



Post border biosecurity reform

Recommendations to the State Government

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This paper details WALGA's recommendations to the State Government for post border biosecurity. The paper includes options for improved policy settings, governance and regulation; program initiatives for consideration; proposed amendments to the BAM Act; and the need for a further Auditor General review of DAFWA's post border biosecurity management.

1.0 Background Information

Over the last two decades there has been a continual decline in post border management of invasive species by the State Government lead agency, the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA). This section provides a brief overview and timeline of biosecurity legislation and governance in Western Australia. For more detail, particularly with regard to the Local Government perspective on biosecurity, please refer to WALGA's '*Biosecurity Management: Local Government Discussion Paper*'¹.

In 2007, the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) was introduced, which is the principal biosecurity legislation for Western Australia. Despite the BAM Act being gazetted in 2007, the enabling regulations (the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013*) did not come into effect until May 2013.

Following introduction of the regulations, the State Government communicated its new policy setting, a community coordinated approach to managing biosecurity. In WA, Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) were introduced as the key mechanism to deliver a community coordinated approach, and to manage widespread and established pests in WA. Local Governments were concerned about RBG governance arrangement, with parts of the sector believing that the RBG policy would shift a State Government responsibility, and associated costs, to Local Government.

In December 2013, the Office of the Auditor General assessed the BAM Act's efficacy to manage plant and animal pests in WA. A key finding of the audit was that the BAM Act was failing to achieve state-wide pest management, due to (amongst others) the lack of a state-wide integrated approach, no clearly defined roles and responsibilities for government agencies, limited monitoring of pests and no enforcement of the regulations.

¹ WALGA (2016). [Biosecurity Management Local Government Discussion Paper](#) January 2016.

In response to the Auditor General's report, DAFWA developed an 'Invasive Species Plan for Western Australia 2015 – 2019'² and a draft State Biosecurity Strategy³. However, over the 2015-16 financial year, DAFWA lost \$6.2 million and 100 full-time equivalent staff, with a further 180 full time staff projected to be lost over the next two years⁴. Due to these resource constraints, DAFWA's focus has shifted from post border to pre-border biosecurity management.

The policy to move to a more regional and community based approach (RBGs) since the gazetting of the BAM Act has been poorly developed and implemented by the State, as noted by the Auditor General. Given the past management issues and the recent funding cuts to DAFWA, there remains a high level of uncertainty as to how Western Australia will manage established and future incursions of invasive species. For this reason, WALGA has been advocating for the sector with regards to biosecurity issues.

The long delay in the gazettal of the regulations is symptomatic of the concerns regarding the effectiveness of community-based post border biosecurity under the current model. The legislation is the primary component of the Act, therefore **WALGA contends that that the statutory review of the BAM Act must be undertaken by the Minister in 2017.**

The following factors also highlight the urgent need for a review:

- The ongoing issues and concerns with the implementation of RBGs;
- The drastic reduction in resources to DAFWA;
- The recently completed independent review of the DAFWA under the direction of the previous Government; and
- An ongoing reduction of community confidence in DAFWA's current capacity to manage post border biosecurity.

WALGA seeks to contribute to the review to ensure that Western Australia has a contemporary and robust post border biosecurity governance and management framework that is efficient, effective and sustainable, and is a genuine shared responsibility between State Government (and its agencies and departments) and landowners.

² Department of Agriculture and Food WA (23 March 2015). Invasive Species Plan for Western Australia 2015-2019. <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/invasive-species/invasive-species-plan-western-australia-2015-2019>

³ Department of Agriculture and Food WA (November 2015). Development of the State Biosecurity Strategy. <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/development-state-biosecurity-strategy>

⁴ Varischetti, Belinda, 2015. Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia says it is focused despite budget cuts. ABC News, 30 June. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-29/dafwa-rob-delane-budget-staff-cuts-agriculture-food-briefing/6581648>

2.0 Recommendations for State Government

This section details WALGA's recommendations to the State Government, including options for improved policy settings and governance arrangements; program initiatives for consideration; proposed amendments to the BAM Act; and the need for a further Auditor General review of DAFWA's post border biosecurity management.

