



Communities Combating Pests and Weed Impacts During Drought Program – *Biosecurity* *Management of Pests and Weeds (Round 1)*

Final report

Activity id	4-BA2C82N
Activity name	Geographically strategic fox baiting interventions collaborated across the Great Southern district area of WA to reduce potential injury or death to our industry-vital farm sheep populations
Grantee name	Shire of Kent
Report compiled by	Paul Leoni – 08 9829 1051 – nrm@kent.wa.gov.au

Activity Deliverables (as per Grant Agreement)

Deliverable 1:

Achievement of Deliverable 1: *Describe what you did and what was achieved (200 words)*

Ojective 1: *Establish project agreements between the Shire of Kent and key service providers for implementation of this project.*

Deliverable: **8 Signed partner group agreements, to facilitate project implementation in the 12**

Shires. Included the following:

- *(Deliverable 1.2) Review draft agreements, request final amendments and sign off.*
- *(Deliverable 2.2) Disseminate the EOI Flier via their local media outlets;*
- *(Deliverable 2.4) Those Shires who received few EOI applications to re-disseminate the EOI Flier via their local media outlets;*
- *(Deliverable 3.3) DPIRD (and Partner Groups) – Run RCP workshops for approved project properties and assist with online applications. DPIRD to collate accreditations.*

- *(Deliverable 4.2) Prefill agreement templates (between permit holders and partner groups) using the data spreadsheet and agreement template provide by the SOK. Then send out to property users to sign and return signed agreements to the SOK;*
- *(Deliverable 5.3) Collect monitoring data from property users participating in this project (number of baits laid follow by number of baits untaken after max 30 to 40 days) and enter it into feral scan;*
- *(Deliverable 6.1) Provide the SOK one safe point within each of their responsible Shires where the fox bait supplier can distribute fox baits for each of the 3 planned project baiting periods;*
- *(Deliverable 6.4) Ensure approved project property users are informed of bait distribution dates and locations for each distribution run. This includes being present at distribution points for their responsible Shires to assist the supplier with distribution of baits to users (RCP receivers); and*
- *(Deliverable 7.1) Ensure each approved project property user lays out supplied baits and collects monitoring data (number of baits laid follow by number of baits untaken after max 30 to 40 days).*
- **Measure of Success:** *1.1 SOK – Draft up agreements, send to partner groups for review and make final changes.*
 - **Outcome: Complete.** 8 Agreements drafted by the Shire, 7 agreements for external partners and 1 for the Shire of Kent itself to deliver the project in their area too. Grant funds (for Parnter Groups) were divided between these groups based on a flat rate for initial permit proces/recruitment and first bait delivery run (payment 1) and then a variable payment rate for the number of RCP permits approved for fox (and wild dog) baiting for bait delivery runs 2 and 3 in each Shire’s area of responsilibty (payments 2 and 3). The Shire of Dumbleyung did not sign a partner agreement, so Shire of Kent facilitated permits here. The Oyster Harbor Catchment Group only signed an agreement to deliver activities under payment 1 within the Plantagenet Shire, so Gillamii Centre signed an agreement to cover payment 2 and 3 activities in Plantangnet Shire as well as their own (Cranbrook and Broomehill-Tambellup).
- **Measure of Success:** *1.2 Partner Groups – Review draft agreements, request final amendments and sign off.*
 - **Outcome: Complete.** The following Partner Group Agreements signed:
 - **Shire of Kent (NRM/Landcare):**
 - **Shires of MAIN Responsibility: Kent and Lake Grace**
 - *Shires of MINOR Responsibility: Dumbleyung and Gnowangeurp*
 - **Fitzgerald Biosphere Group:**
 - **Shires of MAIN Responsibility: Jerramungup**

