

REPORT TITLE | **Confirmation for Minutes**

MOTION

Moved by *Graham Cooke*, seconded by *Matthew Warren*

That the Minutes of the *Biosecurity Advisory Committee* dated *21 August 2020* be confirmed.

CARRIED

ORDER OF BUSINESS

DATE: 21 August 2020

OPENED: 9:00am

VENUE: Oakey Community Centre, Campbell Street, Oakey QLD 4401

PRESENT (as per sign on sheet):

Cr. Nancy Sommerfield (TRC)

Mark Ready TRC

Nick Hauser (TRC)

Bruce Lord (HLW)

Anthony McWatters (Com)

Carisa Hallinan (WDRC)

Denise Whyte (SBRC)

Graham Cooke (LCR)

Holly Hosie (SQL)

Ian Stevenson (DDMRB)

Lesley Burgess (TRC)

Cr James O'Shea (TRC)

Micheal Condren (TRC)

Janet Barker (Com)

John Cuskelly (DAF)

Matthew Parker (Com)

Matthew Warren (SDRC)

Peter Sparshott (TMR)

Peter Tatham (Com)

Steven Moore (LVRC)

Adam Currie (TMR)

Andrew Sinnamon (Agforce)

APOLOGIES:

Cr Tim McMahon (TRC)

Steve Brennan (SRC)

Nathan Willis (QPWS)

Belinda Callahan (Agforce)

Rebecca Morrissy (GRC)

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (21 Feb 2020)

Moved: Graham Cooke

Seconded: Ian Stevenson

CARRIED

Cr Sommerfield welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that she is looking forward to these Advisory Committee meetings in order to drive initiatives around the region and to get better outcomes in relation to pest and weed management. Council has had an active focus especially over the past six years.

INTRODUCTIONS

Cr Nancy Sommerfield

I have been on Council since 2012 and have had a keen interest in pest management since that time. I am the owner of a rural property, so I have on the ground experience.

Peter Sparshott – Transport & Main Roads (TMR)

Environmental Officer within the department on the road reserves.

Adam Currie – Transport & Main Roads (TMR)

I am the Manager for technical services which includes environment, I am here with Peter today to get a better understanding of what these meetings cover.

Cr James O'Shea – Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC)

This is my second term as a Councillor within the environment & community portfolio. Biosecurity falls into that and I have a keen interest. Cr Tim McMahon who unfortunately was an apology today sits in this portfolio as well.

Denise Whyte - South Burnett Regional Council (SBRC)

Coordinator for Council. I have been part of the Toowoomba Biosecurity meeting group for the past three years.

Anthony McWatters – Community Member (Com)

I live in scrub & forest country to the north of Haden. I am very interested in this committee in particularly weeds, wild dogs and feral pigs.

Ian Stevenson - Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board (DDMRB)

CEO for the Board. I have attended a number of these meetings in the past. The rabbit board is responsible for 555 km of fence mainly along the NSW and Qld border and we also assist with compliance issues with rabbits on properties.

John Cuskelly - Biosecurity Qld Agriculture Department (BQ)

I work out of the Dalby Office, I have been involved with a few local government committees and I am pleased to be here.

Carissa Callinan – Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC)

Coordinator for Council. I am looking forward to cross-regional partnerships.

Holly Hosie – Southern Queensland Landscapes (SQL)

SQL are the new Regional Natural Resources Management group that cover 3 regional bodies Condamine Alliance, QMDC and South West Qld. I head up a number of different projects one is Brigalow and the other one is the Natural Grassland. I have a high focus on invasive species and biodiversity.

Janet Barker – New Community Representative (Com)

Thank you for the invitation, I previously worked in biosecurity working for Qld Murray Darling Committee but I am here as a resident and rate payer of Toowoomba Shire. I live on a rural block between Cambooya and Felton and do some consulting and project work. Relevant to this region are coordinating feral pig and wild dog projects for Cambooya Landcare and I am the Vice President for the Weed Society of Qld, we published the Weeds of Southern Qld Book and I manage the ongoing sales of those.

Andrew Sinnamon – Agforce

Regional Manager for Agforce. I am standing in as proxy for Belinda Callahan as she was unable to make it today. Belinda is our biosecurity representative for this region.

Stephen Warren – Lockyer Valley Regional Council (LVRC)

Acting Coordinator for Community and Wellbeing. I am the senior Pest Management Officer dealing with weeds, pests and compliance.