2.1 Review of the BAM Act (2007)

WALGA notes Part 9, Section 194 (1) of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (2007)*:

194. *Review of Act*

(1) The Minister must carry out a review of the operation and effectiveness of this Act as soon as is practicable after every 10th anniversary of its commencement, and in the course of that review the Minister must consider and have regard to –

(a) the adequacy of the penalties imposed under this Act; and

(b) any other matters that appear to the Minister to be relevant to the operation and effectiveness of this Act.

As detailed previously, the BAM Act was gazetted in 2007, but the enabling regulations did not come into effect until 2013. WALGA has been advised by DAFWA that 'technically' the statutory requirement for a review did not exist until the regulations came into effect in 2013, and that therefore **the review will not be undertaken until 2023**.

Given the well documented concerns of the sector and other stakeholders about the efficiency and effectiveness of community led Recognised Biosecurity Groups, WALGA recommends that as a matter of urgency, and in consideration of the following recommendations, the incoming Government undertake a review of the Act as soon as is practicable.

Not only is it good public policy to review legislation every ten years, but the substantial policy failure of the current legislation, in both design and implementation, is increasingly having serious ramifications for agricultural productivity, the environment and public amenity, and in community confidence in the state managing its responsibilities in post border biosecurity on behalf of all Western Australians.

2.2 Options for improved policy settings and outcomes

WALGA contends that there are three primary policy options for the State Government to consider when looking to address the current impediments to an effective post border biosecurity framework for the south west land division. In essence these options can be distilled down to:

- Retention of the status quo with minor amendments; WALGA does not support this option as it is clearly ‘too little – too late.’
- A consideration by the State Government of integrating key aspects of the NSW *Local Land Services Act (2013)* approach into the BAM Act and regulations; or
- A consideration by the State Government of instigating the Agriculture Protection Board approach, with appropriate amendments to the current BAM Act and regulations.

2.2.1 Retention of the status quo with minor amendments

The sector indicated that there are some positive attributes of the status quo. Throughout the consultation process, participants could easily identify weaknesses within the current system. However, when asked to suggest alternatives repeatedly the current system with some ‘tweaks’ were given.

Many of the ‘tweaks’ to the current system are discussed in following sections, such as options for improved communication, greater guidance from the State, and the inclusion of environmental pests.

During sector consultation, a number of participants suggested an improved funding model rather than a complete overhaul of the system.

Another factor repeatedly raised as working well was Local Government’s involvement in the Skeleton Weed Industry scheme. Under the current system, three Industry Funding Schemes exist to address biosecurity threats relevant to the grains/seed/hay, sheep/goat, and cattle industries. Participants in these industry schemes are entitled to benefits such as assistance and compensation (in qualifying circumstances) relating to the priority pests/diseases being addressed by the scheme. Each Industry Funding Scheme is overseen by an Industry Management Committee. It is considered that industry funding schemes should be continued as is.

However there are a range of significant issues with the current RBG model including, but not exclusive to:

- An unrealistic expectation by DAFWA of community capability and resourcing for and within RBGs;

- The RBGs are being created as an option of last resort by frustrated members of the community, which does not engender any good will nor is it a strategic approach;
- There is little relationship with State post border biosecurity priorities;
- There is little example of coordinated governance between RBGs, state government agencies and other stakeholders;
- There is no apparent ability for RBGs to input into either research and development priority setting or indeed broader strategic state priorities for biosecurity investment;
- There is confusion and uncertainty as to how the state government will integrate its regulation and enforcement activities into the RBG model; and
- There is no clear pathway for coherent and strategic monitoring and reporting on the temporal or spatial distribution of declared species that can reliably inform investment decisions and on-ground works.

2.2.2 The NSW Local Land Services approach

A more robust and structured approach for the south west land division would be the creation of statutory regions, each governed by regional boards comprising both relevant state agency and community based membership. This would require a significant policy shift in direction from that currently employed.

The NSW *Local Land Services Act (2013)*⁵ approach to post border biosecurity provides an example of where Western Australia's post border biosecurity governance and operation could head.

Within this approach, the Government would set up a number of geographically defined regions, each managed by a Board. Each Board would then be required to develop a Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS), in consultation with the community. This shared responsibility approach is a partnership that is clearly reflected in the constituency of each regional Board, which would combine relevant agency expertise, with community based knowledge and experience.

RPMS would be five-year road maps that outline the management aims for pest plants and animals across the defined region, and the actions required for each of these targets to be achieved in managing the identified and regionally relevant pest species.

