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### **TO ALL LANDHOLDERS IN THE SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE**

The purpose of this letter is to inform landholders in the Ravensthorpe Shire of the proposed introduction of a Declared Pest Rate (DPR). A recommendation has been forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture and Food to implement a DPR for all shire landholders in 2018/19 financial year.

The Southern Biosecurity Group (SBG) believe declared pests can be better managed by a coordinated approach between community, industry and government. Community funds raised through the rating system are to be matched by government, dollar for dollar and will provide the SBG certainty of ongoing funds to control declared pests within the shire.

Since 2002, the group has achieved good control through engaging Licensed Pest Management Technicians who disperse baits, trap and shoot wild dogs outside of the State Barrier Fence and respond to dog sightings within the agricultural and urban areas. By undertaking a sustained wild dog management program the SBG has been restricting the penetration of wild dogs deeper into the Ravensthorpe district, where they would impact on livestock, wild life and human populations.

Funds raised by the DPR and the government co-contribution support the commercial, environmental and social values of the Ravensthorpe community through:

- Improved animal welfare by preventing wild dog attacks on livestock and native animals
- Maintain and enhance the wellbeing of landholders
- Add to land values by improving the viability of current and new livestock enterprises
- Strengthen economic return when selling or leasing land suitable for the running of livestock
- Safety of locals and tourists walking, sightseeing and horse riding in bushland areas
- Reduce fox numbers by uptake of baits via wild dog baiting programs
- Provision of equipment to trap pests impacting on urban areas
- Support endangered species conservation, e.g. numbats and mallee fowls
- Prevent the establishment of a wild dog populations within national parks, reserves and urban residential areas

Under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (BAM) 2007, Recognised Biosecurity Groups have been required to become self sustaining. Financial support from the State Government must now be obtained through the implementation of a DPR. The SBG activities support landholders in meeting their obligations under the BAM Act, although it does not take away the legal responsibility of all landholders to control declared pests species on land they are responsible for.

The SBG has proposed that a DPR, apportioned on the basis of shire rate value entity number property size, be collected from landholders in the Ravensthorpe Shire, as detailed in the table below.

Table 1 - Hectare ranges and flat rate DPR value

Hectare Range	Flat rate \$
0 - 50	24
>50 - 200	39
>200 - 500	75
>500 -1000	141
>1000 - 2000	200
>2000 - 3500	377
>3500 - 5000	528
>5000 - 7500	698
>7500 - 9000	848
>9000	1107

The SBG look forward to community, industry and government support in continuing coordination of declared pests in the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

If you have received more than one copy of this letter, it may be due to the different ownership structures some enterprises operate under. We would appreciate advice if this is the case so that we can amend our records. Future correspondence from the group will then result in just the one copy being received by a landholder entity.

The SBG welcomes community feedback and input into future activities and the feasibility of projects being funded through the DPR. Please direct your queries in relation to the introduction of a DPR and the future direction of the SBG to [sbg.execofficer@gmail.com](mailto:sbg.execofficer@gmail.com). or SBG, PO Box 292, Ravensthorpe 6346. We may also be contacted by telephoning 0484 932 447.

### **Pests and Weeds**

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