



**Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC**  
**Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports;**  
**Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade**

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Our ref: 64-18761/13  
Your ref: Petition No. 160

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005  
[env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Swinbourn

**PETITION NO. 160 – BIOSECURITY LEVY IMPOSED ON RESIDENTS OF BOYUP BROOK**

Thank you for your letter dated 27 October 2020 requesting further information on the consultation that took place for the residents of Boyup Brook before a Declared Pest Rate (DPR) was determined.

Please find below responses to your specific questions.

***1. How and when the notice was advertised (including which newspapers)***

The DPR was first implemented in Boyup Brook Shire in 2019-20. The proposed DPR was advertised in the following State and local newspapers:

1. West Australian (18 May 2019)
2. Farm Weekly (21 May 2019)
3. The Countryman (21 May 2019)
4. South West Times (23 May 2019)
5. Bunbury Herald (21 May 2019)
6. Manjimup Bridgetown Times (22 May 2019)
7. Donnybrook Bridgetown Mail (30 May 2019)

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) ran a social media campaign targeting specific Shires to regularly promote the work of the Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) prior to the consultation period. This campaign ran between 22 March to 31 April 2019. The Blackwood Biosecurity Inc.

(BBI) specific campaign ran from 29 March until 19 April 2019. The analytics for the BBI campaign include:

- Reach (number of people who saw the post) – 2,034
- Impressions (number of times it was viewed) – 7,637
- Average number of times the post was shown per person – 3.75

When consultation began on the DPR, social media were posted from 26 May 2019 until 18 June 2019. These posts were targeted at the regions with new rates, including those in the BBI area. The analytics for this campaign include

- Reach – 8,250
- Impressions – 16,987
- Average times shown per person – 2.06

Whilst not specific to the Boyup Brook Shire, an email advising of the DPR was sent to key stakeholder groups across Western Australia on 20 May 2019 inviting submissions from the following stakeholders:

- All RBGs
- All Shires within RBG operational areas where a rate was proposed
- VegetablesWA
- Pastoralists and Graziers Association
- WA Farmers
- WA Local Government Association
- Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association Inc.
- Pastoral Lands Board

## ***2. How copies of the notice were given to owners of affected land***

DPIRD posted 1,029 letters to affected landholders in the Shire of Boyup Brook. Enclosed with the letter was the DPR Information Sheet and Proposed Declared Pest Rates Notice (**Attachment 1**).

Landholder data is constantly changing and no single database exists that is 100 per cent up to date. DPIRD usually creates a current contact list of landholders for the year by cross referencing the latest Landgate data with local government landholder contact data. This is considered the best available landholder data.

As the Shire of Boyup Brook chose not to share landholder data with DPIRD, a contact list for the Boyup Brook area was created using Landgate data cross referenced with DPIRD's livestock identification database in this instance.

**3. *The number of notices sent to affected landholders and the number of affected landholders in the Boyup Brook shire***

Rates assessment notices (invoices) were mailed to the 1,029 Boyup Brook shire landholders as identified above, and another four landholders that were identified after the mail out, making a total of 1,033 landholders.

The total number of Valuation Entity Numbers (a property identifier used by Landgate (VENs) was 1,222.

The additional landholders and VENs were identified on receipt of the adopted 2019-20 valuation rolls from Landgate in June 2019.

**4. *Any meetings at which the proposed DPR was discussed with residents and other stakeholders prior to its implementation, including details of numbers, location, attendees and results of any votes taken***

BBI was formed in May 2014 in response to community concern about the lack of management of widespread and established weeds and animal pests.

BBI initially focused its operations within the Bridgetown Shire. However, recognising that pests are not isolated to this shire and traverse the Blackwood River and its tributaries, the group adopted changes to its constitution in October 2015. These changes were to expand the BBI operational area to include the Blackwood River Valley shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Boyup Brook, Nannup and the southern half of Donnybrook-Balingup.

