



Wild Dog Management Plan

2020 – 2024



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1. Introduction

The Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association (GNRBA) Wild Dog Management Plan (WDMP) details are the associations mission statement and actions towards wild dog management.

The GNRBA wild dog management plan and budget clearly informs all stakeholders of the operational program, expenditure, roles and responsibilities.

The impact of wild dogs in the GNRBA area continues to be of great concern, as it has been for many years. Traditional wild dog management methods have been used ever since pastoral settlement and have had differing levels of success in local areas for varying lengths of time.

By far the greatest threat to the region's biodiversity is predation and harassment of native animals by wild dogs. Wild dogs are a major problem for pastoral production in the region, attacking sheep, goats and juvenile cattle. This not only causes immediate losses by killing of animals and lost production, it also results in socio-economic costs that have long term impacts on the community in general.

2. Background

The GNRBA is the largest biosecurity region in western Australia, covering an area of 933,814 square kilometres (see Figure 1), representing 37% of WA, which is the same size as South Australia and four times the size of Victoria, it has a relatively small population of 45,000 people mostly resident in Kalgoorlie/Boulder.

The GNRBA covers 9 local government areas, and borders the northern territory and south Australia, with multiple points of entry yet only one manned check point. These entry points include an interstate railway, numerous tourist routes and airports such as Forrest.

The GNRBA region has by far the greatest complexity due to the large areas of Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) which are generally unmanaged, provide habitat for wild dogs and are the source of reinvasion into adjacent pastoral properties.

The UCL issue dominates the GNRBA's ability to manage biosecurity issues in the region and ensures that the GNRBA needs to be entirely reactive to pests and invasive weeds.

The GNRBA's exposure to UCL mean that wild dogs cannot be eliminated until a wild dog barrier is erected.

Further, the GNRBA's ability to control wild dogs is hampered by a complex interaction between UCL, pastoral activity, Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) properties managed for conservation, towns and mining activity which overlays a natural pastoral environment with destocked properties, haul roads and camps with food sources (unfenced tips), tourists and recreational activities which often interfere with control programs.

The Wild Dog Management Plan is designed to be effective over the entire GNRBA region including all land uses and types. Fully implemented and driven by stakeholders, the baiting programs are adequate enough to operate cattle businesses. This is particularly the case in the north of the region. However, not all pastoral businesses in the region are suitable for running cattle for various reasons. Those properties which produce small stock do so at an elevated risk and understand a significant contribution to wild dog management is needed to maintain a viable small stock production enterprise. Included in the plan is non-pastoral production land, such as land with cultural, conservation, mineral extraction and tourism/lifestyle value. It is widely recognised the wild dogs need to be managed on all tenure types to ensure impacts are minimised on neighbouring pastoral production properties.

3. Mission Statement

The GNRBA members endeavour to reduce wild dog densities and impact to a manageable level that will allow all pastoral land managers to have the opportunity to run the livestock of their choice. This can only be achieved with full participation of all land managers on all land types using a combination of wild dog management tools, within the GNRBA region.

It is the intention for all those properties within the proposed Kalgoorlie Vermin Cell to achieve eradication of the wild dog population by a reduction of 30% per year and by the end of 5 years achieve a dog density of less than one per property. Eradication will be considered successful if there are zero dogs in an area for three consecutive years.

The construction of the Kalgoorlie Vermin Cell will create a fully enclosed area where wild dogs within the cell could be eradicated. Every landholder within the cell will need to increase or modify their wild dog control activities to ensure the eradication goals are achieved.

4. GNRBA Area

The GNRBA area covers approximately 933,000 square kilometres and incorporates 100 pastoral properties. Of these 100 pastoral properties, there is a mix of tenure ranging from pastoral leases, to mining leases, UCL DBCA reserve and indigenous managed pastoral leases, refer to figure 1.

In addition to pastoralists, other stakeholders in the GNRBA area are listed in Table 1 below.

