



# BLACKWOOD BIOSECURITY

## Newsletter May 2023

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Once a month at Boyup Brook and West Arthur

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Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter please join the mailing list on our website: [www.blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au/contact-us](http://www.blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au/contact-us), or pop into the office.

National Volunteer Week was this month, and we take the opportunity to acknowledge the valuable behind the scenes work of our volunteer Management Committee who enable us to assist you to manage declared pests.



There is still time to have your say on the BAM Act (Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act). The BAM Act is one of WA's most important pieces of legislation as it provides the means to address harmful pests and diseases that can affect WA's industries, the environment, and our lifestyle.

Stage 3 is now open and DPIRD are asking for individuals and organisations to submit comments on the opportunities for reform. Please see the YourSay website: <https://yoursay.dpird.wa.gov.au/bam-act-review-2022>

Land lifestyle Livelihood

The Stage 3 comment period runs until 5pm Friday 30 June, 2023. To have your say:

1. Download and read the Stage 3 discussion paper from the YourSay website (above).
2. Provide your thoughts on the reform areas in the discussion paper by completing the online survey.

## Out and about in the Community

Our Operations Team was in the field this month with a focus on feral pigs and foxes. Rabbit management is ongoing using various methods depending on the best approach for an individual property. Assisting landholders with blackberry spraying continues in an effort to take advantage of the last of the growing season before the plants slow down for the winter.

This month's major biosecurity success was a feral pig cull in the Balingup area in which a large number of feral pigs were dispatched.



Our usual visit to the Boyup Brook CRC was replaced this month with a Meet & Greet sausage sizzle at the Co-Op. It was great to see Boyup Brook locals wanting to chat about declared pests, while enjoying a bite to eat.

## Upcoming events



**Winter Weeds Information Session, Monday 12th June, 10am -11.30am, Bridgetown Library Seminar Room.**

Managing weeds is a year-round activity. Weeds needing attention in June to August are Cleavers, Bridal creeper, Arum lily, Paterson's curse, Pampas grass, Cape tulip and weed wattles. Come along and find out what you can do to manage declared weeds on your property this winter.



**Darkan Meet & Greet Sausage Sizzle, Tuesday 20 June, 11am-1pm at Darkan Agri Services.**

We're holding a pop-up sausage sizzle to meet the local community and find out how we can better assist you. Drop by to say 'Hi' and let us know what's important to you and what services or equipment you require for managing declared pests on your property.



## Make a Bunny Igloo, Saturday 24 June, Ashbil Garden Bridgetown, 10.00am to 11.00am

What the hop is a bunny Igloo? Bunny Igloos keep birds and other animals from eating your rabbit pre-feed. Rabbits won't take feed from enclosed spaces and the use of netting makes the rabbits think they are out in

the open. There will be a Bunny Igloo making demonstration, and some materials supplied so that you can make one at home. Please RSVP to [admin@bbisouthwest.org.au](mailto:admin@bbisouthwest.org.au) so we have an idea of numbers for materials.

## Weeds to watch out for: Cleavers



Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) is known by its sticky hooked leaves and stems. It sticks to your clothes and boots if you walk through it. The seeds stick to animals and birds and hence is easily spread. Cleavers is a straggly scrambling or climbing plant that germinates in Autumn. It appears in crops as well as riverbanks, fence lines and bush reserves.

Cleavers is a declared pest in WA and one of our focus weeds.

In addition to stickiness, you can identify Cleavers by the leaves, which form whorls of four to eight nodes on the stems and have no leaf-stalk, the flowers are about 2mm in diameter and have 4 white petals, and the seeds are about the same size as a canola seed. The fruit is globular and occur in pairs, each fruit is 3mm in diameter and are densely covered with hooked bristles.

As the landowner you are required to report Cleavers before undertaking control measures. You can report the weed via MyPestGuide Reporter app or on the website:

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pests-weeds-diseases/mypestguide>

You can also report to Pest and Disease Information Services (PaDIS) by phoning 08 9368 3080, or emailing [padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au)

To manage Cleavers be vigilant for outbreaks, and where possible avoid introducing cleavers to your property. For chemical control methods please see the DPIRD website <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/herbicides/cleavers-control>

You can also read more about Cleavers on our website:

<https://www.blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au/plant-pests>

# Vertebrate pests: build a rabbit proof fence



Rabbits can be managed, but not eradicated. If you have a small property, or wish to defend a portion of your property, you can build a rabbit proof fence. The trick is to dig a trench one foot deep and eight inches wide at the bottom of the fence. Lay the chicken wire in the trench forming an L shape that faces the outside of the fence, and back fill.

Make sure you have poles no more than ten feet apart so the wire doesn't sag, and attach horizontal wires that can be pulled tight.

For how to build a rabbit proof fence see this website, which also has instructions for a portable rabbit prove fence for occasional use.



<https://www.lovetoknow.com/home/garden/rabbit-proof-garden-fencing>

## Future feral focus: Pampas grass



Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) was a popular garden plant in the 70's. Now it invades a variety of habitats from Perth to Albany. You might have seen it growing wild along the creek near the railway line just north of Bridgetown and in local gardens in Bridgetown and Balingup. Pampas Grass turned out to be a highly inappropriate garden plant due to

its enormous size and dangerously sharp leaves, plus they are a fire hazard and can harbor vermin.

In NSW it is an offence to grow, sell or buy pampas and there is a \$10,000 fine for breaking this law. In WA, this weed is a threat to bushland and waterways. Each plume can hold up to 100,000 seeds and are carried on the wind. The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes lists Pampas grass as a pest plant under the Pest Plants Local Law 2009, and they can give notice to landholders to remove it.

Removal of large plants requires machinery such as a backhoe. Smaller plants can be cut down to ground level and the new regrowth treated with a glyphosate-based herbicide.

Find out more on the [DIPRD](http://www.diprd.wa.gov.au/weeds/plants-invade-bushland) website: [www.diprd.wa.gov.au/weeds/plants-invade-bushland](http://www.diprd.wa.gov.au/weeds/plants-invade-bushland) and the NSW Department of Primary Industries website:

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/100>