

## Report on Priority Survey

In July/August 2019 a priority survey was developed to gain input from community on priorities for the 2020/21 Operational Plan.

The survey was advertised in the Community Spirit and a copy of the survey was included in the letter to all landholders that was sent out in early August.

Survey Monkey was also used to create a digital version of the survey. This was promoted through the RAIN e-news and SBG website (homepage).

A total of 51 responses were received, representing at 1000% increase on the previous survey (5 responses)

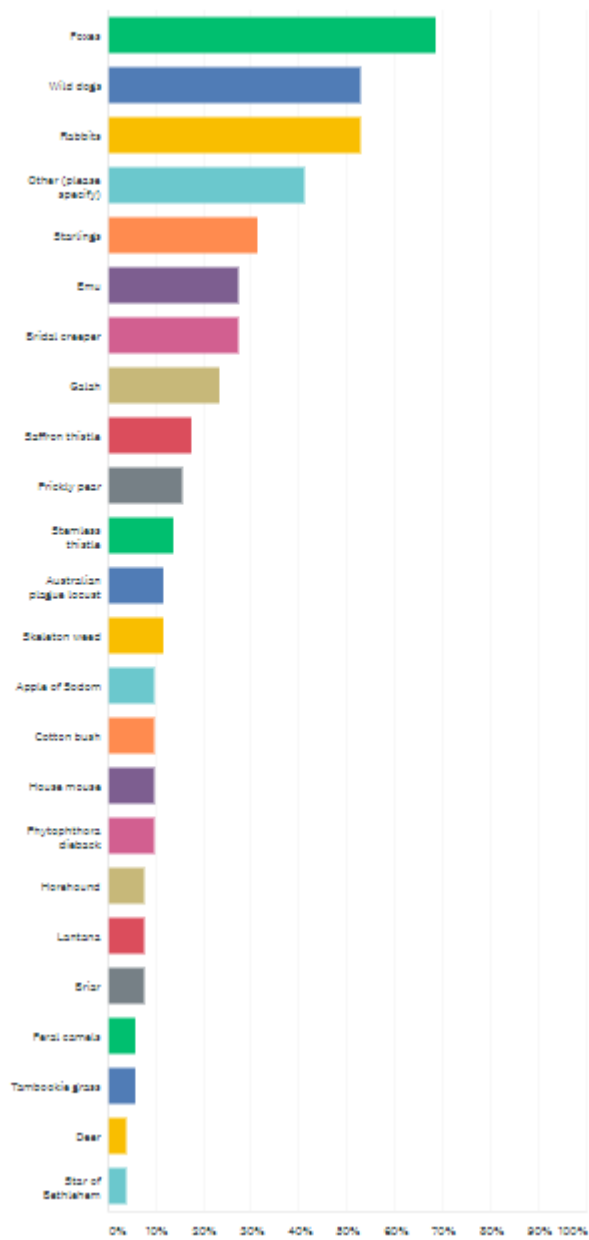
### RESULTS:

Q1. What declared species should be a priority for Southern Biosecurity Group? Please pick three from the list below.

Species	% of respondents	Number of respondents
Foxes	68.63%	35
Wild dogs	52.94%	27
Rabbits	52.94%	27
Other (please specify)	41.18%	21
Starlings	31.37%	16
Emu	27.45%	14
Bridal creeper	27.45%	14
Galah	23.53%	12
Saffron thistle	17.65%	9
Prickly pear	15.69%	8
Stemless thistle	13.73%	7
Australian plague locust	11.76%	6
Skeleton weed	11.76%	6
Apple of Sodom	9.80%	5
Cotton bush	9.80%	5
House mouse	9.80%	5
Phytophthora dieback	9.80%	5
Horehound	7.84%	4
Lantana	7.84%	4
Briar	7.84%	4
Feral camels	5.88%	3
Tambookie grass	5.88%	3
Deer	3.92%	2
Star of Bethlehem	3.92%	2

What declared species should be a priority for Southern Biosecurity Group?  
Please pick three from the list below.

Answered: 51 Skipped: 0



The other responses were:

Feral cats	14
Boxthorn	3
Clover	1
Snails	1
Kangaroos	3
Mosman River Grass	1

## Q2. Why have you selected these?

41 respondents answered this question, 10 skipped.