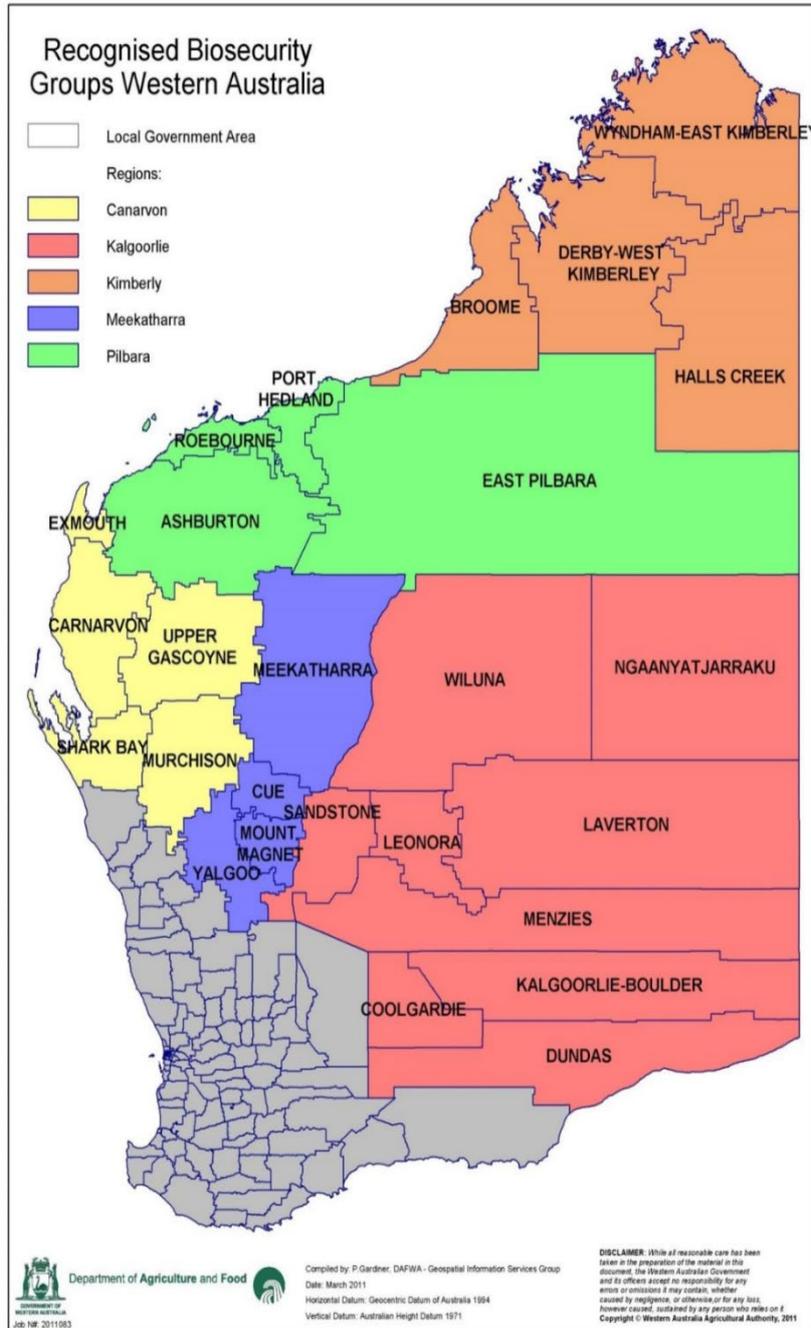


Figure 1: Recognised Biosecurity Groups in WA

Table 1: GNRBA Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Contact Details
Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association	Michelle Donaldson PO Box 417 Kalgoorlie 6433 0439 363 263 ceo@gnrba.com.au
Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions	Nigel Wessel Regional Manager DBCA Goldfields Region (08) 9080 5555 PO Box 10173 Kalgoorlie 6433
Rangelands NRM	Joy Sherlock RNRM Southern Rangelands 0419 328 535 joys@rangelandswa.com.au
Mining Co	Various
Local Governments	ceo@menzies.wa.gov.au ceo@leonora.wa.gov.au ceo@sandstone.wa.gov.au ceo@wiluna.wa.gov.au ceo@coolgardie.wa.gov.au ceo@dundas.wa.gov.au ceo@laverton.wa.gov.au ceo@ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au
Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development	DPIRD 3 Baron-Hay Crt, South Perth (08) 9088 6049
Traditional Owners	Birriliburu Native Title Determination and Indigenous Protected Area Spinfex Native Title Determination Martu Native Title Determination Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
Kalgoorlie Pastoral Alliance Pty Ltd	Ross Wood 0439 918 492 rosswood1@bigpond.com

5. Sub Regions

With the largest area of management of any Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) in Western Australia, the GNRBA has created four sub-regions in which it operates, all of which have unique biosecurity management issues.