Graham Cook – Landcare Representative (LCR)

I am a landholder with a property north of Jondaryan. I am involved with both regional and local landcare bodies and I am their representative on this Biosecurity Committee.

Matt Parker – Community Representative (Com)

I represent New Hope looking to get more information about pests and weeds, wild dogs and feral pigs.

Peter Tatham – Community Representative (Com)

Thank you to TRC for inviting me to join this committee. I have a small block on Crows Nest Road, we have angora goats, over the years we have had a problem with wild dogs and weeds.

Bruce Lord – Healthy Land & Water (HLW)

A regional NR body to the east and I am the regional Ag & Landcare facilitator that manage a number of Ag projects.

Micheal Condren – TRC Manager Parks & Recreation Services

With Mark **Error! Bookmark not defined.** Ready, Garry Wilson and team I oversee the Conservation & Pest Management area. Council has invested significant resources to pest management in recent years and we are hoping to continue to have that focus to achieve great things.

Nick Hauser – TRC General Manager for Environment & Community Services

Parks & Recreation is part of my portfolio in which pest management sits. I am here this morning to say hello and to thank you all for being part of this committee and to wish you the best of luck going forward over the next four years.

Garry Wilson - Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC)

Coordinator for Pest Management. We have eight on the ground rangers and two pest management officers. I welcome the old members and new and look forward to working with you all.

Lesley Burgess – Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC)

Administration Officer for Conservation & Pest Management and this is my last meeting.

Mark Ready – Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC)

Principal for Conservation & Pest Management (C&PM). This is our third deliberation of this committee; I welcome everyone, and I very much appreciate everyone's contribution to these meetings. I am looking to see how we can use your expertise collectively. Lesley has been working for C&PM for the last 12 months and is moving onto our procurement team. Kirsty

Harrison will be returning to C&PM to replace Lesley and Kirsty will be joining us for our next meeting. Thank you Lesley for helping over the past 4 meetings and for setting up today.

Cr Nancy Sommerfield – Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC)

Pest management started from scratch in 2012 and there was not a lot of focus on it in the beginning, and we always felt that was one of the many liabilities that we ended up with after the amalgamation. There was a lot of positives and also negatives but pest management was one of those that got left behind. Over the years a lot of work has been done through this advisory committee but also through Mark's leadership getting improved staffing and equipment to try and get better outcomes. Anyone driving around the region will see that there has been a lot of improvements, but we are still aware that we are on a journey and that we still have a lot more to do. We are hoping with this new committee and new fresh blood we will continue to move on a positive pathway in getting good outcomes for our pest and weed management.

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Grassland Reserve Project - Mark to follow up with Holly regarding the funding available on public lands. Mark advised that they never did manage to catch up.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mark had an apology from Margo Ross Smith who is the Volunteer Management Officer for Council. Margo was going to talk to us today about volunteer registrations, these apply to those agencies that are not covered by their own work cover insurances. Especially for the community members, in order for you to be covered by a form of insurance when attending our meetings Council does require that you fill out the Volunteer forms.

MEMBER UPDATES

Peter Sparshott (TMR)



TMR Spreadsheet

1. TMR's role is to have input into larger community type activities, but primarily we talk about the works that we undertake in the road reserves, largely pest weed control.
2. A spreadsheet was handed out which shows an overview of the works for Toowoomba region that TMR are planning for this financial year. TMR currently look after four regional councils. The spreadsheet just gives a SOW for this financial year and a summary of what we are planning to do. In the Toowoomba region it is Council that delivers the program and carries out the works, we also have other entities to deliver some of those works. Mark advised that TRC normally engage contractors to do the works so that we are not relying on our own staff.
3. The funding that TMR has for this financial year was not met by the bids put in by the regional councils. We have some extra funds that we intend to do some additional works. Last year we did a drone project in the Southern Downs region.

Denise Whyte - (SBRC)

1. One of the big responsibilities that we have at the moment is a Hudson Pear outbreak. This was a species that has not been detected in our region before, so it is a big priority

for us. We are pleased that we were able to pick that detection up during our routine mother-of-millions compliance inspections on private properties. We have invested most of our groundworks and a lot of our weed management time to Hudson pear surveillance. Infestation were found on 80 properties and it is now down to four. We just completed that surveillance program over the last couple of weeks. In conjunction with the landholders and hopefully some of our neighbouring councils, we are looking at doing more surveillance programs, coordinated treatment programs with landholders and educational field days and social media coverages in order to raise awareness.

