

REPORT TITLE | **Confirmation for Minutes**

MOTION

Moved by *Cr Graham Cooke*, seconded by *Matthew Parker*

That the Minutes of the *Biosecurity Advisory Committee* dated *20 November 2020* be confirmed.

CARRIED

ORDER OF BUSINESS

DATE: 20 November 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)
Anthony McWatters (Com)
Carisa Hallinan (WDRC)
Kirsty Harrison (TRC)
Graham Cooke (LCR)
Holly Hosie (SQL)
Rebecca Morrissy (GRC)
Garry Wilson (TRC)

Matthew Parker (Com)
Matthew Warren (SDRC)
Peter Sparshott (TMR)
Peter Tatham (Com)
Steven Moore (LVRC)
Nathan Willis (QPWS)
Cr Tim McMahon (TRC)
Craig Hunter (DAF)

APOLOGIES:

Nick Hauser (TRC)
Bruce Lord (HLW)
Steve Brennan (SRC)
Micheal Condren (TRC)
Andrew Sinnamon (Agforce)
Denise Whyte (SBRC)

Janet Barker (Com)
John Cuskelly (DAF)
Belinda Callahan (Agforce)
Cr James O'Shea (TRC)
Adam Currie (TMR)
Ian Stevenson (DDMRB)

Cr Sommerfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (21 Aug 2020)

Moved: Graham Cooke

Seconded: Matthew Warren

CARRIED

Anthony McWatters thanked Lesley Burgess for the very well written and comprehensive minutes.

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. Mark Ready to make a request to LGAQ for advice regarding ability to disclose locations of exclusion fences

Response from Kristy Gooding was read by Mark Ready about matters regarding the privacy and mapping of exclusion fencing:

- DAF identify a cluster on a map and not as individual properties
- DAF noted that if Council were mapping properties with fencing, this would not be a breach of the Information Act, but it would be a breach if Council published the addresses of those properties.

- Kristy advice was to write to neighbouring Councils requesting access to their fencing information.

These subjects were openly discussed:

- Cluster fencing in surrounding towns realigning where dogs are moving. Craig expressed this being a short-term issue and not a long-term issue due to ecology as it depends where the resources are.
- Matthew Warren from Southern Downs received State funding for their exclusive fence. Grant funding was also received to do research on what impacts the fences will have on the movement of animals. Grant funding are accessible on the [DAF website - Queensland Feral Pest Initiative](#).

2. Mark Ready to follow up with Holly funding available on public lands Grassland Reserve Project

- Delayed due COVID 19 and other priorities.

ACTION: Garry Wilson and Holly Hosie to schedule a meeting to discuss.

PARTNER UPDATES

Matthew Warren (SDRC)

1. Our Pest Management Committee meeting start up again next week. Our focus is on the revision of our Invasion Pest Strategic Plan and Flying Fox Management Plan.
2. Currently building exclusion fencing in the south west of the shire with expression of interest from other property owners.
3. Next Friday we run our Coordinated Baiting Program. Cr Sommerfield asked if Southern Downs get good participant uptake. When meat is supplied, they do. When sheep and small lifestyle producers that are impacted by Wild Dogs we get good turn outs in some areas. Distribute between 3000-4000 baits during a Baiting Program.
4. Council choose to suspend the Pest Management levies for 12 months and is yet to be reviewed.

Holly Hosie (SQL)

1. We have also been working with the Bunya Peoples' Aboriginal Corporation (BPAC) to look at traditional cultural burning practices. Currently working with landholders within the Mt Tyson and Gowrie area to manage weed management and wildlife risks.
2. Site visits with property owners in the Gowrie area who are concerned about weed issues and how to handle them.
3. Over the past 6 months I have been keeping in touch with Angela Whitehall from TRC Infrastructure Services regarding the Grassland Mapping Project which consists of mapping roadside for infrastructure purposes and keeping on top of whatever information is provided in those surveys. Anything that has been uncovered and whether or not Council is looking for assistance to manage.