Underpinned by the State Biosecurity Strategy, these RPMS's would be statutory, providing the basis for existing and future operational plans. Each Strategy would define the non-declared species they want to focus on. All declared species and Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) present in that region would automatically be included in the operational plans.

⁵ <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2013/51>

The current land based rating system, as outlined in the BAM Act, would continue. The matching funding, currently provided by the State Government, would also continue to fund declared species, with additional funding needing to be sourced for non-declared species.

Each RPMS would be put out for public consultation to ensure community values and local knowledge are incorporated alongside scientific information.

Importantly, each RPMS would include both environmental and agricultural pests, as there was an overwhelming call for this throughout the Local Government consultation. This approach would provide unbiased support for both agricultural production and environmental pest management, but place no regulatory responsibility on DAFWA for enforcing management of non-declared species (i.e. all declared pests would be included in each RPMS, but the strategies are not limited to declared pests).

Each RPMS would clearly state the minimum control requirements for each species within the region. Each regional group could choose to go further than this if they wish, but there would be a consistent minimum starting point across each region. This will also mean that even if the initial focus is formed around a single species, there are still clear community endorsed management expectations for management of a variety of other problematic species within that region.

As regions establish, they could simply choose the non-declared species they want to target from their relevant RPMS, and then slot these directly into their operation plan. Declared species would be a mandatory inclusion in any RPMS. This would lead to a more strategic, efficient and consistent approach to developing operational plans. Each region and each government land management agency would be required to report on post border biosecurity management activities to their Regional Board, and ultimately, either to the Minister for Agriculture, in their capacity as lead NRM Minister, or to a recommended revamped Ministerial Council.

All DAFWA enforcement activities would be linked to, and reported against, each RPMS. This would mean that compliance and enforcement expectations are clearly communicated to land owners and are consistent with regional expectations. DAFWA extension and regulatory functions would be embedded at the regional level, and form part of the statutory requirements of Regional Board operations

Each RPMS would be set for five years, which means the declaration status of all species would be regularly reviewed at the regional level. The review process would be similar to the established process, meaning both scientific and social data would be considered, however more deliberative stakeholder and community engagement would be required. This data can then be aggregated to provide the Government, the Regional Boards, and the community at large with a snapshot of pest management activities and outcomes every five years. A statutory requirement for each Regional Board (or the APB) would be that the findings are reported to the Parliament every five years.

This approach would also address the Auditor General's feedback around reviewing declared species, and would provide a more inclusive consultation process than the recent review.

It is noted that RPMS are also developed and delivered as part of the New Zealand biosecurity regulatory framework. Although some of the implementation aspects would differ, the basic premise could be the same.

These changes would clearly require amendments to the current BAM Act and regulations, however, given the ongoing concerns of the sector, the poor implementation and uptake of the RBG model and its current rating mechanism and the findings, recommendations and conclusion of the Auditor General⁶, it is clear that the anticipated community focused outcomes envisaged from the introduction of the BAM Act in 2007, have not been, and are unlikely to be met, in the foreseeable future.

2.2.3 Reinstatement of the Agriculture Protection Board

Throughout sector consultations, many participants sought the reintroduction of the Agriculture Protection Board approach.

As stated in the Agriculture Protection Board Annual Report of 2010, "the Agriculture Protection Board (APB) was abolished with the repeal of the *Agriculture Protection Board Act 1950* and amendments to the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act (ARRPA) 1976* on 18 December 2010.

The Agriculture Protection Board (APB) was a statutory authority established under the *Agriculture Protection Board Act 1950*, to minimise the impact of Declared Plants and Animals on agriculture and related resources. This function contributed to the State Government's strategic goal of ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State, and to its desired outcome of protecting the productive resource base.

The *Agriculture Protection Board Act 1950* and the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* ('the Protection Act') prescribed the Board's role and responsibilities. The Protection Act empowered the Board to do all such things necessary to prevent the introduction of, manage and control the spread of, certain plants and animals to protect agriculture and related resources.