- Abundance of them in the Hopetoun town site (definitely not domestic)
- According to the ABC feral cats kill between 5 - 30 animals a day. Conservative estimates suggest there are 75 million feral cats in Australia which mean at least 75 million animals are killed every day by cats.
- Affects mixed farming - destroys livestocking ability
- All invasive, highly mobile, devastating to native species and appears to be increasing.
- All of the list are a continuing threat to ag production in WA. Continued effort is required to stay on top of dog, fox and starling controls. Galahs are a problem for the nesting endangered Carnaby's cockatoo.
- Both threaten native fauna and flora on our property. We continue to trap feral cats. Major works to eradicate boxthorn now clear ASAP with any plant found.
- Boxthorn is spreading through the shire; our remnant bush will be all boxthorn if it can't be controlled. Kangaroos need to be controlled.
- Difficult to choose only 3. All of the above are important. The ones selected would be difficult for individuals to control and/or are would have broader State impacts if not controlled.
- Directly impacted
- Do have, or potentially could have the most impact on our business.
- Dogs- if we keep doing this hopefully, we will keep on top of numbers and stop further encroachment into ag land further west Rabbits- low cost control measures available- e.g. Calico- which have good results
- Each represents a problem to specific areas
- Economic impact
- Emu numbers have increased to very large numbers and do a lot of damage to crops and fences. In 30+ years of farming never seen so many. Number seems to be expanding everywhere.
- emus and foxes = active problem for Jerdacuttup. Wild dogs = Ravy problem.
- Experience of their degradations
- Foxes and feral cats seen and tracks seen regularly in coastal areas near Hopetoun. These animals are responsible for consuming a lot of native fauna.
- Foxes and mice are in plague proportions. Thistle is hurtful when collecting wood.
- Foxes and rabbits destroy wildlife and farmers crops
- Galah take Carnaby sites Cats and foxes destroy all small animals
- Have an ongoing problem - attacks on our sheep by feral dogs. Emu population is getting harder to control every year.
- Have the biggest impact on reducing food production for mankind.
- Have the most impact on every day operations
- Highest occurrence near home
- Impact on our local environment
- Likely to affect the area most in the long term
- Major depletion of our native (all 3) species e.g. birds, frogs, small mammals, major impact on our native fauna.

- Major problem to environment and native animals
- Ones I am most familiar with
- Roos and emus are the worst for damaging crops
- Stock losses and crop damage
- The damage to native animals and the environment!
- Their impact on native fauna and flora
- These three are the most prevalent in our immediate area
- They are a big problem to our sheep industry. Foxes are in plague proportions.
- They are all important to somebody
- They are or could be a real problem
- They destroy crops
- They impact on my property, I endeavour to manage them myself and with my limited knowledge I believe a wider, collective effort might actually make a difference.
- They would affect our farming district
- Very invasive, originating around Port Gregory, Geraldton. When working on the Ravensthorpe Shire a few years ago we used to find it down some of the streets in Hopetoun. It has a burr that attaches to your trousers

Q3. What skills, knowledge or resources would help you manage declared species on your property?

24 respondents answered this question, 27 skipped.

- A way of controlling emus.
- Area baiting
- Assistance to complete the 1080 baiting licence requirements.
- Baits
- Cat baiting would be beneficial!
- Easier access to fox baits
- Fox bait Crown Land. Emus?
- Funding/manpower to eradicate thistle and rabbits
- I live in town
- Kangaroos and emus a professional shooter. Boxthorn a district control
- Keep dog fence upgraded
- Keep up with your emails and info which are great
- Keep updated with SBG activities
- Make the general public more aware of the damage and infestation these pests are causing, especially if they get out of control.
- Making baits available
- Maybe a bounty per head on dogs and foxes would be beneficial to promote control
- N/A
- Photographic identification and known areas of outbreak above.
- Regular checks by Shire (particularly for bridal creeper)
- Regular updates of what threats are around and advice. Perhaps opportunities to trial and/or group by resources e.g. monitoring cameras. Training as appropriate. Community awareness.

- Shooting and poisoning
- Subsidies
- Trapping devices, info and feedback on sightings, kill evidence, and what can be started to halt the increase in these losses.
- Whatever is required

Q4. How would you like us to keep you updated of our progress?

44 respondents answered this question, 7 skipped.