2. We have had some good success with regard to a Cabomba outbreak, another species that has not been detected in our region for the past two years, we managed to contain that to one property and we have not subsequently found anymore.
3. We obtained funding through the Combating Pest, Weed and Community Drought Funding program, so we will be rolling out some honey locust survey treatment on the Barambah and Stuart Rivers, and African Boxthorn field days for our landholders in Wondai and Ironpot.
4. We will also be assisting in helping to establish some feral animal control groups, from landholders that are keen to come together to form partnership and in developing some action plans for those groups. <https://wbbroc.org.au/ironpot-wild-dog-trapping-syndicate/>
5. We are starting to do Hudson pear coordinated treatment programs and any staff that would benefit from this weed program are welcome to come along.

Anthony McWatters – (Com)

1. From the private landholder view point I have a lot of problems with invasive weeds and animals I am still learning a lot from the cycle of these weeds. I am keen on compliance and attacking infestations but when you have so many problems in the environment, you just need to have a long-term view with it and try to be more harmonious with nature, that is what I am leaning towards now. I am interested in using fire and the more natural ways.

Ian Stevenson (DDMR)

1. Rabbit Board has 6 directors that are appointed by the minister, the minister will advise over the next couple of weeks who the new Board will be.
2. One of the major projects that that we had last year was we lost 27km of fencing due to the fires along the Qld border. It took a long time to get contractors in to remove the trees off the fence. Reinstating of the fence was not so much to make it rabbit proof but to make it stock proof, due to the cattle entering national parks. The fence must now be replaced as the fires burnt the galvanising off the wire netting it will fall a part due to rust. We have received several quotes from contractors and next week we will have our final board meeting to decide which quote we are going to accept. The project will probably take about a year to complete.
3. One of the major areas to be surveyed is the Northern Downs Rocky Valley to create a buffer zone which will be 6km wide and 35km long to stop the rabbits coming in from the Somerset area.
4. During the year we have done 154 inspections on properties and 164 breeding sites which could produce 890 off-spring a month. In the Southern Downs area, we have been doing a lot of work since February mainly in Delveen by burning log piles and clearing breeding sites. They found 1866 breeding sites across 45 properties and they could produce off-spring of 10,500 per month that how fast the rabbit numbers can grow. We are trying to concentrate on areas where there are a lot of rabbits in order to reduce numbers. Most of

the rabbit breeding sites are man-made such as shipping containers, logs on the ground a good clean up would reduce the rabbit numbers considerable.

John Cuskelly – (BQ)

1. A concern for Qld Health is the process with regards to the legislation for 1080 a lot of the changes have been postponed at the moment.
2. One of the big things for us is the exclusion fencing for wild dog control and by our estimations there has been 20,000km of exclusion fence put up in an area roughly from the Southern Downs to Whitten in the last 7 years, around 50% of that has been subsidised by government grants through State & Federal. The other 50% is being privately funded, the main cost falls on the landholder so the goal is more about economic development than Biosecurity.
3. Biosecurity and how everyone has a biosecurity obligation - should we not be saying that everyone benefits from biosecurity, those things need to be tied together a bit better. We need to talk more about the benefits which includes environment, economic and social aspects.
4. We presently have a partnership with the University of Qld in mimosa research.
5. A high-risk pathway is about new invasives coming into the area and how we target those priority pathways. An example of that is tropical soda-apple which is in the northern rivers of NSW. The fruit is highly palatable for livestock, and the seed is very viable after it has passed through the cattle. Where cattle have been brought up from that area into feedlots and abattoirs, they have found this tropical soda-apple growing, so Biosecurity Qld need to get better at identifying those pathways.

Cr James O'Shea (TRC)

1. Cr O'Shea talked about the partnerships that Council are trying to develop in relation to the use of fire and learning more about burns having spoken with the people in Gummingurru in this regard. We have had a difficult season with burns due to rain but also the conversation has come up as to how it is done. Mark advised that Council is definitely interested in engaging with traditional burning practices through the Bunya People Aboriginal Corporation they are getting more involved with burning now and are working with national parks, however, they have very limited capacity. From Council's point of view, we are not looking for someone to take over our burning program, so burning is always Council's responsibility, but we are looking to engage a group especially around cultural significant sites. We are on the verge of signing an agreement with BPAC in relation to managing and maintaining the grasslands on Tabletop Bushland Reserve. There is certainly a greater community interest in traditional burning practices and how that maybe used on individual lands. Perhaps that is something we can take to the community so that individual landholders can have access to that information and some sort of training and how to apply it in order to get good outcomes.