- **North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources:**
 - **Shires of MAIN Responsibility: Gnowangerup**
 - *Shires of MINOR Responsibility: Jerramungup and Katanning*
- **The Gillamii Centre:**
 - **Shires of MAIN Responsibility: Cranbrook and Broomehill-Tambellup**
 - **Shire of EXTRA Responsibility: Plantagenet**
 - *Shires of MINOR Responsibility: Jerramungup*
- **Oyster Harbour Catchment Group:**
 - **Shires of MAIN Responsibility: Plantagenet**
- **Katanning LCDC (Landcare):**
 - **Shires of**
 - **MAIN Responsibility: Katanning**
 - *Shires of MINOR Responsibility: Woodanilling*
- **Wagin Woodanilling Landcare Zone:**
 - **Shires of MAIN Responsibility: Wagin and Woodanilling**
 - *Shires of MINOR Responsibility: Kojonup*
- **Shire of Kojonup (Landcare):**
 - **Shires of MAIN Responsibility: Kojonup**

Deliverable: 1 Signed bait supplier agreement for supply and distribution of baits.

Various options were considered for supply of fox baits to enable the project, including providing credit to local retail shops with S7 accreditation and also a consideration for local production of baits, however these options had inherent variables like bait quality, storage and supply that provided too much risk to the project, so a decision was made to source baits from a bulk wholesaler, who had the capacity to provide high quality baits and make these available via a mobile vehicle positioned at strategic pickup/retrieval locations across the project area.

- **Measure of Success:** 1.3 SOK – Request and assess quotes and then select a fox bait supplier.
 - **Outcome: Complete.** The Shire assessed 4 quotes and awarded the 'main' fox bait supply to bait wholesaler ACTA (Animal Control Technologies Australia), with their bait manufacturing facility based in the Bunbury area.

- **Measure of Success:** 1.4 SOK – Draft up agreement, send to selected supplier for review and make final changes; and 1.5 Bait supplier – Review draft agreement, request final amendments and sign off.
 - **Outcome: Complete.** ACTA agreed to the following supply details:
 - Supply of semi-dried and vacuum sealed (plastic packaging) 1080 meat (kangaroo) baits, mainly fox strength baits (3mg 1080 in each bait piece), but also some wild dog baits (6mg 1080 in each bait piece);
 - Supply of bait warning signs; and
 - Supply of three lots bait delivery runs, which entailed three days of road travel (and accommodation) to receipt points on each bait run, which were:
 - Feb 2020;
 - August 2020; and
 - Feb 2021.

Deliverable 2:

Achievement of Deliverable 2: Describe what you did and what was achieved (200 words)

Objective 2: The selection of strategically located sheep farms (and their buffer areas) within each Shire for inclusion in this project.

Deliverable: EOI (expressions of interest) flier published and advertised.

- **Measure of Success:** 2.1 SOK – Draft up EOI Flier and distribute to partner groups; 2.2 Partner Groups – Disseminate the EOI Flier via their local media outlets; 2.3 SOK – Provide update to partner groups on the number of EOI applications received for each Shire; and 2.4 Partner Groups – Those Shires who received few EOI applications to re-disseminate the EOI Flier via their local media outlets.
 - **Outcome: Complete.** Enough responses were collated to warrant the planning for three separate workshops.

Deliverable: Assessment of submitted EOI applications using selection criteria.

- **Measure of Success:** 2.5 SOK – Draft up selection criteria for assessing submitted EOIs; 2.6 SOK – Collate applications to the EOI and use selection criteria to score each; & 2.7 SOK – Respond to EOI applicants based on results of the selection criteria assessment, requesting more information where needed
 - **Outcome: Complete.** Criteria for assessment of applications to the EOI were kept fairly simple, focusing of property location and sheep numbers, etc. Also due to the slower than expected response to the EOI less emphasis was placed on the selection criteria. Applicants were followed up for extra information where required.