Matt Parker (Com)

1. We have noticed Mother of Millions coming up in water ways. The consensus for the most successful treatment is Grazon extra or fire.
2. Matt requested a coordinated Pig baiting program due to a rise of pig sightings. Other suggestions discussed:
 - Ariel shoot

- Contacting Darren Marshall, Commercial Program from SQL for funding options

ACTION – Garry Wilson to contact Matt to discuss coordinated Pig baiting program and onsite inspection of Mother of Millions.

Steven Moore (LVRC)

1. Currently finishing up on a Drought Biosecurity survey for restricted and prohibited matter for a 12 months period.
2. Biosecurity Plan should be finished by end of December 2020.
3. We held a Drought Expo which was very successful. We had 140 affected property owners attend. Different state agencies offered advice and funding.

Graham Cooke (LCR)

1. Regarding the Pest Management side little currently happening with Landcare projects.
2. Biggest problem has been mice over the last couple of months in the winter crops and now targeting the emerging summer crops. A lot of mice baiting is occurring but is patchy across the downs. The weather conditions have resulted in some patchy winter crops. Some areas reporting a good crop and others not successful.
3. With the recent hot weather causing some fires in the region there is a heightened bushfire risk forthcoming.

Rebecca Morrissy (GRG)

1. Goondiwindi adopted their Biosecurity Plan late last year. This year's focus apart from doing spraying, is to map all weeds including species, density in all Council land/reserves/roads. This was a good project during Covid.
2. Going forward we've built up a 10-year plan to focus on:
 - how we are going to get across the land
 - estimated timeframes/length of time to spray
 - how often we will have to come back and retreat these areas
3. Submitted a funding application with Toowoomba Council and Western Downs for [Harrisia Cactus](#) and [Willows cactus](#) which was successful. This will be delivered over a 2-3year program.
4. In regard to the Wild Dog mapping of fences, Goondiwindi is not publicising there mapping. We are working with the community to capture any exclusive fencing we do have whether its funded or private just so at the Council level and at the Wild Dog Advisory Committee level we can be strategically looking at where our inland network has gaps. Over the next 12months we will be approaching how we work with Wild Dogs differently including zoning and community input.

Nathan Willis (QPWS)

1. Western Downs has parthenium in Bulli State Forest which is on the southern boundary of Toowoomba Regional Council and Goondiwindi area which is on private land and making it way onto a fire break.
2. Our staff have been managing tree pear near Pittsworth.
3. Staff have been managing the increased usage of Nationals Parks and Recreational areas due to Covid.
4. While doing Covid cleaning staff have targeted [Cats claw](#) at Crows Nest and [Lantana](#) at Ravensbourne that affected the visual amenity of the sites.
5. Follow up Fox work at Perserverance and continue to monitor.

6. Feral pig program with Darren at the Bunyas including a new American trap activated by 4G connection.
7. Deer were highlighted on cameras and seen at Perserverance and the surrounding areas. An illegal hunter has stolen camera.

Peter Tatham (Com)

1. The drought goes on. The 50ml of rain has been lovely but we require some follow up. If we don't receive any rain by the end of December, we will need to lock up a paddock.
2. Since the last meeting we have brought a couple more Maremma pups which brings our total to 3. It takes about 2 years to train.
3. Feral cats have risen in the Merritts Creek area.
 - a. Mark discussed a [grooming trap trial](#) which squirts a measured dose of sodium fluoroacetate (1080) as a potential future option for cat control. More information on the trial can be found here - [Felixer grooming trap trial](#).

Peter Sparshott (TMR)

1. Last meeting, I mentioned we were looking at some additional funding in our Government Program for amenity type weed control. Working with TRC to target Tree pear and Lantana on the approaches North-South-East of Toowoomba.
2. On the Toowoomba Bypass as part of the construction of that project there were half a dozen underpasses under the road infrastructure. Currently USQ through Ben Allen is monitoring of those underpasses, drainage culverts and bridge structures to ensure they have worked. More data will be presented at a later date.

Craig Hunter (DAF)

1. On the down's farmers are using Mouseoff to kill mice (mouseoff is a grain bait containing zinc phosphide). Its thinly spread over the cropping area.
2. Locust arrival on the Eastern Downs. If required, the Plague contingency fund is for Locust control set up to assist landowners to protect their crops, etc.
3. Tom Cuskelly is the project officer for the African Swine Fever (ASF) project. To increase the measure of feral pigs across the landscape in response to the threat of ASF.
4. Projects with Bio type controls to ensure effectiveness on Harrisia cactus and tree pear, prickly pears species.