5.1 Nullarbor

The Nullarbor is a fully productive pastoral zone with a mixture of cattle and sheep properties. Some of the sheep properties have privately built vermin fences and require assistance from GNRBA to complement their own baiting strategies both inside and outside the fenced areas. Some sheep properties are exposed to UCL and require high intensity baiting and assistance. The cattle properties also exposed to UCL require wild dog baiting to minimise wild dog impacts on young stock.

The GNRBA uses a combination of regular dogger runs to bait and trap in UCL areas adjacent to pastoral properties; up to two sponsored aerial baiting runs a year to assist in reducing UCL wild dog numbers and up to four sponsored ground baitings per year. The GNRBA historically used available funds from Royalties for Regions (R4R) to supplement its activity on the Nullarbor. This funding ceases on the 30th June 2020 and the GNRBA is currently waiting to be informed as to whether this essential funding will be made available after this time in some format.

The GNRBA works closely with DBCA Goldfields to mitigate wild dog impact from DBCA managed lands including UCL.

DBCA is represented on the GNRBA Management Committee and is an Associate Member.

5.2 Kalgoorlie and Proposed Kalgoorlie Vermin Cell (KVC)

The Kalgoorlie area is comprised of many former sheep pastoral leases that are destocked, leases owned by mining companies and kept unstocked or leases converted to cattle stations. All properties within the Kalgoorlie area are now subject to high wild dog numbers and any property operating without exclusion fencing is prevented from returning to small stock.

The Kalgoorlie area is almost completely surrounded by UCL and includes some former pastoral sheep properties being managed for conservation by DBCA.

The GNRBA encourages these properties to participate in up to four sponsored baitings each year and use the aircraft when necessary to bait inaccessible areas.

Within the southern portion of the GNRBA, the proposed KVC, if completed, will comprise an area of around 20,000 square kilometres and will incorporate 9 pastoral properties.

The entire fencing program would come under the control of the KPA Board. The cost of ongoing maintenance for this section of fence could be derived from funding raised from landholder fence rental

payments, precepts from Councils and an annual contribution from the GNRBA. Rates could be raised through differential rating so that those inside the cell will contribute to the fence maintenance.

The completion of the Kalgoorlie Vermin Cell and eradication of wild dogs from within would enable the re-establishment of a viable small stock industry and give an enormous shot in the arm to returns from primary industry in the region, not to mention strengthening demand for goods and services in local regional towns. Land under the control of DBCA also stands to benefit substantially as native animal numbers recover in the absence of wild dogs.

In addition, the flow-on effects from related businesses such as trucking companies and abattoirs linked to pastoral production will also benefit from increased pastoral production generated by the KVC. These industries are key employers in rural communities and the flow-on effects will be felt through the retention and creation of further jobs.

From an environmental perspective a reduction in wild dog numbers has numerous benefits including a marked improvement in regional biodiversity as a result of fewer predators, regeneration of native vegetation and a reduction in soil loss through controlling grazing pressure.

Once completion of the KVC is achieved it is intended the GNRBA have two separate required minimum standards. Those outside the cell will be required to comply with the minimum standards (documented in Appendix 1) to manage the impacts of wild dogs, while those inside the cell will be required to conduct wild dog control to achieve, eradication. This will require a proactive approach and not just being reactive.

Figure 2 shows the proposed KVC Pastoral Leases.