A summary of EOIs that were received include *(some EOIs resulted in more than one RCP permit due to multiple detached properties, see next section on RCPs)*:

- **Initial 60 EOIs received before the 1st Bait Run in Feb 2020;**
- **Another 10 EOIs received before the 2nd Bait Run in Aug 2020;**
- **Another 1 EOI received before the 3rd Bait Run in Feb 2021; and**
- **Another 2 EOIs received before the end of the project (Jun 2021).**

Deliverable 3:

Achievement of Deliverable 3: Describe what you did and what was achieved (200 words)

Objective 3: Submitted to and approved by DPIRD, 1080 fox bait RCP (restricted chemical permit) applications for new properties or amendments to existing RCPs, to allow this project's fox baiting to proceed.

Deliverable: Schedule for DPIRD facilitated RCP applications and/or amendments.

- **Measure of Success:** 3.1 SOK – Consult with DPIRD (and other stakeholders) to establish workshop speakers and dates. Also confirm instructions for online permit applications for those who cannot attend workshops.
 - **Outcome: Complete.** Three workshops were planned for the areas with greatest EOI responses and the Shire secured support from DPIRD to deliver them, with the Shire's suggested format agreed and adopted for a 3 to 3.5 session for each. Agreed workshop format summarised here:

- **Part 1 (40min) – Filling in RCP form.**

- Few days prior to workshop – Shire of Kent to provide details to DPIRD on 1080 bait supplier (& other specific details) for this project
- DPIRD rep to talk participants through filling RCP application form (or amending existing ones)
- Sometime after workshop – Shire of Kent to provide a bulk payment for the RCP application fee so as to attain the reduce fee cost.

- **Part 2 (40min) – Complete mapping.**

- Few days prior to workshop – Shire of Kent to preparing maps and print (at their cost), noting DPIRD said they doesn't have resources for this level of input.
- Hard copy maps handed out with coloured textures to workshop participants
- DPIRD to talk participants through drawing permit application details on maps
- Participants to hand in complete maps to DPIRD representative before leaving workshop. Any mapping not completed at workshop will need to be followed up by partner groups.

- **Part 3 (40min) – Completing 1080 accreditation**

- DPIRD to bring hard copy 1080 accreditation test forms for participants to fill out.
- DPIRD rep to talk participants through the accreditation process and doing the test.
- Participants to complete 1080 accreditation before departing workshop

- **Part 4 (40min) – DPIRD to disseminate general knowledge on strategies and control methods**

Deliverable: RCP workshop (and facilitation of online RCP applications).

- **Measure of Success:** 3.2 SOK – Ensure approved project properties (applicants) are booked in to attend one of the organised DPIRD workshops, including printing of their maps and applications forms (to provide at workshops). For those applicants unavailable to attend one of the DPIRD workshops, disseminate instructions for online permit applications; and 3.3 DPIRD (and Partner Groups) – Run RCP workshops for approved project properties and assist with online applications. DPIRD to collate accreditations.
 - **Outcome: Complete.** Three workshops were run, with logistics including venue hire and catering, property map preparation and forms:
 - **Monday 2019-08-19 (9am to 12pm) Mount Barker (Frost Oval Pavilion)**
 - Facilitated by DPIRD Biosecurity Officer Jason Dearle and Partner Group Oyster Harbour Catchment Group
 - ~20 EOI respondents/RCP applications attended
 - **Tuesday 2019-08-20 (1pm to 4pm) Pingrup (Sports Oval Pavilion)**
 - Facilitated by DPIRD Biosecurity Officer Brett Scourse and Partner Group Shire of Kent (NRM/Landcare)
 - ~13 EOI respondents/RCP applications attended
 - **Wednesday 2019-08-21 (9am to 12pm) Kojonup (Sports Oval Pavilion)**
 - Facilitated by DPIRD Biosecurity Officer Brett Scourse and Partner Group Shire of Kojonup (Landcare)
 - ~10 EOI respondents/RCP applications attended

Deliverable: Submitted (to DPIRD) RCP applications or amendments.

