condition of landscapes resilience through increased adoption of sustainable practice funded through the Qld Govt/Dept Resources.

- Improve the landscape resilience and native vegetation condition at scale.
- Address key threats to land condition and native vegetation identified in the SEQ NRMP including:
 - Declining pasture condition
 - Soil health
 - Invasive exotic weeds
 - Inappropriate fire management regimes
- We called for EOI from landholders to participate.
- Activities
 - Past 4 months
 - 3 x Horse management workshops in Peaks Crossing, Redlands-Brisbane and Pine rivers with over 100 attendees
 - 1 x Fire Management workshop/Esk
 - 2 x Stocktake (balancing supply and demand) workshop with DAF to provide practical training to landholders to balance available pasture feed with animal demands/Toogoolawah/Boonah
 - Other pasture management workshops
 - Future-June/July
 - We are planning 2 x Carbon Farming Workshop to explore the opportunity for landholders to secure alternative income and to make improvement in natural capital. Location for 1 x workshop will be Crows Nest. TBA
 - 1x erosion control/soil conservation field day at Mt Forbes
 - SWIF training in Toowoomba/LCAT & VEGCAT
 - Emu Creek Field Day/Bus Tour/Saturday 27th May (HLW attending), Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group is holding a bus tour around the catchment to look at the diverse land types, discuss local landcare issues, learn more about past and current projects and plan future activities.



Biosecurity meeting
HLW Activity updateV:

- Marc advised to check out the presentation by Bruce Lord on grass identification of natives and introduced species, which is captured on video via Facebook or YouTube, to landholders.
- He also suggested to click on the link of the potential biological control of the weed/fleabane: <https://youtu.be/ve3X-waCVC0>

Anthony McWatters:

- Still blessed by the weather extending our good seasons and (thus far) soft winters.
- Seasons of plenty mean plenty of invasive pest plants, pest animals and parasites (cattle ticks problematic this year).
- I appreciate the big picture view that this committee addresses and the excellent initiatives and management systems that act every day. Thank you.
- Explosion of growth of Lantana in rougher forest and scrub country is disheartening for many landholders who have been diligent and spent a lot of time and money over the years - we are not keeping up with it.
- One of our local Landcare Groups has had an excellent program running with TRC in recent years to support landholders who volunteer to spray Lantana (and other target species) on public land

and roadsides (mostly secondary and tertiary roads/tracks). TRC grants have allowed some very good progress and excellent results reducing weeds in these areas. The Landcare Group has decided to decline the grant offer for purchasing chemicals this year due to TRC compliance requirements and so the program will cease. I offer this as information, not to try and solve the specific problem (I am a member of that Group, but I am not on the committee and do not speak for the group). Woody weed management in many of the grazing landscapes is increasingly unsustainable, ineffective and environmentally questionable. TRC cannot keep up either. In this environment I see opportunities missed here and some bad feelings among the very people we rely on and who know what they are doing (safely). Risk aversion and undue bureaucratic processes (impractical and costly) seem to have spoiled an effective partnership here. I also have the same concern when it comes to roadside burns (there are very few and there needs to be many), roadside maintenance by landholders and roadside/public land grazing. These things seem to be getting harder and harder to do with the compliance 'threat' ever present in the interactions between TRC and the community who are willing to give of their time and resources to reduce infestations of pest plants and lower fire risk.

Mark advised there is an audit of our Grants system and that in the past it has been lacking and that TRC might have other ways around it to include things like Traffic Management plans, as there has been a level of overaction. He also acknowledged that we do need to work together, with a resolution, as TRC does want to see it progress.

Marc Lehman noted for the minutes that he too supports this.

Sam Noller:

- Increased feral pig and dog numbers over the past few months.
- Continual trapping and plans to arrange another aerial shoot in the coming months.
- Parthenium has been positively identified on the property, site has been sprayed and will be continually monitored.
- Ongoing works plucking boxthorn across the property.
- Still short staffed but doing what we can to combat the weeds.

Craig Magnussen:

Craig addressed the meeting about his report for the period commencing 27 February to 16 May 2023 this report covered Compliance Activities, the Rabbit Barrier Fence, Board Activities and Governance, as well as showing the committee a map of the TRC rabbit inspections undertaken during this period. Report attached.