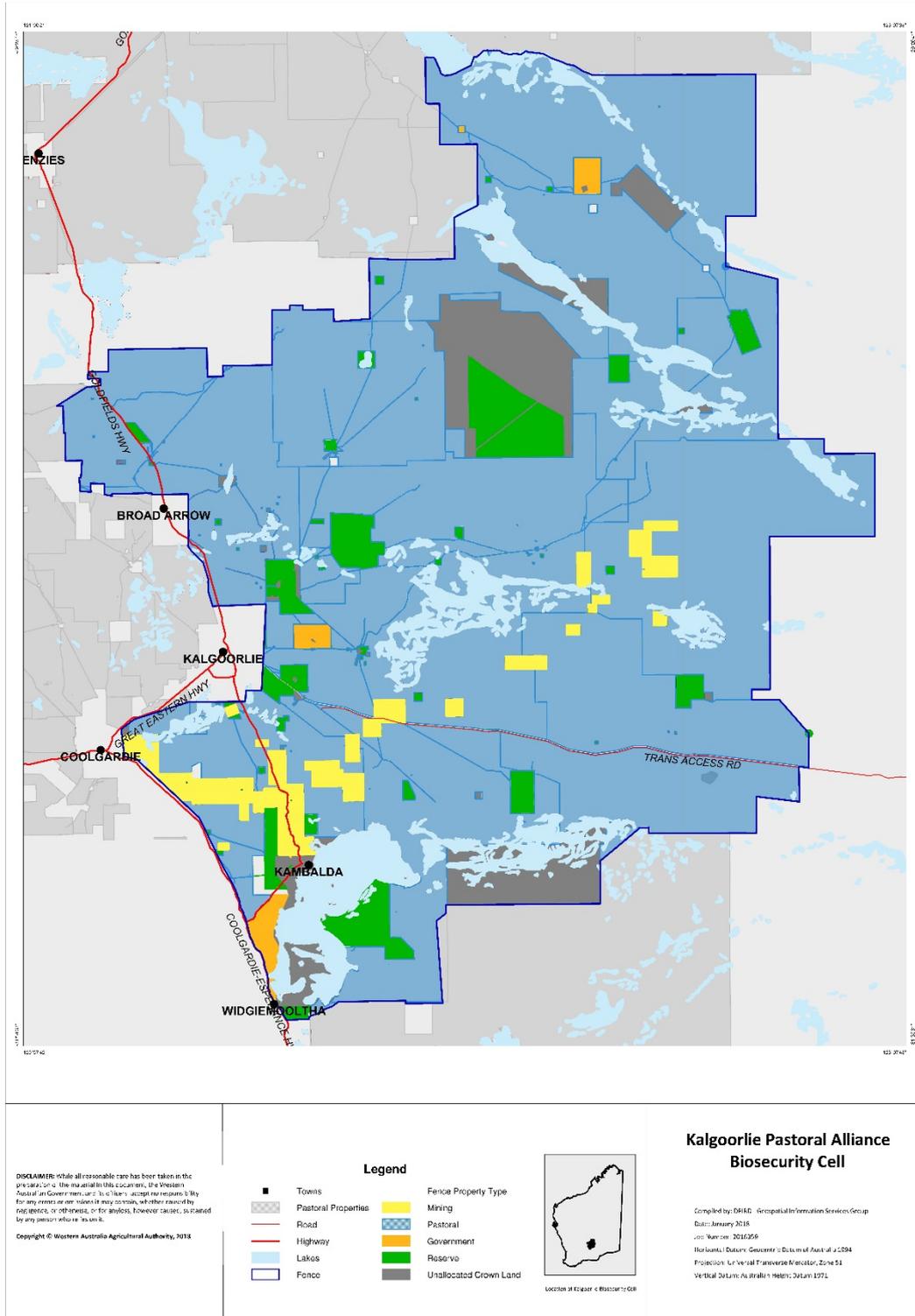


Figure 2: Proposed Kalgoorlie Vermin Cell

5.3 Laverton/Sandstone/Leonora (LSL)

The Laverton/Sandstone/Leonora sub-region comprises mostly ex sheep stations now running cattle, DBCA stations managed for conservation and mining company destocked stations.

The Sandstone area has strong and well co-ordinated baiting programs. This includes up to four winter-based ground baitings sponsored by GNRBA and if necessary, a June aerial baiting for inaccessible areas. February baiting is now thought to be wasteful due to heat and high consumption of baits by Bungarras.