Carissa Callinan – (WDRC)

1. WDRC have been doing burns across the region for quite a few years now for weed control. We are currently also working with the Murray Rangers on the Bunyas. A proposal will be made to Council in order to get some sort of training and operational relationship with our local brigades as we cannot do all the work needed ourselves.
2. We are continuing to work with our pest management groups they have a strong feral pig focus and we are also now looking at other pests and weeds.
3. We are excited with our pest monitoring program. The cameras have now been out there for about 18 months, and our data has certainly been a great help. We are utilising that

information to direct resources and are now able to explain to Council why we are doing that. We have maps across the whole of the Western Downs showing where our hotspots are for wild dogs and feral pigs. We are using A.I technology to search through a huge number of photos, the program is 99% accurate in picking out a feral animal. The exclusion fencing is directing dogs and we are seeing a lot of movement, we are currently in the process of trying to update our maps of those exclusion fences.

4. Through Community Combating Grants funding received we will be putting out an EOI for two more wild dog trappers across the region, currently we have three. We are now going to add an additional baiting program to our calendar in December, we currently bait in May and September. Our data is showing the dogs are most active in December. The trappers are paid a numeration and they also received the bounty of \$100.
5. Aerial Shoots Project Pest Groups now coordinate their own aerial shoots, they have seen the advantages, we run three aerial shoots per year. A group shoot when we first started this program would be in excessive of 1000 pigs where now it is at the 500 numbers, we also want to adopt this process with the wild dogs.

Holly Hosie (SQL)

1. We have been quite active in the fire space through Victor Steffensen, we ran a few events at the start of the year, and the plan was for him to provide the overall clearing with cultural burning. But then Covid changed everything so we are just getting back on track with that. We have had Victor down a couple of times since then, he has also been working one-on-one with landholders to implement burns on private properties. Landholders have expressed interest through some of our priority areas around Millmerran.
2. We have also been working with the Bunya Peoples' Aboriginal Corporation (BPAC) to work with broader groups of landholders, they are giving advice on how burns should take place in the landscape and also advising of the right times. BPAC are also assisting those landholders to start implementing those practices especially if their confidence is not quite there. Victor will be running a very small invitation only field day at Mount Tyson and that will be looking at traditional burning practices to manage around some of those more sensitive spots with a focus on invasive species.
3. We have also been working with Goondiwindi RC in seeing whether there is a place for traditional burning practices across some of their reserves for their landholders. Next week we have a fire biodiversity consortium going out to Millmerran we have had some landholders worried with the wild fires that happened last Christmas and how they are going to manage things going forward.
4. SQL were out doing some property visits a while ago and we came across a property that had GRT grass, we were quick in identifying and notifying Council and Biosecurity Qld. The response was rapid between Council, Biosecurity Qld and SQL, we went out and snipped off the heads of the GRT and then burnt it. We then followed up with assistance to that landholder to spray, so I would really like to thank Peter Cremasco of TRC and Craig Hunter of Biosecurity Qld in addressing that issue very quickly. The next thing we need to do is to work with the neighbouring landholders in an awareness campaign on how to identify that grass so if they do have it on their property, they can identify it and then seek assistance in they need it.
5. I will be working with BPAC on the grassland reserves in the Bowenville area. The grassland project is still running, and a lot of those grasslands are on roadsides or public lands. We are interested in working with all different agencies on how we can best manage those to improve the system. This program will run for a few years we started the process

with BPAC and we are really keen to continue with that; any opportunity where we can work together will be very valuable.

6. Another thing we have been looking into is the use of A.I Tech to survey for weeds infestations this is something that Goondiwindi is trialling with different cactuses and as that progresses, I will report back.