BBI applied for recognition in October 2016, with its operational area covering the above named Shires. The application submitted by the BBI for recognition clearly met the criteria, which are that the group:

1. Will undertake activities consistent with the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act); and
2. Can operate at a sufficient scale to control declared pest at a landscape scale; and
3. Has the capacity to manage any public funds it receives; and
4. Has the legitimacy within its community to decide how to allocate these funds.

DPIRD reviewed BBI's application and recommended to the Minister, at the time, that the group be recognised as Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. The BBI was formally recognised in February 2017.

In September 2017, BBI sought an amendment to its recognition status to include the Shire of West Arthur, which allowed for the full catchment of the Blackwood River to be covered within its operational area.

Since its inception, BBI has sought to engage the community to educate and raise awareness amongst landholders on the DPR and the operations it undertakes, including Local Government Authorities (LGAs).

BBI has attempted to engage the Boyup Brook shire councillors, and has on many occasions advertised in the Boyup Brook gazette with updates on its activities and invitations to public meetings to discuss the group's work and proposed rate.

Whilst LGAs are a significant stakeholder in the development and operations of a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) there is no legal requirement to seek their permission to establish a RBG. DPIRD, however, has and will continue to encourage all RBGs to form partnerships with LGAs.

The DPR was determined for the first time for the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, West Arthur and the southern half of Donnybrook-Balingup BBI areas in 2018. BBI made the decision in 2018 to not recommend a rate be determined in the Shire of Boyup Brook as the group wanted to build support for its operational activities and the rate through further engagement with the Boyup Brook community.

In 2018-19, the BBI undertook engagement activities to grow support within Boyup Brook which led to the group believing they had community support to continue the work they had been doing (including Rabbit and Fox control). Many opportunities were taken to discuss these issues with landholders during open days, training demonstrations and other meetings to show the value the BBI was delivering.

These activities are summarised in the table below and **Attachment 2**:

Date	Location	Activity	Comments
Sept 2018 – March 2019	Various across Boyup Brook	Discussions about the RBG model and DPR with landholders regarding rabbit control using RHDV-K5	
6 Nov 2018	Boyup Brook Upper Blackwood Agricultural Show	Answered landholders questions regarding pest control options, the RBG model and DPR.	
6 Dec 2018	Rylington Park, Boyup Brook	All day ethical fox control workshop and training. DPR and RBG model discussed.	
Jan 2019	Boyup Brook	E-newsletter, social media posts, advertisements in local newspapers on BBI activities and DPR.	
19 Jan 2019	Boyup Brook	Shooter workshop on safe, humane shooting methods, in preparation for Red Card Fox Shoot. DPR and RBG model discussed.	
8-10 Feb 2019	Boyup Brook Red Card Fox Shoot	Fox Shoot attended and promoted through press, Facebook and Social Media. DPR and RBG model discussed.	

Date	Location	Activity	Comments
21 Feb 2019	Boyup Brook	Letter drop of comprehensive flier regarding the RBG model and DPR proposed for BBI.	Flier was posted to all Boyup Brook mailboxes and advertised in local media.
7 Mar 2019	Boyup Brook Golf Club	Effective Rabbit Control workshop and DPR information session.	
15 Mar 2019	Boyup Brook	Storm in a Teacup Annual Event. Information display, flier distributed and presented on the RBG model and DPR.	Approximately 200 attendees.
9 April 2019	Boyup Brook, Town Hall	Chair and Executive Officer presented and answered questions on the RBG model and DPR at public town hall meeting convened by the Boyup Brook Shire President.	Three speakers opposed the model, support for the BBI presentation was indicated from the majority in attendance. The Shire President did not put the matter to a floor vote as proposed in the agenda.