5.4 Wiluna

The Wiluna region is comprised of cattle stations with some DBCA stations managed for conservation. DBCA bait these properties heavily to minimize the impact of wild dogs, cats and foxes on re-established marsupials such as bilbies.



The Wiluna properties ground bait up to four times a year and if necessary, run a June aerial baiting for inaccessible areas. It is recognised that as long as the bulk of wild dogs are controlled in these areas, these cattle properties are reducing calf attacks (and consequently increasing production and profit), particularly in poor seasons.

Table 2 summarises the annual baiting program for the GNRBA sub-regions.

Table 2: Annual baiting program for GNRBA sub-regions

Sub-Region	Aerial Fixed Wing	Ground
Leonora/Sandstone/Laverton	Up to 1	Up to 4
Wiluna	Up to 1	Up to 4
Nullarbor	Up to 2	Up to 4
Kalgoorlie	Up to 1	Up to 4

The GNRBA is externally funded for a second aerial baiting (fixed wing) on the Nullarbor in December.

Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) the eastern Nullarbor from coast to Transline and Nuytsland will be targeted as part of this program.

All sub regions would like to see the re-introduction of trapping by LPMT's in conjunction with regular baiting. The GNRBA is doing it's best to interpret how this could best be done within the current budget.

5.5 Department of Biosecurity Conservation and Attractions

These properties bait to reduce impact on neighbouring properties and assist the GNRBA in coordinating rapid responses.

6. GNRBA Minimum Standards for Wild Dog Management

The GNRBA Management Committee has endorsed a set of minimum standards for wild dog management (see Appendix 1) that are in line with prescribed control under the BAM Act 2007.

All legislation regarding use of firearms, poisons, traps, and animal welfare must be adhered to at all times. Shooting must be conducted in an ethical manner that reduces the likelihood of unnecessary suffering of animals.

The GNRBA supports the use of the National Model Code of Practice for the Humane control of Wild Dogs and associated Standard Operating Procedures.

7. GNRBA Roles and Responsibilities for Wild Dog Management

The GNRBA Management Committee is responsible for determining, on an annual basis, the rates and budget and how the budget is to be expended. In doing so, the GNRBA Management Committee determines the funds required to carry out biosecurity activity and where the money is spent. As a general rule, 65% of the GNRBA annual budget is expended on wild dog control.

The GNRBA aims to build sufficient surplus in its budget to enable it to react quickly and decisively with high impact baiting and/or a dogger into specific areas at short notice. This will be allocated at the discretion of the GNRBA Management Committee.

GNRBA will endeavour to sponsor one aerial delivery of wild dog baits per year to landholders in order to cover inaccessible areas which cannot be ground baited. The Nullarbor will deliver an additional aerial baiting in November to mitigate recolonization from adjoining UCL.

GNRBA will sponsor poisons of up to 2 x 25 gm Strychnine and 4 litres of 1080 concentrate to all landholders as requested.

GNRBA will sponsor meat for up to four GNRBA co-ordinated community ground baiting programs per year.

GNRBA will organise 1080 approved pastoralist injector training in Kalgoorlie once a year, or as required.

The GNRBA has mapped hotspots on every property in the GNRBA region. Financial support for the delivery of aerial baiting will be sought externally.

8. GNRBA Annual Community Aerial Baiting Program

The GNRBA, when proven necessary, will provide an annual aerial delivery service to landholders to deliver wild dog baits into inaccessible areas only. Forward planning is required and requests for the aircraft must be submitted to the GNRBA CEO no later than the following.

8.1 Nullarbor

31st March for June (fixed wing) baiting (for UCL externally funded)

1st September for November aerial (fixed wing)

8.2 Kalgoorlie

31st March for June aerial (fixed wing) baiting

8.3 Leonora/Sandstone/Laverton (LSL)

31st March for June aerial (fixed wing) baiting

8.4 Wiluna

31st March for June aerial (fixed wing) baiting

8.5 Logistics

Individual flight dates will be emailed to each land manager 2 weeks prior to the delivery date.