Garry Wilson (TRC)

1. TRC finished our baiting program on the 16-19th November. Baiting numbers were down but reasonable. We are working on engaging the younger generation in participating including looking at changing our terminology from 'Wild Dog Baiting Program' to 'Wild Dog Management Programs'.
2. Our Dog Bounty process has changed as you all are aware. 46 Scalps from 6 people.
3. Grazing permits have dropped due to rain we received but expect an increase soon.
4. The Biosecurity Plan has been adopted by Council and our current priority. Our role now is to ensure we get the strategic actions happening on the ground which assist to give our staff direction. This includes managing how they are implemented and how we ensure these actions are delivered. We are in the process of developing checklists and standard operating procedures which includes staff timeframes for responsible staff.
5. Private property surveys are going well with a few teething problems nearly rectified. We have 2 staff to manage the region and they are working with our GIS and ICT team on a compliance system for field use.

6. We are also working with other branches in Council on their Biosecurity obligation on treatment of weeds on Council owned assets eg. Cemeteries.
7. Council uses Beakon for all WHS matters including monthly action plans (Take 5's). We are looking at using this program for monthly 'Weed ID Fact Sheets' to assist staff with identifying and reporting biosecurity matters particularly with the Construction and Maintenance branch. We are working with the C&M Environmental Management Project Officer to deliver staff educational awareness.
8. Weed spraying has targeted Tree Pear and Harrisia Cactus during the dryer periods and African Boxthorn when there was an opportunity due to showers. We've had a good season targeting Chilean Needlegrass. Had a fair bit of Fireweed come through that burnt off quickly because we didn't get the follow up rain. Majority of property owners are responding to Parthenium.
9. Fire control regarding controlling weeds have been done at:
 - Millmerran
 - Crows Nest (assisted a property owner)
 - Wetalla Sewage Treatment Plant
10. Engaged contractors to undertake a mulching project partnering with C&M to target Guava. We will continue to monitor and spray.

Anthony McWatters (Com)

1. Just a couple of quick observations in the northern area:
 - Wildfires or controlled burns/permitted burns that have gotten out of control which has caused a lot of damage
 - Deere and mice in the area
 - Cattle ticks which most people are now switched on about
2. Councils baiting program for wild dogs is very well managed and operated within the northern area (Haden/Cooyar/Coalbank area). I have no complaints. There is no one in the area who should have an excuse for not knowing when it's held. The wild dogs/dingoes in my area are under control and the population are quite low and I think the ones we do have are healthy due to eating road kill. I don't know if the wild dogs in my area a problem and I don't think anyone should beat themselves up about trying to get more people to take up the baiting program. Maybe firstly try and work out are wild dog/dingoes a problem in our Country or do we want to declare war on them? Some positive feedback for you guys is I don't think you should knock yourself around because you're not getting take-up as people on the ground may not be baiting due no dog attacks/problems.
A general discussion was had over how frequent the baiting program is run.

Carissa Callinan (WDRC)

1. Western Downs runs a baiting program twice a year and based on our monitoring data are running an additional program in December 2020. We've had a significate uptake which is promising.
2. Flying foxes – 90% of my time is handling matters on Little red flying foxes in the Dalby, Chinchilla, Bell and Jandowae towns.

Cr Tim McMahon (TRC)

1. I spoke to 7News Toowoomba about the importance of Wild Dog Baiting.
A general discussion was had around 1080, community unawareness/education and social media advertising.

TRC UPDATE

1. Wild Dog Baiting – Graphs from 2015-2020 were displayed:

- In August 2019 data showed an increase due to wild dog activity.
- 2015 shows the height of our baiting participation. The data shows a variation of when property owners are experiencing a wild dog issue and bait and then a drop off until they experience a problem again.
- In 2015/2016 staff engaged property owner's
- The North and South data identified the North has little spikes but remains very much consistent while the South data is dropping significantly. However, in the last 6 months our majority of wild dog complaints have come from the South.
- A discussion was held if other Councils maintain baiting stats as Garry Wilson is interested in benchmarking and comparing other Councils data. This is to be discussed further with interested parties (their data/trends/etc).
- TRC provides 20 free manufactured baits per year after that they purchase baits at \$1.50 apiece.



complaints of

1080 – where is this going?