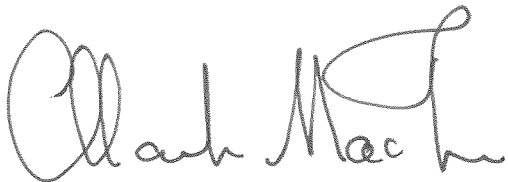
As a result, the BBI board resolved that in 2019 the Shire of Boyup Brook be included in its operational plan and thus a rate be determined, which was the same flat rate of \$40 for residential and \$50 for rural properties.

On 7 March 2019, the BBI held a rate information session specifically for the Boyup Brook community to discuss the proposed rate with the community and how funds from the rates could be spent. Unfortunately, despite numerous attempts by BBI to engage with the Shire of Boyup Brook, the Shire of Boyup Brook was not willing to engage in the group's processes or activities. To date, this is still the case despite successful efforts by the group in running several activities engaging the community.

It needs to be recognised that the principle of shared responsibility is implemented in WA through the RBGs and funded by the DPR. As the operational areas of the individual RBGs span across numerous LGAs, engagement and operational activities are not focussed on particular LGAs. Rather, support and engagement of all the communities is sought, to achieve the landscape scale approach required for best local outcomes. RBG activities complement landholders' individual activities in managing declared pests on their land, and reduces the numbers of pests and weeds impacting the local community overall. Even landholders who may not have declared pests on their land benefit, as it helps prevent declared pests from establishing on their properties.

The RBG model is now the accepted model for established pest management in WA and relies on a coordinated approach through mature partnerships. There are many examples of local governments throughout WA that are engaged and working proactively with biosecurity groups to very good effect.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alannah Mactiernan', with a stylized, cursive script.

**HON ALANNAH MACTIERNAN MLC  
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AGRICULTURE AND FOOD; PORTS  
MINISTER ASSISTING THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT,  
JOBS AND TRADE**

9 NOV 2020

Attachments:

- 1: DPR Information Sheet and Proposed Declared Pest Rates Notice
- 2: Summary of BBI activities in Boyup Brook Shire 2018-19



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

Att. 1.

## Public Notice

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development invites submissions on the proposed declared pest rates to be determined under section 130 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.

The Honourable Alannah MacTiernan Minister for Agriculture and Food proposes that the rates listed below be determined on freehold land or pastoral leases in certain prescribed Local Government Areas of Western Australia.

Rates are collected and matched by the state government for the control of declared pests. The funds are transferred to Recognised Biosecurity Groups to deliver operational plans that address declared pest priorities.

An opportunity to provide comment on the proposed rates is open *until 4pm Wednesday 19 June 2019*. Submissions can be sent to:

Declared Pest Rate  
Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development  
PO Box 1231  
BUNBURY WA 6230  
Email: [dpr@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:dpr@dpird.wa.gov.au)

Information on Recognised Biosecurity Groups is available at [agric.wa.gov.au/rbg](http://agric.wa.gov.au/rbg)

The proposed rates are:

1.
  - a) 5.521 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of land held under pastoral leasehold in the local government districts of Carnarvon, Exmouth, City of Greater Geraldton, Murchison, Upper Gascoyne, Northampton, Shark Bay.
  - b) 5.266 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of land held under pastoral leasehold in the local government districts of Coolgardie, Dundas, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Laverton, Leonora, Menzies, Ngaanyatjaraku, Sandstone, Wiluna and Yilgarn.
  - c) 1.061 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of the land held under pastoral leasehold in the local government districts of Broome, Derby-West Kimberley, Wyndham-East Kimberley and Halls Creek.
  - d) 5.345 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of the land held under pastoral leasehold in the local government districts of Cue, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet, Mount Marshall, Perenjori, Yalgoo.
  - e) 2.215 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of land held under pastoral leasehold in the local government districts of Ashburton, East Pilbara, City of Karratha, Port Hedland.
2. Rates as follows on land other than exempt land:
  - a) 0.032 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of freehold land in the local government districts of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori, that is no less than 100 hectares in area with a minimum rates amount payable of \$80.
  - b) 0.0302 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of freehold land in the local government districts of Chapman Valley, City of Greater Geraldton (*locality of Mullewa only*) and Northampton, that is no less than 100 hectares in area with a minimum rates amount payable of \$80.