- **Measure of Success:** 3.4 SOK – Collate completed permit forms and maps, finalise any amendments (with applicants), scan and forward to DPIRD, including purchase orders for payment of applications.
 - **Outcome: Complete.** A significant amount of post workshops followup was required with permit applicants to finalise mapping and form details. Once complied the Shire collated all applications and sent them on the DPIRD. RCP applications received in later months had to be facilitated by Partner Groups as there was limited capacity to run further workshops, which required a minimum number participants.

Deliverable: Approved (by DPIRD) RCP applications or amendments.

- **Measure of Success:** 3.5 DPIRD – Email out approved RCPs to SOK, applicants and also to the project bait supplier.

- **Outcome: Complete.** A significant amount of post workshops followup was required with permit applicants to finalise mapping and form details. Once complied the Shire collated all applications and sent them on the DPIRD.
 - **Initial 81 RCPs approved in time for the 1st Bait Run in Feb 2020;**
 - 71 New Applications and 10 Amendments.
 - **Another 12 RCPs approved in time for the 2nd Bait Run in Aug 2020;**
 - 10 New Applications and 2 Amendments.
 - **Another 2 RCPs approved in time for the 3rd Bait Run in Feb 2021;**
 - 2 New Applications.
 - **Another 4 RCPs approved before end of project (Jun 2021);**
 - 4 New Applications.
 - **Another 3 existing RCPs confirmed before end of project (Jun 2021).**

Deliverable 4:

Achievement of Deliverable 4: Describe what you did and what was achieved (200 words)

Objective: Establish project agreements between partner groups and approved project property users for this project.

Deliverable: Signed agreements between approved project property users and partner groups.

- **Measure of Success:** 4.1 SOK – Draft up agreement template and spreadsheet of data to be prefilled into each agreement and email out to partner groups; and 4.2 Partner Groups – Prefill agreement templates using the data spreadsheet and agreement template provide by the SOK. Then send out to property users to sign and return signed agreements to the SOK.
 - **Outcome: Complete.** A simple one page agreement template was drafted up by the Shire, which was distributed to RCP holders for signing when they came to receive their baits on the first bait run in February 2020. As more RCP holders joined they also signed these on received baits on later bait runs.

Deliverable 5:

Achievement of Deliverable 5: Describe what you did and what was achieved (200 words)

Objective: Feral Scan used to record monitoring data with this project.

Deliverable: Project property boundaries uploaded into feral scan.

- **Measure of Success:** 5.1 SOK – To create shape file of all approved project property boundaries and upload into feral scan.

- **Outcome: Partially Complete.** Shape files of each RCP property were created, but not uploaded into Feral Scan, as it was deemed not required to use feral scan for the purpose of this project at this stage.

Deliverable: Run feral scan workshop specifically for Partner Groups.

- **Measure of Success:** 5.2 Feral Scan (Peter West) and Partner Groups – Workshop to upskill Partner Group officers on the use of feral scan to record project data.
 - **Outcome: Not Implemented.** As it was deemed not required to use feral scan for the purpose of this project, so the proposed workshops were not implemented.

Deliverable: Recorded baiting activity.

- **Measure of Success:** 5.3 Partner Groups – Collect monitoring data from property users participating in this project (number of baits laid follow by number of baits untaken after max 30 to 40 days) and enter it into feral scan.
 - **Outcome: Partially Complete.** Monitoring data was collated by Partner Groups, however as it was deemed not required to used feral scan for the purpose of this project, so the monitoring data was not uploaded in feral scan.

Deliverable 6:

Achievement of Deliverable 6: Describe what you did and what was achieved (200 words)

Objective: Supply and Distribution of Fox Baits.

Deliverable: Establishment of Shire distribution points for the bait supplier; and Schedule for distribution of fox baits

- **Measure of Success:** 6.1 Partner Groups – Provide the SOK one safe point within each of their responsible Shires where the fox bait supplier can distribute fox baits for each of the 3 planned project baiting periods; and 6.2 SOK – Finalise initial dates for the distribution of fox baits at established distribution points for each of the 3 baiting periods;

Deliverable: Supply and distribution of fox baits to approved project property users at each Shire's allocated distribution points.