In accordance with Sections 35 and 36 of the Protection Act, the Board had the power to 'declare' species of plants and animals for the whole of the State or any part of it, and restrict the entry, keeping, movement, control or management of each declared species by regulation. It could also approve management schemes to control populations of native

⁶ <https://audit.wa.gov.au/reports-and-publications/reports/managing-impact-plant-animal-pests-state-wide-challenge/>

animals with pest potential. The Board assigned Declared Plants and Animals to various categories which determined the management action required for each species. In accordance with Section 37 of the Protection Act, each year the Board published in the Government Gazette a complete list of all Declared Plants and Animals and their management categories”.⁷

The Board also appointed authorised persons under Section 11 of the Agriculture Protection Act, to carry out many of the functions now captured in the legislation and regulations of the BAM Act.

2.3 Options for improved governance

Regardless of any changes to the existing policy approach (indeed even if the existing approach remains substantially unchanged), and net of the aforementioned policy options, one issue that needs highlighting regardless is the current lack of integration between Government agencies and the existing RBG and established NRM constructs in relation to post border biosecurity.

If the State Government is committed to post border biosecurity being a shared responsibility, then this must be reflected in having inclusive, transparent and robust governance arrangements. The outcomes the State Government seeks through its policy, legislative, regulatory and other supportive instruments must be both informed by, but also assist in, the on-ground efforts of both agencies and the community/landowner/industry based entities.

It is not clear to the Association that this requirement is currently being delivered.

With the demise of the NRM governance framework that existed in Western Australia for natural resource management in the 1990s and early 2000s, it is contended that there has been an ongoing erosion of State Government resourcing and support for coordinated community based natural resource management in Western Australia, including post border biosecurity.

While there is an existing Biosecurity Senior Officers Group (BSOG) there is little apparent Ministerial oversight (it is believed that the Minister for Agriculture is still the lead Natural Resource Management Minister), nor is there any apparent robust governance framework that includes the current RBGs, NRM regions or other key stakeholder group (e.g. WA Farmers) surely required to inform the Government (and its agencies) of the post border biosecurity operational issues, as they apply to Western Australia.

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[http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tailedpapers.nsf/displaypaper/3813909ad89691ef7b03eca248257918002745a9/\\$file/3909.pdf](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/publications/tailedpapers.nsf/displaypaper/3813909ad89691ef7b03eca248257918002745a9/$file/3909.pdf)

While the creation of the Biosecurity Council is a positive step in terms of providing independent advice to the Minister, and should be maintained, there is a significant gap in ensuring that the advice the Government receives through either the Biosecurity Council or the government agencies is reflective, or even cognisant, of the practical realities being faced operationally by RBGs, NRM regions, Local Government or indeed the broader community at large.

This must be rectified if the community (and indeed the Minister) is to have any confidence that either the current, or future, post border biosecurity structures are to be managed efficiently and effectively under a “shared responsibility’ approach.

It is therefore recommended that the Government give consideration to revisiting the former NRM governance framework for Western Australia, and apply it to post border biosecurity (i.e. a Ministerial Council supported by both a revitalised CONRACE (Council Of Natural Resource Agency Chief Executives) / BSOG, and the Biosecurity Council, with advice to both CONRACE/BSOG and the Biosecurity Council from a stakeholder group comprising regional entities, the NRM regions and other key stakeholder groups that are undertaking the enhanced operational functions expected under the current, or any future approach.

Such a governance model, regardless of the delivery mechanism and funding arrangements for post border biosecurity, would provide a robust, transparent and coordinated governance approach to operational investment and policy decision making for the Government, its agencies and other operational partners engaged in post border biosecurity.

Although a decision for Government, the governance administration aspects required could be delegated to the State NRM Office, which has the demonstrable experience for such a task.

2.3.1 Compliance and enforcement

Much of the feedback and frustrations communicated both through the WALGA governance structure and the 2016 consultations were in regard to reduced levels of compliance activity by DAFWA. A number of different compliance alternatives were explored with consultation participants, including Local Government being delegated the authority to enforce actions.

As previously stated, Local Government identified many positive things about having a local focus, but noted that local involvement is only possible when the State Government guides the way and provides a strategic framework to follow. Local Governments repeatedly identified themselves as being more approachable and closer to the community compared with the State, and that they could playing a key role in bringing people together/community engagement.

Consultation participants also noted that the flipside of these close community relationships mean that Local Government has less authority to enforce legislation compared with State Government. This was one of the key reasons why Local Governments said they have no place in enforcing the BAM Act or in collecting the declared pest rate.