- c) A flat rate (fixed sum) on freehold land in the local government districts of Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Donnybrook-Balingup (*in the localities of Balingup, Mullalyup, Grimwade, Southampton and Wilga west only*) and West Arthur of \$40 on land within a town-site or \$50 on land not within a town-site.
- d) A flat rate (fixed sum) on freehold land in the local government district of Esperance that is no less than 100 hectares in area as follows:

<b>Hectares</b>	<b>Flat rate (fixed sum) \$</b>
100 – 500	50
>500 – 1500	100
>1500 – 5000	165
>5000 – 10 000	380
>10 000	600

- e) A flat rate (fixed sum) of \$30 on freehold land in the local government districts of Harvey, Mandurah, Murray, Serpentine-Jarrahdale and Waroona, that is no less than one (1) hectare in area.
- f) A flat rate (fixed sum) on freehold land in the local government district of Ravensthorpe as follows:

<b>Hectares</b>	<b>Flat rate (fixed sum) \$</b>
50ha or less	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

- g) A flat rate (fixed sum) on freehold land in the local government districts of Bunbury, Capel, Dardanup and Donnybrook-Balingup (*in the localities of Argyle, Beelerup, Brazier, Brookhampton, Charley Creek, Cundinup, Donnybrook, Glen Mervyn, Kirup, Lowden, Mumballup, Newlands, Noggerup, Paynedale, Queenwood, Thomson Brook, Upper Capel and Yabberup only*) as follows:

<b>Hectares</b>	<b>Flat rate (fixed sum) \$</b>
1 - 10	45
>10	60



- h) A flat rate (fixed sum) on freehold land in the local government districts of Kondinin, Kulin, Lake Grace, Merredin, Mount Marshall, Mukinbudin, Narembeen, Nungarin, Trayning, Westonia and Yilgarn, that is no less than 20 hectares in area as follows:

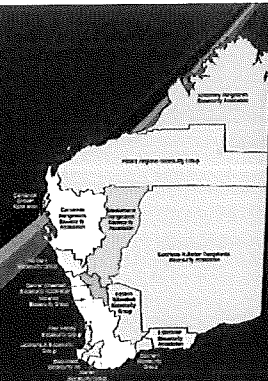
<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Flat rate (fixed sum) \$</i>
20 – 1000	30
>1,000 – 2,000	45
>2,000 – 5,000	140
>5,000 – 10,000	250
>10,000 – 15,000	400
>15,000	600

3. Exempt land is land that is described as “commercial” or “industrial” in a valuation roll maintained under the *Valuation of Land Act 1978*.



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

# Recognised Biosecurity Groups



## Empowering communities to deal with local priority pests

Landholders that have growing concerns about declared weeds and feral animals in their community can form Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act). Under the BAM Act, a Declared Pest Rate can be raised to fund RBG operations.



### Guiding principles

#### Why you need a RBG

- Pests don't recognise fence lines - coordinated action is needed across large areas to make long-lasting impacts.
- Locals are best placed to make decisions about the pests that are the biggest problems in their areas and how to manage them.
- Managing declared pests on your own land is a legal requirement under the BAM Act, and individual efforts are more effective if everyone is working together.
- RBG activities complement and enhance landholder control efforts - they do not replace them.

### What is a Declared Pest Rate?

RBGs are a State Government initiative, but Declared Pest Rates are not spent by government. They are provided to RBGs to support their activities. The State Government also provides funding to RBGs by matching dollar-for-dollar all rates raised.

The goal of an RBG is to get everyone involved in pest management, but this will not happen overnight. Rates give RBGs security to operate over the long-term.

If you are already controlling pests on your own property, that's great. RBGs can help by encouraging everyone to have effective control programs and work together, which leads to more effective pest management.