- **Measure of Success:** 6.3 Bait Supplier – Using an appropriate vehicle conducts at least one baiting run (transportation of baits) for each baiting period to each of the distribution points and provide baits to approved project property users; and 6.4 Partner Groups – Ensure approved project property users are informed of bait distribution dates and locations for each distribution run. This includes being present at distribution points for their responsible Shires to assist the supplier with distribution of baits to users (RCP receivers).

- **Outcome: Complete.** Baits procured included:
(Note: Wild Dog Baits were only used by the LPMT dogger in the Magenta area)

- **For 1st Bait Run:**

- Procured from ACTA:
 - **4,860** fox baits (3mg 1080 in dried meat piece)
 - **750** wild dog baits (6mg 1080 in dried meat piece)
- Contributed by EWBG (via ACTA):
 - **500** wild dog baits (6mg 1080 in dried meat piece)
- Procured from LPMT dogger GME Project Services (Greg Elliot) :
 - **1,280** wild dog baits (6mg 1080 in dried meat piece)

- **For 2nd Bait Run:**

- Procured from ACTA:
 - **5,000** fox baits (3mg 1080 in dried meat piece)
- Procured from LPMT dogger GME Project Services (Greg Elliot) :
 - **1,673** wild dog baits (6mg 1080 in dried meat piece)

- **For 3rd Bait Run:**

- Procured from ACTA:
 - **5,787** fox baits (3mg 1080 in dried meat piece)

The following details of ACTA's delivery schedule: *(Note a small handful of RCP holders collected their bait allocations directly from ACTA's facility in Bunbury as they were not available to receive baits within the scheduled listed below)*

- **First (1st) Bait Run: DAY 1 Bait Receive Points: 2020-02-18:**

- KATANNING - 8:00AM To 9:00AM
- PINGRUP - 11:30PM TO 12:30PM
- KWOBURUP - 2:00PM TO 3:00PM
- GNOWANGERUP - 4:00PM TO 5:00PM

- **First (1st) Bait Run: DAY 2 Bait Receive Points: 2020-02-19:**

- CRANBROOK - 8:30AM TO 10:00PM
 - MOUNT BARKER - 12:30PM TO 2:00PM
 - KOJONUP - 4:00PM TO 5:30PM
-

- **Second (2nd) Bait Run: DAY 1 Bait Receive Points: 2020-08-18:**
 - KWOBURUP - 9:00AM To 10:00AM
 - PINGRUP - 11:10AM To 12:10PM
 - NORTH STIRLINGS - 2:00PM To 3:00PM
 - **Second (2nd) Bait Run: DAY 2 Bait Receive Points: 2020-08-19:**
 - KATANNING - 8:30AM To 9:30AM
 - CRANBROOK - 11:00AM To 12:00PM
 - MOUNT BARKER - 1:00PM To 2:00PM
 - **Second (2nd) Bait Run: DAY 3 Bait Receive Points: 2020-08-20:**
 - KOJONUP - 8:00AM To 9:00AM
-
- **Third (3rd) Bait Run: DAY 1 Bait Receive Points: 2020-02-16:**
 - KWOBURUP - 8:45AM To 9:45AM
 - PINGRUP - 11:15AM To 12:15PM
 - NORTH STIRLINGS - 2:00PM To 3:00PM
 - **Third (3rd) Bait Run: DAY 2 Bait Receive Points: 2020-02-17:**
 - KATANNING - 8:30AM To 9:30AM
 - CRANBROOK - 11:15AM To 12:15PM
 - MOUNT BARKER - 1:30PM To 2:30PM
 - **Third (3rd) Bait Run: DAY 3 Bait Receive Points: 2020-02-18:**
 - KOJONUP - 8:30AM To 9:30AM

Deliverable 7:

Achievement of Deliverable 7: Describe what you did and what was achieved (200 words)

Objective: Implementation of Fox Baiting

Deliverable: Laying out baits

- **Measure of Success:** 7.1 Partner Groups – Ensure each approved project property user lays out supplied baits and collects monitoring data (number of baits laid follow by number of baits untaken after max 30 to 40 days).
 - **Outcome: Complete.** Partner Groups supplied regular reminders to RCP holders to lay baits and collect monitoring data.