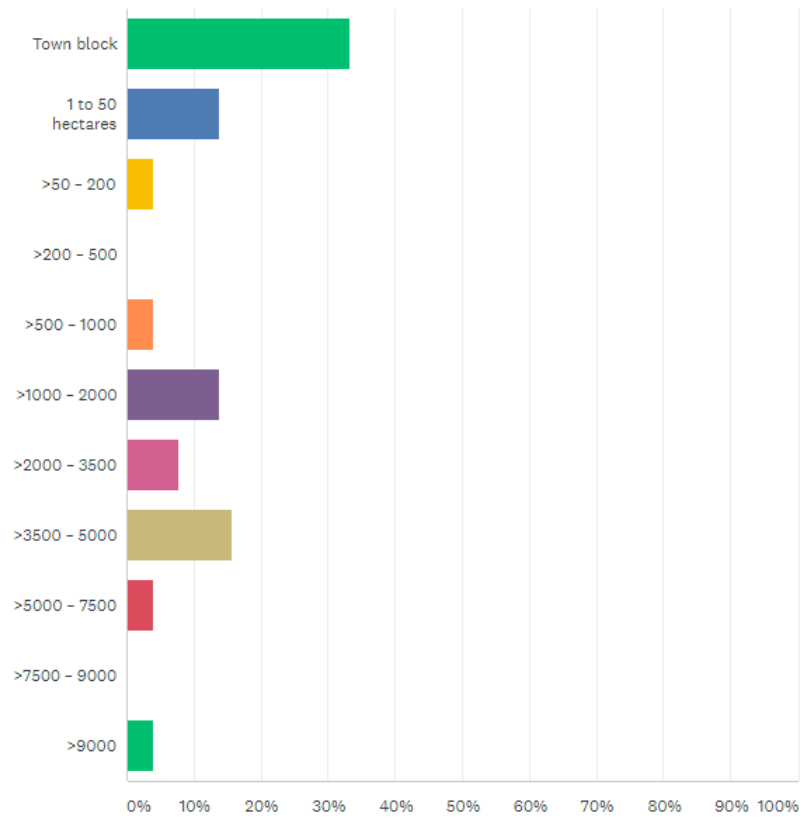
Answer choices	% of respondents	Number of respondents
Email	56.82%	25
Social media	2.27%	1
Community Spirit	25%	11
Southern Biosecurity Group Newsletter	25%	11
Letter	22.73%	10
Website	2.27%	1
Other (please specify)	4.55%	2

The other responses were: RAIN E-news and printed copy.

Q5. What size landholding to you have?

## What size landholding to you have?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 0



## Q6. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR THE SOUTHERN BIOSECURITY GROUP NEWSLETTER?

44 respondents answered this question, 7 skipped.

Yes	58.14%	25
No	41.86%	18

## Q7. ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

- I think the SBG should also concentrate on all pests (such as cats) that might not impact farmers as much but do significantly impact biodiversity in the region. For example, research indicates that where dingo populations are higher there are very few cats or foxes (the dingo being an apex predator) so I do not agree with millions of dollars being spent on a fence that will have minimal impact.
- Keep up the good works!

- Kangaroos are out of control and there should be a register available where numbers being shot can be counted. It seems authorities are unaware of the overpopulation of Roos all over the state.
- Rabbits in Hopetoun town - from McCulloch park, past CWA out to RV campsite, old railway turntable. Also, Culham Inlet/Bird hide
- Keep up the good work being done!
- As originally stated, I resent this additional tax.
- You are doing an important service - it's a shame about missing out on the nrm grant. Could you apply for it for another project?
- Would love to be kept informed.
- Would like to see local dogger available, as seem to have a large range to cover currently
- Great work
- It feels that your org prioritises farmer interests in Ravey much more than landholders in Hopey.
- Please, please, please, start trapping cats around our townsites. Notify domestic cat owners of it happening and that microchipped cats will be returned to owners.
- I also hate bridal creeper with a passion.

## DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

In analyzing these results, it is important to note that although the numbers of responses have increased, we still only have a response rate of about 4.5%.

For the most part, species proposed align with the Biosecurity Management Strategy for Ravensthorpe Shire. More work is needed on feral cats, especially around town sites. This will help to engage rate payers in the urban areas.

The survey should be mailed out again in the future with the annual landholder letter.

In future surveys, it would be good to adjust the species order in question 1 to include more of the environmental species in the first column. This may help to address the perception that we are agricultural focused. Feral cats need to be added to the list of declared species.

The impact of Mosman River grass needs to be investigated and possible control arranged.