DDMRB Report - 19
May 2023 TRC BAC.pc

Bryan Potter:

- Coordinated wild dog ground baiting 8 -10 March and currently running 17 – 19 May round.
- Aerial baiting 9 - 10 May, 410 km bait lines, approx. 14000 manufactured baits
- Wild Dog bounties numbers continue to increase, for the financial year to date \$30,000 has been paid out for bounties requiring budget extension.
- Exclusion fencing project in SDRC saw works continue across the region, noting the Pikes Creek Electric Cluster is complete, other conventional clusters are on average 85% complete and 3 individual clusters scheduled for completion June 2023.

- Cluster fence participants meet to evaluate the QFPI funding associated with the project. Contractors were engaged by DAF and sought feedback from cluster fence participants in respect to overall project management, i.e., what worked, what didn't work. What could be done better, much discussion regarding price increases for construction and materials being in the order of 50%, (\$15000 to \$23000/km for dog specification) and expressed interest in further funding options.
- Rabbit burrow excavation and ripping has occurred and continues on SDRC roads in the southern area of the region, including burning of timber stacks and windrows.
- Current weed program focusing on lantana and blackberry prior to the onset of colder conditions, stem injection of tree Pear work to commence in the cooler months.

Leanne Stevens:

- Natural Resource Recovery Program launched in the Traprock, Mitchell, and Warrego areas.
- African Swine Fever project proposal submitted to undertake feral pig monitoring in the Southern Downs, Western Downs and Toowoomba Regional Council areas, awaiting news on the outcome.
- SQ Landscapes recently shot a short washdown video. Once released they advised they will share the link to the video for wider sharing through networks.

Matt Love advised that we could display a flyer with a QR code that links up to the video, Matt advised if any training could also be filmed with a QR link as well and asked the same from Marc Lehman's team. Matt discussed that this could also be used at local shows when TRC take their display trailers.

Steven Moore:

- 2022-24 Surveillance Program – 19 of the 37 selected surveyed for Giant Rats Tail Grasses. An additional 13 properties attended to outside the GRT surveillance grid.
- We have proposed funding for the 2023-24 financial year to acquire a 2.5 metre weed wiper to add to our community spray trailer program to assist the public in the control of Giant Rats Tail Grasses in the absence of Fluproponate.
- Updates on the completion of the LVRC Giant Rats Tail Grass Fact Sheet which outlines LVRCs approach in focussing on individual circumstances based on the immediate risk and reasonable and practical approaches for the prevention of the spread of the weed. Current drafting of the LVRC Fireweed Fact Sheet with completion by June 2023.
- Reports of healthy numbers of wild dogs in the area and our busiest month for wild dog requests of 9 and 23 scalps bounty claims.

Graham Cooke

- Feral pig numbers growing due to good conditions, food, water, cover.
- Dogs present, mainly scattered, several trapped/shot in NW corner of TRC, near boundary with WDRC.
- Some reports of fireweed, concern if season conditions remain favourable and uncertainty with identification of native versus introduced.
- Fleabane & herbicide resistance, mixed feelings, some discussion around pest or asset, possible sign of soil deficiency being corrected.
- Boxthorn spread obviously due to improved ground cover and better seasonal conditions.
- Giant rats tail grass, native varieties versus pest species, recent example of a possible sighting & query at a local field day.
- Deer – no sightings away from the range.
- Rabbits – few only in isolated areas, numbers not increasing.

Dale Debel:

- Deongwer State Forest deer monitoring program that backs onto Cressbrook Dam is up and running.
- A parthenium spray program at Bringalilly has just been completed.
- We recently assisted the Southern Downs Regional Council with their 1080 aerial baiting program by putting up signs and notifying neighbours on estates.
- We have been very busy with prescribed burns and 1 of our high priority burns this year have Mother of Millions of infestations and we are hoping to have a follow up spray program put in place after the fire.

Graham Cooke left the meeting at 11.00am

Sam Noller left the meeting at 11:08am

11:41 LUNCH AND CLOSE

NEXT MEETING: 18 August 2023 – 9.00am

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).

Mark Ready advised after our next meeting scheduled on the 18 August 2023 there will be 2 more meetings to follow with the current members as there is a Local Government Election in May 2024 they are as follows:

- **17 November 2023**
- **16 February 2024**

Action Items

Meeting Date	Action Officer	Action	Due Date	Action Date
19 May 2023	Mark Ready	TRC Biosecurity Plan to be reviewed next BAC meeting. Plan emailed out to members awaiting feedback from members who haven't responded.		
19 May 2023	Garry Wilson	Somerset Council – Shane or Steve to present to the committee a presentation – Garry to follow up upon his return.		