Executive Summary: *Please provide a plain English Executive Summary on project activities, outcomes and achievements that is suitable for publication.*

This project engaged eight local NRM/Landcare 'partner' groups and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) across the Upper Great Southern to facilitate fox and wild dog baiting (and associated DPIRD authorisation via RCPs) on sheep farming and adjacent properties for the purpose of protecting the sheep industry during drought. The project facilitated about ~102 separate RCP (restricted chemical permits) from about ~73 separate farm businesses for DPIRD approved baiting. This also resulted in improved collaboration between NRM/Landcare groups in the area and greater awareness of the opportunities associated with community engagement with fox bait.

A main bait supplier was used for the project to distribute safely packaged and quality fox baits across the project area over three separate delivery runs, which were implemented in February 2020, August 2020 and finally in February 2021. Wild Dog baits were specifically supplied by the Southern Biosecurity Group's LPMT dogger (GME Project Services) for control activities in the Magenta area (east end of Kent Shire and south central end of Lake Grace Shire).

The Project has resulted in reduced fox and wild dog predation of local sheep populations.

Grant Outcomes

Describe how your project contributed to the following outcomes (300 words):

Pests and weeds management projects:

- **Increase stocking rates for farm businesses and agricultural output:**

The baiting implemented provided confidence to sheep farmers to utilise more paddocks for grazing over longer parts of the year.

- **Reduce competition for fodder and native plants from vertebrate pests and weed species**
n/a

- **Stimulate economic activity and increase local employment**

Improved lamb marking resulted in more sheep surviving for wool and meat production. Also the project provided bait suppliers an opportunities to increase business activity.

- **Reduce the impact of predators on grazing animals**

RCP permit holders that received and used baits from this project reporting improved lamb marking percentages and observed less behavioural issues from their sheep

Financial Information

Please complete the attached Financial (Report) Declaration for your project.

Please see attached Financial Report

Co-contribution

Please comment on the amount in-kind / cash co-contributions you received and whether this was in line with the amount in the Activity Work Plan budget.

The single largest in-kind contribution to the project was the effort by RCP holders to obtain their permits and then proceed with the bait activities on their properties.

Project learnings and lessons

Describe any learnings and lessons gained from the project including any comments that could lead to improved processes for future funding rounds? (200 words)

- Consideration of including rabbit control with fox control in future programs.
- Streamlining the RCP application process with DPIRD to make it as time efficient as possible for applicants. Also ensuring required mapping with the RCP applications are improved to a quality standard for DPIRD to accept. This means possibly considering increased GIS capacity and capability for facilitating stakeholders.
- Establishing refrigerated bait storage facilities (restricted access) in the area in the near future, to improve efficiency and safety with access to bait.
- Use of online programs &/or apps for recording information related to baiting, to streamline records management and monitoring system. Feral Scan is one option.

I **Paul Leoni** am authorised to submit this report on behalf of the **Shire of Kent**.

I declare that the project has been undertaken and completed as detailed in this Communities Combating Pests and Weed Impacts During Drought Program – *Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds* (Round 1) Final Report.

Authorised person's Signature/Name	Paul Leoni
Position in organisation	NRM Community Support Officer
Date	30/07/2021

This form can be emailed in. DAWE.Manage@communitygrants.gov.au

Instead of signing the form, a printed name is accept/able, as long as the report is submitted by the authorised person.