



Declared Pest Rate – why it matters to you

1 September 2021

The *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) allows for the State to raise a Declared Pest Rate to support landholders to manage declared pests.

A budget for declared pests

Widespread and established declared pests such as wild dogs, foxes, rabbits, cotton bush, blackberry and mesquite can have serious impacts on agriculture, the environment, and human health and safety if not managed.

Under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) the State raises a Declared Pest Rate (DPR) from landholders in specific areas and matches the funds raised from the rate dollar-for-dollar.

The combined funds are made available to Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) who provide support to landholders to fulfil their obligations to manage widespread and established declared pests on their land.

The funding supports RBGs to conduct pest management awareness initiatives and education as well as coordinate and undertake pest management activities across land tenures. A map of the area covered by each of these RBGs has been provided for your information.

What will my rate be spent on?

Funds raised through the rate are spent on activities detailed in each RBG's annual operational plan, which identifies priority pests and management strategies for their area of operation. Landholders are encouraged to get involved in their local RBG's activities.

RBG activities include building awareness, delivering training and information, hiring out equipment, and providing materials needed for pest management. Some RBGs also carry out on-ground control activities to complement landholders' efforts.

RBGs also organise coordinated activities, such as community fox shoots, and build partnerships with other RBGs, industry and agencies to control pests such as feral animals requiring large-scale regional efforts.

In 2021-2022, it is anticipated that just over \$5 million will be made available to RBGs to continue their valuable community work with landholders.

More about Recognised Biosecurity Groups

The work of an RBG complements individual effort – but does not replace it.

Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) are community-based independent associations that bring together and support landholders to undertake action to manage declared pest animals and plants that are widespread and established.

The provision of public funds to RBGs is the State Government's approach to supporting landholders to fulfil their obligations to manage widespread and established declared pests on their land. A community led and coordinated approach is the most effective way to manage these types of pests.

Through consultation with landholders, RBGs work on the declared pest management needs of their communities. Pest priorities will be different for each RBG.

Choosing to be actively engaged in an RBG can complement landholders' efforts toward meeting their legal obligations under the BAM Act to manage declared pests. As a landholder, you are encouraged to participate in RBG activities.

Everyone benefits from RBG activities, even those landholders already controlling pests or who currently have no pests to manage.

Importantly, improved pest management reduces the impact of feral animals and invasive weeds on the environment and native species.

Declared Pest Rates are not new

Five RBGs in WA's pastoral regions have received funding from a DPR since 2014. Prior to that, it was collected as the Agriculture Pest Rate under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

Across WA there are currently 14 RBGs that will access funding from the DPR for the 2021-22 financial year. Each group operates across different local government areas. Approximately 22,123 landholders from 66 local government areas will receive DPR notices in 2021-2022.

How are the rates collected?

The Commissioner of State Revenue, through Revenue WA, is responsible for issuing and collecting DPR notices. Rate notices are usually issued in September/October each year.

The amount of rates to be collected is matched dollar-for-dollar with State Government funds and transferred to the Declared Pest Account (DPA). The DPA is administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

Calculating rate contributions

Each RBG covers a different area of the State, and is impacted by different pest species, volume of pests, local industry, land use, environmental factors, population demographics and size. RBGs therefore have varying pest control priorities, budgets and operations. These differences inform how the rate is calculated and used.

In consultation with RBGs, DPIRD advises the Minister on an appropriate rate to support RBG coordinated community pest control activities in their area. The rate may be the same amount for each property (a flat rate), or ad valorem (cents-in-the dollar) based on the unimproved value of land as provided by the Valuer General.

Before the rates are finalised, landholders and affected parties can comment on the proposed rates as part of the State's annual consultation process.

RBG expenditure is reported in RBG annual reports and audited financial statements, which are submitted to DPIRD, published on the DPIRD's website and tabled at each RBG's own public Annual General Meetings.

Postponement for pensioners

Eligible pensioners can apply to Revenue WA to have their rate payments postponed, provided they meet the requirements under section 136 of the BAM Act. Contact RevenueWA for more information.