Overwhelmingly, Local Governments said they did not want to have any part in BAM Act enforcement, giving a variety of different reasons for this, with the main concerns focussed on cost shifting, capacity and increasing regulatory burden in a tight fiscal environment.

Regardless of the operational model employed, the Government should amend the BAM Act and allow matching funding to be spent on a compliance officer. This compliance officer would be employed by DAFWA, with DAFWA able to recoup costs for regulatory/compliance services on a fee for service basis under the current RBG model), with an allocation for regulatory/compliance services budgeted within each Regional operational plan. If the NSW Local Land Services or APB model is pursued, then they are part of the regional staff.

This option would mean that the State retains and undertakes its regulatory function, there are no extra costs to DAFWA, there is a local focus and there is increased collaboration between stakeholders.

2.4 Program initiatives for consideration

The following outlines a range of potential program initiatives for consideration and implementation by the State Government. The initiatives have been developed through both Local Government input and through Association engagement with the existing approach undertaken by DAFWA.

It should be noted that many of these initiatives are in also keeping with both the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) National Engagement and Communication Framework⁸, and the International Association for Public Participation⁹ (IAP2) principles of good engagement and communication.

2.4.1 Communications

Communication was one of the most prevalent themes to emerge from the consultation analysis. More than 50 percent of the workshop questions were seeking clarity about the current system, and the key benefits people took from the workshops were around improved understanding of biosecurity issues.

⁸ <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/animal-plant/pihc/bepwg/national-engagement-communication-framework.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.iap2.org/?page=A4>

Throughout the workshops, many people seemed to be confused about the recognised biosecurity group (RBG) process, and where they should get information from. Furthermore, different biosecurity groups appeared to be working through the same issues, instead of gaining access to centralised information or sharing information between groups.

“Many individual groups are learning the hard way about how the system works” -
Bridgetown workshop participant.

As a first step, it is recommended that the DAFWA website be updated to ensure biosecurity information it is relevant, up to date, clear and easy to navigate.

2.4.2 DAFWA extension support to regional groups

Regardless of which program delivery model is to be pursued, there is a clear requirement for DAFWA to provide greater support/guidance as biosecurity groups become established, from inception to incorporation/statutory entity, to knowledge brokering, research and development, and regulatory support.

DAFWA should play the key role in facilitating the regional group, to help the relevant stakeholders navigate the system, and then maintain their role as knowledge broker and regulator, once a set of pre-determined deliverables have been met.

These pre-determined deliverables, under either the business as usual scenario, the APB or the Local Land Services models, could include tasks such as:

- Identifying the relevant stakeholders, and bringing them together to ensure all parties are aware of and invited to join the regional group from the very beginning;
- Facilitating / guiding the group as they develop an operation plan, but not doing actually drafting the plan;
- Facilitating / guiding the group through the required governance process;
- Ensuring the regional group has a clear understanding of the regulatory role of DAFWA;
- Delivery of regulatory/enforcement activities, when required;
- Brokering pathways for regional group input into DAFWA and industry biosecurity research and development priorities.
- Brokering the collection and dissemination of the spatial and temporal distribution of declared species between the regional groups and DAFWA

2.4.3 Annual forum to support inter-biosecurity group communication

An outcome of the WALGA consultations was the opportunity for various stakeholders to network and discuss issues. More than a third of consultation participants said they most valued the opportunity to network with other biosecurity groups and Local Governments and discuss local issues.

In order to build capacity, this value could be reproduced through an annual 'Biosecurity Group Forum', hosted by DAFWA. This Biosecurity Group Forum should provide an annual platform for guest speakers, opportunities to discuss issues / possible solutions, highlighting the latest developments in biosecurity management and research, and provide time for networking with other stakeholders. This forum should be a key session within DAFWA's annual State Biosecurity Forum.

In conjunction to this, it is recommended that DAFWA create a regional group online networking group. This could be an invite-only closed group that would allow members of RBGs to ask knowledge brokers and each other questions and share information.

Benefits of this action include:

- Information across different biosecurity groups is shared;
- It provides an opportunity to build biosecurity group capacity;
- It creates good will amongst stakeholders;
- It provides an opportunity to demonstrate collaboration at the organisational level if jointly hosted; and
- It provides an opportunity for DAFWA to connect/ engage with stakeholders in a positive way.