All land managers are required to:

- Have their baits ready for flights on the day,
- Assist with refuelling of the aircraft, and
- Provide meals and accommodation for the pilot and navigator or bombardier as requested/required

Mapping key areas with landholders within the LSL area will be required to determine strategic locations for priority management. The GNRBA will undertake to explore opportunities for external funding for this exercise.

The GNRBA will start identifying absentee land managers or corporate mining pastoralists to seek written permission to deliver strategic aerial baiting on their properties as part of the baiting program.

All baiting plans to be conducted in accordance with codes of practice (COP) for 1080.

9. GNRBA Annual Community Ground Baiting Program

The GNRBA will provide prepared baits or if requested, meat, 1080 concentrate, baiting supplies and PPE to participating properties up to four times per year. This will consist of an April and September baiting and up to an additional two baitings per year if required.

It is the responsibility of individual land managers to maintain contact with the respective Co-ordinator and/or the GNRBA CEO to assist with logistical planning.

10. Royalties for Regions Wild Dog Management Program

In addition to the GNRBA Aerial and Community Ground Baiting Programs, the GNRBA did obtain external funding from Royalties for Regions to provide extra wild dog management around small stock properties for the period 2011/12 – 2015/16. This program was extended to 2019/20.

The GNRBA received approximately \$100,000 pa under this program for the provision of doggers. DPIRD held the head contract for this program, and as such, the GNRBA continues to pursue an alternative to this invaluable funding from 1st July 2020.

11. Poisons Distribution

All authorised users are responsible for ensuring they have a current RCP permit (S7 Poisons). The GNRBA S7 retailer is Teen Ryan. It is the authorised receiver's responsibility to make arrangements with the nominated S7 retailer for poison delivery/pick up. All poisons and baits **MUST** be transported in containers complying with legislative requirements. For information regarding this contact GNRBA CEO.

S7 retailer Teen Ryan can be contacted on 0457 292 845 or teen_ryan@bigpond.com

12. Doggers

Table 4 lists the LPMT's (Dogger's) employed by the GNRBA and their co-ordinator and area of operation.

Table 3: GNRBA doggers and area of operation

Co-ordinator	Area of operation	Dogger
Michelle Donaldson GNRBA EO 0439 363 263	Nullarbor Kalgoorlie	Teen Ryan
Michelle Donaldson GNRBA EO 0439 918 492	Menzies Sandstone	Various

13. Dogger Role and Responsibilities

13.1 Role

The function of the dogger is to carry out activities in accordance with the GNRBA policies and relevant legislation. The functions include the following:

- Carry out surveillance in the GNRBA sub regions with regard to the presence of declared animals and, to the best of their ability, advise the GNRBA Co-ordinator of estimated wild dog numbers, population trends and dog movements.
- Implement co-ordinated control of declared animals in the GNRBA sub region.
- Carry out ground baiting as part of daily activities.
- Perform all tasks required by GNRBA co-ordinators.
- Carry out work on all the stations in relevant dogging area.
- Maintain a point of contact with GNRBA co-ordinator at all times.
- The GNRBA CEO, as the authorised representative of the GNRBA, will coordinate and delegate duties to the dogger.
- Assist the GNRBA to coordinate and plan ground and aerial wild dog control activities.

13.2 Responsibilities

At the point of commencement of the contact, the dogger must have all current licenses, approvals, permits, insurances, indemnities and other authorisations which are required to lawfully carry out their obligations and functions. These include:

- Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance
- Poison permits/approvals
- Firearms licenses
- Drivers Licence

In the course of his/her duties, the dogger must also:

- Abide by all Acts and regulations.
- Maintain a safe working environment including the use of a SPOT tracking device by “spotting” in to their GNRBA Coordinator at the end of each workday.

- Maintain competency in the tasks required to deliver the services specified.
- Supply all facilities, vehicles, equipment and materials to carry out the work involved in delivering the services. This will include a reliable licensed 4-wheel drive vehicle. Reliable licensed firearms and carry sufficient equipment to be self-contained.
- Provide adequate security for all poisons.
- Be fully self-contained and capable of camping for extended periods of time.
- Be registered for GST.