More information

About the Declared Pest Rate and funding of RBGs

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

dpr@dpiird.wa.gov.au
1300 374 731 (Choose option 9)
<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/bam/recognised-biosecurity-groups>

About paying the Declared Pest Rate or change of address

Revenue Western Australia (08) 9262 1199
Country callers 1300 368 364 (local call charges)
<https://www.wa.gov.au/service/financial-management/taxation-and-duty/pay-declared-pest-rates>

On getting in contact with the RBG in your area

Recognised Biosecurity Groups

Find the RBG in your area on DPIRD's website:
<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/bam/learn-more-about-your-rbg>
Alternatively call this number for help:
1300 374 731 (Choose option 9)

Recognised Biosecurity Group operational areas

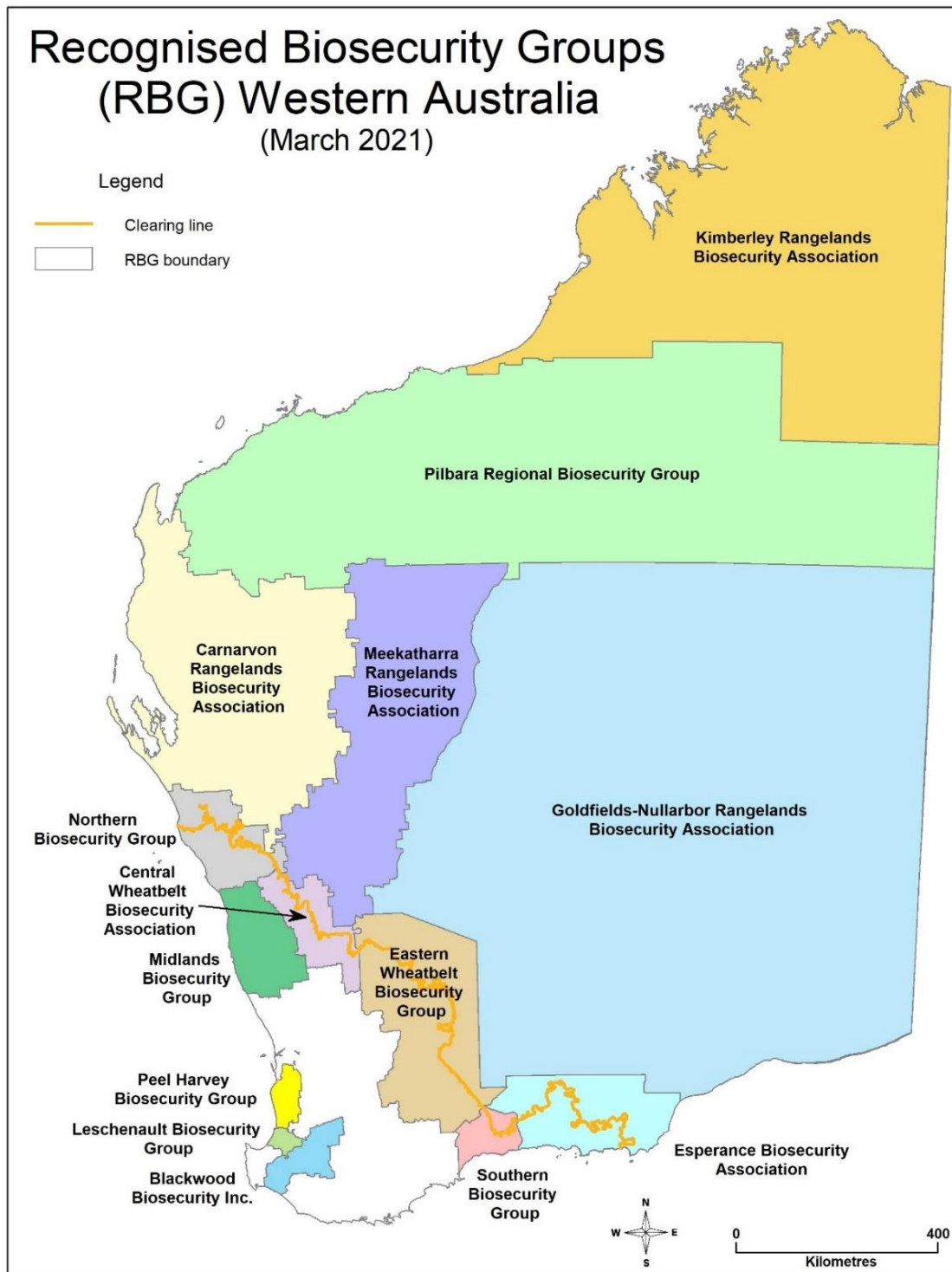


Image 1 – Map of area covered by each RBG

Important disclaimer

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