Janet Barker (Com)

1. To give you an update on the Cambooya aerial feral pig control happening next Wednesday in the Felton area; they have held a number of aerial controls over the last seven years which started out on 10000 hectares and now covers about 35000 hectares. Pig kill numbers eight years ago were in the 500's, in the last shoot 50 feral pigs were killed, about 100 landholders took part in that shoot. Landholders have horticulture, livestock properties, race horses, piggeries, chook farms the diversity of production in that area is huge and a lot of people have objections to any form of coordinated control so the take up of baiting in the area is dismal, but it has been a really big achievement to get over a 100 landholders to agree to participate in aerial control. I think that feral pigs are now off the radar for people, but wild dogs are becoming an issue. The manager at Felton feedlot two days ago advised that he has shot 32 wild dogs since Christmas and he was not looking for them, and this is not even a dog area. Funding of those aerial shoots –
 - a. the first two were fully privately funded by about 8-10 landholders
 - b. the second two were 50/50 funded between government and private landholders.
 - c. The fourth and final shoot will be a state funded project.

Now we have been able to get those landholders to work together our next big issue we will be working on is Lantana.

2. I personally have an interest in biosecurity and my reasoning for coming onto this group was to see how that pans across the various aspects of Council and the managing of recreational reserves. When I drive into Toowoomba either on the Gore Highway or New England Highway weeds are just abundant particularly on the entrance to the New England Highway, Johnstone grass and Lantana. This is the picture that we painting to people who are coming to visit or people that live here that this is the expectation of what is okay. I know there are so many challenges with roadside management but as a landholder I feel that this is one of our downfalls, where we are not really presenting that biosecurity is everyone's business and responsibility, I would love to see a little more effort especially within 5km around the city zone.

Andrew Sinnamon (Agforce)

1. In January I sat on the Sunflower Biosecurity Committee where we helped around the Felton area to try to promote community awareness about biosecurity when visiting sunflower areas. However, due to Covid preventing travel it was not an issue. Coming into the next season we have the groundwork in place to try and relay the information to the tourists, that is ongoing work and TRC is assisting.
2. Cattle ticks have been an on-going issue recently. Agforce recently had a webinar with producers, government, truck drivers and livestock agents outlining everyone's responsibilities. The outcome of that meeting was highlighting the abattoir guidelines around exactly how we meet compliance and ensuring that everyone is aware of their obligations. In that –
 - the producer needs to ask the truck driver to specify the route taken as infected cattle need to take a specific route
 - the livestock agents need to be aware of what is occurring and the treatment the animals have received

3. Army worm cases in Bundaberg have been confirmed, we have not seen anything in our region.
4. Fire Ants, we are suggesting that TRC engage with a fire ant contact and with Biosecurity Qld due to outbreak in Lockyer Valley and Brisbane, we need to keep an eye on it.
5. There is a Harissa Cactus biocontrol research project being conducted in the Goondiwindi shire whereby an insect is used to feed on the cactus in order to kill it which is a more natural way of control.

Steven Moore (LVRC)

1. LVRC is currently going through a restructure so there has been a lot of changes and the environment portfolio has been taken away from us. We are still providing our current services which is our herbicide subsidy and spray trailer program.
2. We will hopefully have our Biosecurity Plan completed by December; our emphasis will be around interaction with landholders and with wild dogs and feral pigs. We will focus on certain areas with coordinated trapping / baiting programs and collecting more specific data with surveillance. A lot of things are changing in our area and it is all about making this happen in a very short period of time.

Graham Cooke (LCR)

1. With regards to wild dogs and feral pigs our feedback is generally that the numbers are down. There is a lot of weekend hunting of pigs. As we have come out of two very dry years the numbers are greatly reduced and they have not gained numbers as yet.
2. I was speaking to a landholder last week and he advised that he has problems with foxes attacking his baby goats. Our regional baiting program helps to take out the foxes as well.
3. The African Boxthorn out in the paddocks is certainly looking very healthy at the moment and spraying at this stage would be very effective.

Matt Parker (Com)

1. Acland Pastoral has about 1200 acres of African Boxthorn, so we are going to start focusing on that again with mechanical removal.
2. We have also been in touch with CSIRO who are looking into doing a biological control study with the African Boxthorn at Acland Pastoral. Biological control offers promise as a control method and sustainable method of control.
3. Wild dogs - our cattle are starting to calf so we will organise a trapper again, last year we got about 20 dogs in a 4-month period.
4. We have a fair amount of darling-pea not fatal for cattle, but it is for horses, although it can make cattle infertile, we are looking to find a way to eliminate it.