### What will my rate be spent on?

RBGs help landholders, both public and private, to control pests. They build awareness, deliver training and information, hire out equipment, provide chemicals, baits, traps and other materials needed for pest management, and contract staff such as Licenced Pest Management Technicians.

RBGs organise coordinated activities, such as community fox shoots and baiting days. They build partnerships with other RBGs, organisations and agencies to control pests that require large-scale efforts, such as wild dogs.

RBG committees are managed by local volunteers and regional representatives, who care about your community. Most are also ratepayers themselves who want to ensure the Declared Pest Rate is well spent.

### How can I get involved?

RBG activities and the budget to fund them are outlined in each RBG's annual operational plan. Plans help determine what the Declared Pest Rate should be for that year.

Operational plans are developed with feedback and suggestions from the community, to make sure they reflect community need. To have input, you can call your RBG direct, or look out for engagement opportunities such as information sessions and surveys. See reverse for your RBG's contact details

Landholders not receiving a direct benefit from their RBG's activities will still reap the rewards. Feral animals pose a significant threat to our native species, and weeds have the potential to invade your town's landscapes if left uncontrolled.

For more information visit: [agric.wa.gov.au/rbg](http://agric.wa.gov.au/rbg)

## Blackwood Biosecurity Inc

Blackwood Biosecurity Inc (BBI) was formally recognised as a biosecurity group in February 2017. The group's operational area comprises the Shires of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Nannup, Boyup Brook, West Arthur and Donnybrook-Balingup South (localities of Balingup, Grimwade, Southampton, Mullalyup and Wilga West).

Declared pests currently identified by the community as a priority are narrow leaf cotton bush, Paterson's curse, blackberry, cape tulip, bridal creeper and cleavers as well as foxes, rabbits and feral pigs. These are all expensive and difficult to control and can have devastating impacts on agriculture, the natural environment and human amenity, health and safety.

While landholders ultimately remain responsible for declared pests on their properties, they also need to be better resourced with access to best practice equipment, advice and training, subsidised equipment and consumables. BBI is actively involved with private landholders, regardless of property size, in managing all of these priority pests in a coordinated, cross-shire approach.

Let the group know if you have priority species to add to their declared plant and animal list for the 2019-20 financial year.

Declared pest control can only be successful in a strategic coordinated approach across the whole of the landscape. Everyone needs to be involved and everyone needs to be resourced and supported.

- Email: [projects@blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au](mailto:projects@blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au)
- Website: [blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au](http://blackwoodbiosecurity.org.au)
- Facebook: Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. Facebook
- Phone: 0418 509 314

### Rate collection

The Commissioner of State Revenue through the Office of State Revenue (OSR) is responsible for issuing and collecting Declared Pest Rates. This is done in September/October each year.

### Postponement for pensioners

Eligible pensioners can apply to the OSR to have their rate payments postponed, provided they meet the requirements under section 136 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*. For more information on how to apply, please contact the OSR.

### Contact details

#### Declared pest rate process and calculation of rates - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

- [dpr@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:dpr@dpird.wa.gov.au), 1300 374 731

#### Issue of rate notice and payment options - Office of State Revenue

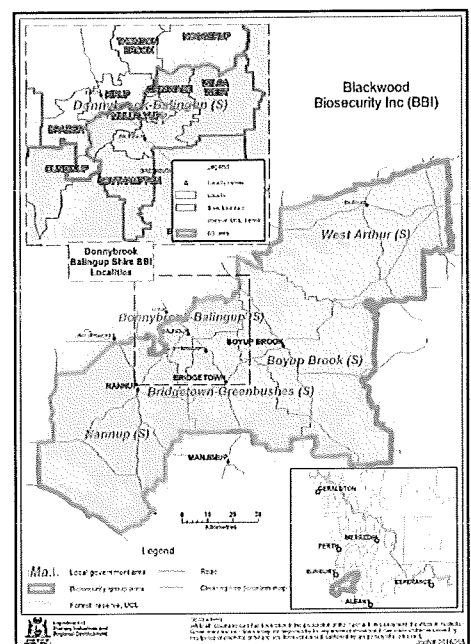
- Web enquiry at: [osr.wa.gov.au/bama](http://osr.wa.gov.au/bama)
- (08) 9262 1199
- Country callers: 1300 368 364 (local call charges)

