



**Minutes for the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) Annual General Meeting held Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 2025 at Merredin Community Resource Centre Conference Room.**

**Chairperson:** Mick Caughey.

**1. Opening of Meeting:** 10.30am.

- a. **Attendance:** Mick Caughey, Peter Barnes, Stuart Putt, Mark Crees, Ross Della Bosca, Chris Patmore, Dean Sinclair, Margaret Sullivan, Jim Sullivan, Len Armstong, Steve Hunt, Lisa O’Neill, Craig Watts, Donna Crook, Scott Stirrat, Jaime Taylor.
- b. **Apologies:** Gary Guerini, Clinton Mullan, Craig Robins, Steve Palm, Linda Vernon, Travis McDonnell, Bruce Write, Ron Burro.

**2. Disclosure of Interests:**

Lisa O’Neill (Executive Officer)– declared her role as a Councillor for the Shire of Merredin.

**3. Confirmation of Minutes:**

- a. Meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2025, at Merredin CRC, Merredin.
- b. Meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2024, at Merredin CRC, Merredin.

**Motion:**

*That the minutes presented from the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 are accepted as a true and accurate record.*

**Moved: M. Crees. Seconded: S. Hunt.  
Carried.**

**Motion:**

*That the minutes presented from the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 are accepted as a true and accurate record.*

**Moved: S. Stirrat. Seconded: J. Sullivan.  
Carried.**

**4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

HHG Legal Constitution Review- have not identified any substantial changes required.

**5. Adoption of Financial Statement:**

- a. 2024/2025 Audited Financials presented.

**Motion:**

*That the financials presented to be accepted as true and accurate and that the Audit Partners Australia Audit of the EWBG’s 2024/2025 financials were tabled at the meeting to the members.*

**Moved: P. Barnes. Seconded: S. Putt.  
Carried.**



## 6. Appointment of Auditor

**Motion:**

*The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group appoint Audit Partners Australia as the auditors for 2025/26 fiscal year.*

**Moved: P. Barnes. Seconded: S. Stirrat.  
Carried.**

## 7. Setting of Membership Fee

**Motion:**

*The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group's will set a membership fee of \$100 for 2025/26 for the eleven member Shire's of the group.*

**Moved: S. Putt. Seconded: P. Barnes.  
Carried.**

## 8. Chairs Report

**Motion:**

*That the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group's Chairpersons report was presented by Mick Caughey at and included in the 2024-2025 Annual report.*

**Moved: M. Caughey Seconded: M. Crees.  
Carried.**

## 9. Agenda Items

- a. **LPMT (Dogger) Update: provided by Jamie Taylor (in person) and Seb Jenkin and Stuart McEwan (written report).**

Action: Executive Officer to contact the Department regarding damage to the State Barrier Fence caused by recent camel activity.

- b. **EWBG Overview – Executive Officer.**

The attendees received and noted the information as presented during the meeting.

**RBG Forum:**

Proposed dates confirmed for 24–25 February 2026 at Aloft Perth. Lisa O'Neill, Jim Sullivan and Steve Hunt to attend on behalf of the EWBG.

**BAM Act Review:**

State Government is currently considering the reviewed report and recommendations. No decisions have been made at this stage. The Stage 3 consultation feedback has been reviewed by the



independent panel and forwarded to the Minister for consideration.

#### **Code of Practice Update:**

Key concerns and requests raised by RBG Executive Officers will be referred to the RBG Advisory Group, including:

- Confusion between 2019 and 2025 Codes – written clarification requested from DoH.
- Training gaps – current online modules not aligned; Level 2 requirement deemed excessive.
- Signage – new pictograph rule renders existing signs non-compliant; transitional period and funding clarity requested.
- Legislative conflicts – inconsistencies with Animal Welfare Regulations and APVMA approvals to be resolved.
- Bait preparation and handling – impermeable storage requirement impractical; consultation and transition period requested. EWBG LPMT highlighted that the freezer acts as the impermeable storage requirement so does not have concerns.
- Notification distances – increase from 2 km to 10 km causing administrative burden; reinstatement of 2 km exemption requested.
- Missing risk-mitigation guidance – removal of best-practice details noted; EWBG LPMTs not concerned.
- Timing – new Code introduced during peak baiting season created confusion and costs; request for better scheduling of future changes.

#### **Dowerin Field Days:**

Strong attendance and engagement at the RBG site; pig trap display generated significant awareness and discussion around RBG activities.

#### **2026/2027 Budget:**

Proposed 4.9% rate increase, subject to the outcome of the Royalties for Regions (R4R) funding – Financial Assistant Agreement decision. Current year marks the final confirmed year of R4R support.

#### **c. CWBA Update- provided by Chris Patmore.**

Background:

Chris is the Chair of the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association and the Wild Dog Action Plan and represents both the Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA) (as Livestock Committee Chair and Treasurer) and the WA Farmers Federation on the Action Committee.

Wild Dog Management:

Chris noted that 10 years ago, over 1,000 sheep were lost due to wild dog attacks in their region. Through coordinated control and ongoing efforts, stock losses have now reduced to minimal numbers annually.

BAM Act Review:

Indications suggest funding for the current framework may cease in July 2027. A contentious proposal within the review is for all landholders to contribute to a single pool of funds, to be redistributed statewide. At this stage, this model does not appear to be progressing.



The review is expected to go before Parliament in the coming weeks, with a public update to follow. Implementation of any new framework may take several years.

Animal Welfare Act Review:

Currently under review, with indications this will be a key priority for the Government moving forward.

*Action: EO to circulate Chris Patmore's contact details to all Committee and Shire Representatives.*

**10. General Business.**

**a. Emu Numbers:**

LPMTs to provide regular updates on Emu sightings and activity levels across the region.

**b. Acknowledgement:**

A vote of thanks was moved to recognise and appreciate the ongoing efforts of the EWBG LPMTs for their dedication and contribution over the years.

**c. Corella Control:**

Discussion held regarding Corella management within Local Government areas. The Shire of Merredin is actively implementing control measures. EWBG to remain informed of developments and opportunities for collaboration in this area.

**11. Next Meeting:** March 2025 (TBC).

**12. Close of Meeting:** 11.16am.