Peter Tatham (Com)

1. I have been involved in a study by Darryl Low Chow of Griffith University on the management of pest and diseases in a peri-urban environment. I am trying to run a commercial operation with angora goats, but I am having wild dog problems. Having a wild dog problem in a peri-urban area has its issues due to being unable to bait. A new bait coming out PAPP that might be a more acceptable way of managing the wild dogs but being in a peri-urban area I cannot use that bait.
2. I have completed a holistic farm management course; people do not understand what holistic farm management is. It's a decision framework that was developed by the military, if you have a problem you put it through a number of tests and a question you need to ask is, am I dealing with the root cause of the problem. I think the problem is that when it comes to weeding there is no biodiversity on our soils, so I do not think we are managing

our lands particularly well. Burning is certainly a tool that we use holistically in farm management but the problem with burning is that you destroy biodiversity on the ground.

Bruce Lord (HLW)

1. SEQ are continuing to fund a long-term riparian weed program focusing on vine weeds in the South East Qld catchments, we still have a long way to go. There are significant kilometres along all our mainstream waterways that have been targeted. We are always boosting up the biocontrol element to get as many bugs as we can into those tributaries so looking to get more bugs up towards Emu Creek.
2. Somerset was successful in getting a weeds and pests grant and we are helping them deliver the Lantana herbicide subsidy component of it.
3. We have been doing rabbit control and some spraying of parthenium around Kilcoy on an old infestation and also some roadside work as well.
4. Fireweed is spreading throughout South East Qld and there is a fair bit of work in those areas which we are trying to manage.
5. Most of my work is in the Ag Programs we still do a lot of property planning as a delivery mechanism. Our program is mainly capacity building for landholders, a lot of that property management is around the understanding and awareness of weeds and pests. We deliver workshops and information nights and also follow up planning workshops.

Cr Nancy mentioned the TRC Environmental Grants program. We get \$45,000.00 per year towards environmental grants, with the current applications received, we will expend less than half of that, so there is still a fair amount of money in the grants space. We encourage you to spread the word as we really do want the grant monies to be utilised, because that means we are getting outcomes in our region, that we are assisting but not having to do ourselves.

Garry Wilson (TRC)

1. Covid did knock us around as a Council in regard to quite a few staff members working from home. We were, however, fortunate in Pest Management to keep things rolling on the ground.
2. Weeds – We are in the middle of completing our Mother-of-millions program, Tree-pear and African Boxthorn programs these are always ongoing for us. We are looking at locations especially in the north where we are trialling combining our staff in doing projects in an attempt to clear locations across different roads.
3. A lot of the roads coming into Toowoomba are main roads and we do work closely with TMR to try to control those weeds. We have good funding available for those roads this year and are in the process of getting those completed.
4. CSIRO are trialling an African Boxthorn biocontrol agent program and we have two landholders who are going to get involved in that project. They are required to cordon off a block, 40m x 40m section of African Boxthorn for a period of 5 years and then CSIRO will do the research which involves the releasing of an agent.
5. Gatton Ag-College are doing research into a device (Di-Bak treatment), which is an inoculation method which delivers capsules containing a biological agent or chemical compounds directly into the tree stem, causing effective tree death. We particularly like the idea that we do not have to touch the chemical and we are working with the University to trial this capsule in privet.
6. We have our capital project happening on the dog fence as well as our operational plan, this year we have allocated \$130,000. for doing upgrades to improve the dog fence. We have a mulcher that we utilise for clearing vegetation as we are required to maintain a buffer zone on either side of the dog fence to prevent trees from falling over and onto the

fence. We have found this machine to be an efficient and practical way of clearing the vegetation. [Website link](#)

7. Wild dogs and feral pigs – our baiting numbers are down they have been declining for several years now especially wild dogs.
8. Feral pigs - we had a successful baiting program in Coalbank where a landholder knocked out about 120 pigs. The landholder and his neighbour took ownership; they put out grain as bait, they committed to it and they worked with us. We used surveillance cameras and then laid out the 1080, the landholder did the clean up afterwards very quickly the next morning. One of the issues we face is engagement, how do we get the landholders on board? How do we get them to take ownership? How can we partner to work with them? This is something that we are trying to improve on as a team.
9. Fire management – we have conducted a few fires in the Millmerran region to deal with mother of millions, harissa cactus and tree pear, we had a team of indigenous people come and we found that quite successful. The burns are a tool which opens-up the country for us to get access for some follow up chemical treatment.