### RBG activities and expenditure

- Contact your local RBG. Map and more information available from [agric.wa.gov.au/rbg](http://agric.wa.gov.au/rbg)

### Important disclaimer

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## **SNAPSHOT: Capacity building, Community Engagement and On Ground Works in the Boyup Brook Shire in the 2018-19 year. (September to September)**

### September 2018 to March 2019

#### **On-ground assistance with Rabbit Control in Boyup Brook:**

Called for expressions of interest in Boyup Brook for assistance with rabbit control including release of RHDV K5 "calicivirus" through local press, e-newsletter, Facebook etc.

Responded to calls for assistance both in Boyup Brook Townsite and Rural area, explained process, gained property details, rabbit numbers, impacts, availability of landholders. Answered landholder questions regarding RBG Model and DPR.

Allocated 6 vials of the virus.

Made preliminary and then follow up visits to assess sites and choose control methods. Most properties averaged 3 visits.

Where viable, trained landholders in pre-feeding process, set up monitoring cameras. Offered loan of handheld spotlights for before and after monitoring of rabbit numbers.

Once we reviewed camera evidence of successful pre-feeding, returned to mix and released virus.

Where pre-feeding method was not viable, scheduled re-visit for capture, inject and release rabbits using long nets, warren traps and ferrets.

Where biological control was not successful, revisited with another delivery approach and/or sourced freshly dead rabbits and placed, secured in warrens to prevent removal by foxes and ravens.

### October 2018

Wild rabbit control as above.

### November 2018

#### **November 2018 to March 2019**

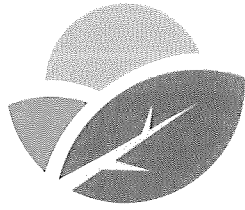
Offered "Hot Trapping Period" to help urban landholders remove foxes plaguing the townsite where control capacity/options are limited. Blackwood Biosecurity offered to provide and set traps and remove trapped foxes. Facebook, e-newsletter.

#### **Received requests for Onfarm fox control assistance:**

Provided assistance to farmers unable to control rogue foxes causing large scale sheep and lamb losses including stud stock.

#### **Boyup Brook's Upper Blackwood Agricultural Show. November 6th, 2018**

Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. staff and volunteers provided a comprehensive display of equipment available for landholder use and answered questions on pest control options and the RBG model and DPR process, signed landholders up to e-newsletter, arranged site visits to assist with focus pest



# BLACKWOOD BIOSECURITY

Our Land, Our Lifestyle, Our Livelihood

**On-ground assistance with Rabbit Control in Boyup Brook continuing.**

## December 2018

**Take up of Hot Trapping period in townsite including schools. Onfarm fox assistance, site assessments and fox movement evaluations, deployment of monitoring cameras, traps etc.**

**Opportunities to discuss model and DPR.**

**Held Executive Meeting in Boyup Brook. December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Provided comprehensive, all day ethical fox control workshop/demonstration and hands-on training at Rylington Park Boyup Brook encompassing, trapping, canid pest ejector, fox biology and habits and 1080 bait training and half price license. December 6<sup>th</sup> 18. DPR & Model explanation.**

**On-ground assistance with Rabbit Control in Boyup Brook continues in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Engagement.**

## January 2019

**Shooter Workshop, Boyup Brook. 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

**Comprehensive advanced application all-day workshop delivered by Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. experts to hone shooter skills in the lead up to the various Red Card Fox Shoots to ensure greater capacity for a safe, one shot, humane kill. Discussed RBG Model and DPR.**

