

Annual Report for Southern Biosecurity Group - 2017/18

Over the past financial year SBG has achieved the following:

Dogs destroyed, not including baited	Baits dispersed	Reported stock attacks	Foxes	Wild cats
14	3108	58	17	4

Dogs that may have taken a bait and the carcass not located are not included in this figure. It is important that we continue the maintenance program to control wild dogs that will move into our shire from the north and east.

Through funding from the Australian Government Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, two doggers have been mentored and skills developed. Max Siemer is one of the two doggers mentored and has been carrying out control works in the region.

AWI, Shire of Ravensthorpe and DBCA have also supported wild dog control activities in the Ravensthorpe area over the past 12 months.

Declared Pest Rate

SBG has been recognised as a biosecurity group and the first operational plan and budget was submitted and approved. Approval allows implementation of declared pest rate for the 2018/19 financial year. We have forwarded information on the introduction of the rate to all landholders.

Cactus control

Cactus control has been ongoing in the Oldfield River corridor. Mark Cronin has been carrying out the activity. A biological control specific to this species of cactus has been introduced and found to be very successful at attacking the cactus. Further work is required to establish the extent of the infestations and introduce the control agent. Community reports have alerted us to other cacti plants at various locations in the shire and we have liaised/coordinated with the land manager to ensure control work is undertaken. We strongly encourage reporting of cacti plants so that we may continue to prevent further spread and eradicate from the shire.

An update on cactus control was included in the same envelope as the Declared Pest Rate information. Funding for this project has been provided by the State NRM Office.

State Barrier Fence

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) assessments for the State Barrier Fence Esperance Extension are still ongoing and the Assessment Report for the Minister for Environment were expected by the end of 2018.

Kylie Fletcher
Executive Officer