14. Reporting of Wild Dog Management Activities

14.1 Doggers

Doggers are required to submit Property Activity Reports regularly, and summarised general information as required for GNRBA meetings.

14.2 Pastoralists

Pastoralists are to report any significant changes in dog densities and movements, for planning purposes, to the GNRBA.

14.3 Chairman/CEO

The Chairman or CEO will prepare an annual report for distribution of the Association's activities and future intentions.

14.4 GNRBA

The GNRBA will supply copies of GNRBA operational and strategic plans to all members.

15. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of wild dog management activities is critical to ascertain the success or otherwise of the program and its various components. To this end, the GNRBA will be collecting the following information throughout the life of this plan:

- LPMT's will submit Property Activity Reports (PAR) (co-ordinates of dogs kills, number of dogs trapped, number of dogs shot, number of baits laid, number of traps set, sex and age of dogs destroyed, track sighting, stock losses observed) to the GNRBA after return from the field (each dogging run).
- Additional property information will be collected if made available (number of kills, stock losses (increasing/decreasing/stable, dog sighting increasing/decreasing/stable and weaning percentages).
- The S7 will maintain up to date poison records (amount of 1080 and strychnine used on each individual property) and maintain the poisons supply to industry standards.

Appendix 1: GNRBA Minimum Standards For Wild Dog Management

This minimum standard is agreed by the GNRBA Management Committee to be fair and equitable to all land managers. All land managers within the GNRBA region are expected to adhere to these standards.

1. Under section 30 of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, all land owners and occupiers have an obligation to control declared pests on their property, and to mitigate impacts on all other properties in the area. The GNRBA strongly recommends that land managers undertake the following to manage the impact of wild dogs on their land.
 - a. Have a wild dog control plan for the property, approved by GNRBA; and
 - b. Have a valid permit to use 1080 and strychnine for wild dog control on the property (note: an extended baiting permit may satisfy (a) and (b) simultaneously); and
 - c. Attend co-ordinated control meetings to understand what levels of control are needed and where control needs to be applied (particularly transit routes); and
 - d. Participate in co-ordinated baiting programs; and
 - e. In areas of wild dog activity, lay and maintain 1080 baits and traps at all times while wild dogs are active; or
 - f. Employ a contractor to carry out wild dog control in accordance with the GNRBA Wild Dog Management Plan developed by the GNRBA and associated stakeholders.
 - g. The landowner may fence their property with a fence suitable for excluding wild dogs and carry out control along its transect.

Where the above measures are proven insufficient and/or ineffective, the landowner may discuss alternative options for control with the GNRBA and the local DPIRD Biosecurity Officer to arrive at a mutually agreed level of control.

2. If, during an inspection by an inspector appointed under the BAM Act 2007, the owner of the wild infested property is not able to demonstrate that they have initiated any effective control measures, a Pest Control Notice may be issued to the landowner under section 31 of the Act.
3. The Pest Control Notice may require any or a combination of the following actions as described in section 1 of this standard.
 - a. Have a wild dog control plan for the property, approved by the GNRBA; and
 - b. Have a valid permit to use 1080 and strychnine for wild dog control on the property (note: an extended baiting permit may satisfy (a) and (b) simultaneously); and
 - c. Attend co-ordinated planning and control meetings to understand what levels of control are needed and where control needs to be applied (particularly transit routes);
 - d. Participate in co-ordinated baiting;
 - e. In areas of wild dog activity, lay and maintain 1080 baits and traps at all times while wild dogs are active;
 - f. Employ a contractor to carry out wild dog control in accordance with the GNRBA Wild Dog Management Plan developed by the GNRBA and associated stakeholders.
 - g. The landowner may fence their property with a fence suitable for excluding wild dogs and carry out control along its transect.

4. In strategic locations, an inspector may exercise discretion to determine a specified date for a control program to be conducted.
5. Landowners, who have been served with a Pest Control Notice in relation to wild dogs and have been required by the Inspector to prepare a Property Pest Management Plan and implement it, will then be required to provide evidence of implementation.
6. If a landowner does not comply with a Pest Control Notice, DPIRD may take action under the provisions of the BAM Act 2007 section 32 (a), section 33.