Mark Ready (TRC)

1. The Biosecurity Plan has been adopted by Council. There has been a lot of talk around the methods that we need to apply for pest management and looking at individual solutions. In this Plan we do not have a list of priority weeds, instead, at the back in appendix 1 is a watchlist. On page 8 we have diagram 3 showing zones of TRC and our neighbouring Councils. On page 22 we have a list of strategic actions, which is a starting point for the highest-level actions that we need to look at. Garry and his team at an operational level will stretch those out a lot more and add more to it. This plan is a Toowoomba region plan not just a Council plan, please work with Garry and team on how we meet those strategic actions. This is a living document subject to regular review.
2. Biosecurity Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (ToR). A marked-up with changes ToR as recommend by the previous committee was distributed. Some changes –
 - The September meeting has been moved back to August due to the clash it had with Carnival of Flowers and December's meeting always clashed with Christmas, so the meetings have all be moved back.
 - Council has requested that all advisory committees review their ToR at their first meeting and confirm them back to Council. If anyone has any changes they would like to make or if you are happy with the ToR let me know.

REINVIGORATING WILD DOG MANAGEMENT

1. Garry Wilson advised that participation in our wild dog management programs are less than they used to be. How can we engage landholders is one thing that we have in mind to do better, which lines up with the Biosecurity Plan's strategic actions. Conducting field days, media releases, and engaging with this committee as you are the network for our community is our focus.
2. John Cuskelly - BQ map exclusion fencing and even something as highly visible as exclusion fencing came up that Council cannot divulge where the exclusion fencing is for privacy reasons. **ACTION** – Mark to make a request to LGAQ for advice.

3. Suggestions –

- a. Place a question on the baiting application form asking whether they would be prepared to allow for Council to share with neighbouring properties that they are a registered baiter.
- b. Send out the baiting letter 4 weeks before and also again 2 weeks out – 4 weeks out is a call for interest, currently only registered baiters are notified two weeks prior either via mail / email which does not target the non-registered baiters.
- c. 1080 baiting has a bad reputation, maybe by changing the terminology used, step back from the words baiting and 1080 and advertise it as “wild dog management/control program.”
- d. Trappers tend to put out 2 or 3 traps in strategic areas that avoids conflict with neighbouring dogs which is the best fit for each individual place, maybe that is where the answer lies.
- e. Cr Nancy Sommerfield advised that she places baiting information up on social media and has never received a negative comment.
- f. Anthony I think that Council is doing a wonderful job with the baiting in my area very well run and it is keeping the wild dog numbers down, we still have them in our area but they are not out of control. I would recommend –
 - that we put up the bounty to make it worthwhile; and
 - Council does the baiting on TRC land making the landholder less involved.Cr Nancy advised that you have touched on something that is really controversial which is the bounty each shire offers a different amount, so bounty hunters take the scalps to which every council area was paying the highest. Mark advised that we are in a sad place if we must rely on the bounty to get landholders to control the wild dogs that are causing them economic loss.
- g. Denise Ironpot Project - Landholders in the Ironpot region formed a syndicate each landholder is contributing so many cents per hectare to a fund that has 11 participants in that syndicate. They are now able to afford a full-time trapper and the syndicate pays him \$250.00 per scalp this has been running now for about 18 months. They have got to a point where they are too big, they have more people wanting to join their syndicate and is too much for one group. However, they are keen to share their experience and their story with those other groups that are looking to do the same thing. The only role that Council plays is to handle the cash. The syndicate engage the trapper, they direct the trapper, approve the scalp bounty payments for Council to release and it is working very well for them.
- h. A solution is needed that does not take away the landholders need to take ownership of the issue; it should not just be a Council issue.

Mark - To summarise the discussion thus far you are looking at the difference between a funding model that creates a position where the decision making is at the highest level, i.e. with Council. As opposed to a funding model level where the decision making is at the lowest level being the impacted landholders. I believe that there is benefit in the ability in being able to make your own decisions and self-determination within the group, if we can do some work in order to establish those groups and get them working. Cr Nancy - from the education side of it we would have money in our budget to do some of that, and we could workshop that down the track in a field day.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Graham asked about the TRC surveillance program - Mark advised that the program is always declared over the whole Toowoomba region. We do have some focus areas where we put a lot more of an effort into, however, while we are dealing with drought and Covid the surveillance program was left open, so as not to put added pressure on certain landholders and areas.

Next meeting is 20 November 2020

Cr James thanked everyone for their attendance