1. With the changes to 1080 legislation, an options paper has been submitted to the Minister and the Premier with 3 proposed options (continue to supply, not supply or use all current stock).
2. Current stock levels:
 - TRC have 1080 stock and books but are low on consumables (signs and bags).
 - Matthew Warren (SDRC) stated they have had to print their own Deed Poll books and are also low on consumables.
 - Rebecca Morrissy (GRG) has 1 or 2 books available. Rebecca spoke to Kristy Gooding who gave her the indication that DAF had enough 1080 to supply until the end of 2021. She assumed that this meant DAF would also continue to supply the Deed Poll books. They are also low on consumables. Rebecca proposed the suggestion of engaging local suppliers to sell 1080 signage. Baiting stations will supply cardboard signage for 1 round of baiting and farmers will need to purchase their own signage from local suppliers before participating in the next baiting program.
 - Carissa Callinan (WDRC) is currently right for stock at this point in time.
 - Steven Moore (LVRC) are good as they don't do any wet baiting and only supply dry meat baits and have seen an increase in participation and success.
2. Consensus was there is not much we can expect until the Minister makes a decision.
3. Mark discussed the precept all Councils pay:
 - We need to continue to lobby with LGAQ to ensure that reductions in services levels do not continue to reduce without corresponding reductions in our precepts.

ACTION – Mark Ready to arrange briefing from LGAQ, Qld Health, DAF and any other relevant parties at our next Biosecurity meeting in February.

Local Government Annual Payments Report

The Invasive plant and animal management 2018-2019 report:

1. General discussion regarding the report and feedback:



LGAP Report
18-19.pdf

- Other Councils hadn't received the report yet
 - Would like to confirm where BQ got their information from
 - Lack of detail and information of project/s listed in the report
2. Each Council will respond with feedback individually (if necessary)

Potential projects to be developed for Future Grant Opportunities

1. Look at grant opportunities specially in those cross-border common interest areas.
2. Holly from Southern Queensland Landscapes may be able to play a role to assist but will need to run it by Paul (CEO) and Andrew (GM).
3. Interested parties to develop an ongoing list to capture potential projects including joint projects and start discussion via email until a meeting date can be set.

General Business

1. Willows cactus (Night-blooming cactus)
 - Rebecca spoke to Central Highlands Regional Council and Gunnedah Shire Council who have been unable to eradicate and have 'lost it'. They advised to jump on it early, fast and go hard.
 - Willows cactus is not declared at the State and federal level and is a significant risk and an emerging weed.
 - Goondiwindi Regional Council is looking at declaring it locally via Council report.
 - We need to submit letters of support from Councils to DAF recommending a Pest Risk Assessment be done on Willows Cactus.
 - BQ received positive feedback for profiling of species to assist with informing the public via Facebook.
 - Mark advised that TRC had recently enquired regarding the pest status and risk associated with African Olive which had been reported in the TRC area and that perhaps we should consider requesting risk assessment for a number of species.



ACTION: Mark Ready to prepare Letter from TRC to Chief Executive DAF requesting Pest Risk assessment of Willows Cactus and African Olive (also to include any additional species which Committee member Councils may identify)

Next meeting is 19 February 2021
Cr Sommerfield thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a lovely Christmas.

Action Items

Meeting Date	Action Officer	Action	Status
20/11/2020	Garry Wilson	Contact Matt Parker to discuss coordinated Pig baiting program and onsite inspection of Mother of Millions.	
20/11/2020	Mark Ready	Arrange briefing with LGAQ, Qld Health, DAF and any other relevant parties regarding 1080 at our next Biosecurity meeting in February.	
20/11/2020	Garry Wilson	Schedule a meeting with Holly regarding funding available on public lands Grassland Reserve Project.	
20/11/2020	Mark Ready	Prepare Letter from TRC to Chief Executive DAF requesting Pest Risk assessment of Willows Cactus and African Olive	