**E-newsletter, social media, local newspapers /Advertisements**

**On-ground assistance with Rabbit Control in Boyup Brook continuing.**

## February 2019.

**Blackberry Trials Offered to landholders who would like to trial a new very cheap and low dose chemical summer control. Local press, facebook, enewsletter.**

### **21 Feb letter drop**

**Produced a comprehensive flier explaining the RBG Model and DPR and what it would offer in Boyup Brook and Blackwood Biosecurity's intention to ask the Minister for Agriculture to raise a pest rate of \$40 residential and \$50 rural in the Boyup Brook Shire for the 2019-20 financial year, and that in the interim it had secured one-off funding to continue to assist Boyup Brook residents with the management of Declared Pests in the 2018-19 financial year. Flier was posted in all Boyup Brook mailboxes and advertised in local media.**

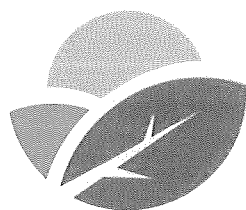
**Boyup Brook Red Card Fox Shoot: Attended and again helped to promote throughout networks and press releases, Facebook, Enewsletters. and Donated youth prize February 8,9,10.**

**On-ground assistance with Rabbit Control in Boyup Brook continuing. Engagement opportunities.**

**Hot trapping period for foxes ongoing. Engagement opportunities.**

## March 2019

**"Effective Rabbit Control" workshop/display and Declared Pest Rate Information session, held at the Boyup Brook Golf Club to explore non-biological controls after there was National confirmation that the K5 virus had failed to act as a Biological Control. Warren destruction and fumigation demonstrated with Rodenator and Smoker Machines. All landholders involved in the K5 virus release**



# BLACKWOOD BIOSECURITY

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were directly invited along with the general public. 7<sup>th</sup> March 19

**Fairfax Press, Boyup Brook Gazette: profile story with pic regarding Blackwood Biosecurity's Senior Biosecurity Officer Andrew Gorton (who is also a Boyup Brook resident) and his passion for vertebrate pest control and the 400 foxes he has shot in his spare time in the Shires of Boyup Brook and West Arthur in the last twelve months.**

#### ***Storm in a Teacup Annual Event Boyup Brook.***

Manned information display at the annual "Storm in a Teacup" all day event for over 200 Boyup Brook ladies. Distributed info flier and delivered a presentation on the **RBG Model and DPR**, current situation with the calicivirus in Boyup Brook and how Blackwood Biosecurity can help manage impacts of declared pests. **15<sup>th</sup> March 19** (*we also attended the 2018 event with Declared Pest Rate fliers in all event bags and a verbal presentation*).

#### April, 2019

**Follow up requests from farmers with assistance with feral pig control.** Onsite inspection of damage, advice, mapping/reporting via Feral Scan, deployment of monitoring cameras. Removal of feral pigs. Negotiated access to tree farms adjoining affected landholders. **Opportunities to discuss model and DPR.**

#### **Public Meeting Community Engagement**

**Chair Adrian South and E.O. Sheila Howat presented and answered questions regarding the RBG and Declared Pest Rate Model and its advantages to the Boyup Brook Community at a public Town Hall meeting convened by the Boyup Brook Shire President. Only 3 speakers from the floor opposed the RBG model and support was indicated for BBI presentation from majority of meeting. Shire President did not put the matter to a floor vote as proposed in his agenda. 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Continued Farmer assistance with feral pig control and removal of pigs. Engagement**

#### May 2019

**Continued Farmer assistance with feral pig control and removal of pigs. Engagement**

#### June 2019

**Farmer assistance with feral pig control...ongoing engagement.**

**(One-off funding budget allows for several more months of farmer assistance with feral pigs.)  
Finalising MOU with DBCA for more effective vertebrate pest control in State Forest adjoining impacted Boyup Brook farmers.**