2.4.4 Project map to share ideas and information

Consultation participants raised concerns about lack of transparency within DAFWA, with 15 percent of questions surrounding consultation and communication. Many of the different biosecurity groups appeared to be working through many of the same issues, duplicating resources and tools.

DAFWA could improve transparency, reduce duplication and help connect stakeholders while simultaneously freeing their human resources, by making more information about, and for, recognised biosecurity groups publically available through the development of on-line resources, including a regional group map.

WALGA offers a similar tool for Local Government climate change projects, enabling Local Government officers to search for similar projects before undertaking a new piece of work.

This tool supports Local Governments by connecting people between councils and removing duplication of resources and tool development. An example of the WALGA climate change project map is provided in Figure 5 below.

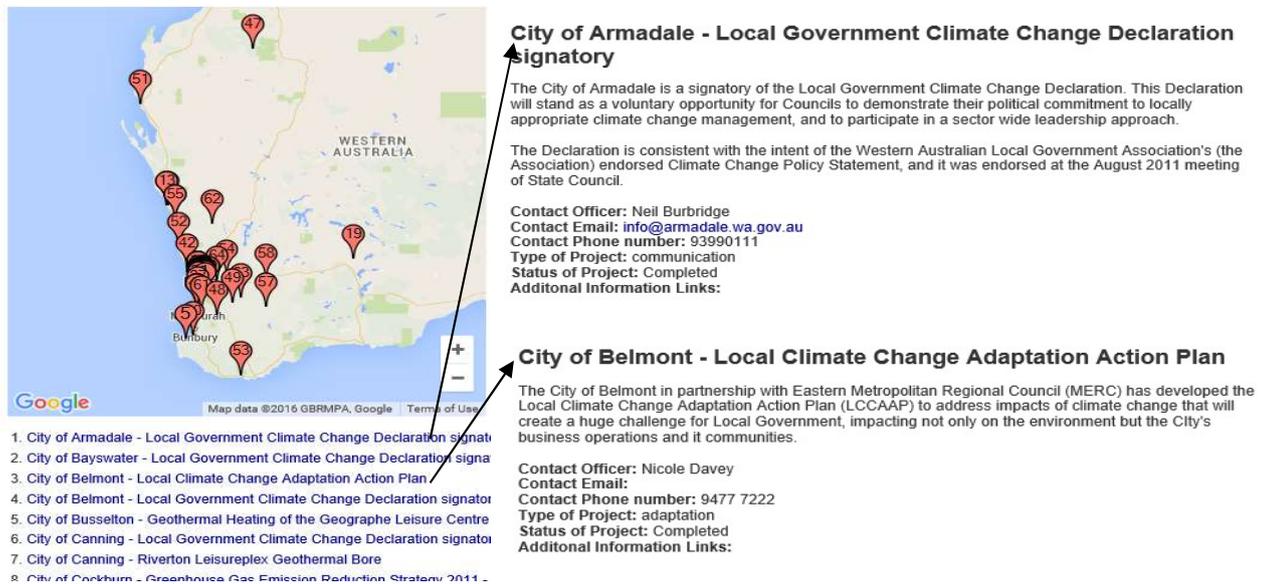


Figure 1: Examples from WALGA Climate Change Project Map

An interactive 'biosecurity map', is a low cost and effective tool that would help biosecurity groups share information and learn from one another. For example:

- groups could look up other operational plans before starting their own plan;
- the boundaries of each biosecurity group would be shown spatially;
- The status of each biosecurity group could be communicated (i.e. whether the group is incorporated or not);
- The species being dealt with by each RBG could be displayed;
- The declared pest rate could be communicated spatially.

More sophisticated information could also be added, such as the spatial distribution of declared pests, for example.

This action would benefit stakeholders by:

- Sharing information across stakeholders;
- Helping to make some of DAFWA's work more transparent;
- Potentially freeing up some of DAFWA resource as stakeholders can access answers without continually referring to the Department;
- Demonstrating all the biosecurity work being delivered; and
- Preventing stakeholders from 're-inventing the wheel'. Stakeholders could learn from others, thereby assisting in building community capacity.

2.4.5 Clarity for Local Government on key contacts

Throughout the consultations, Local Governments repeatedly asked how they should be responding to public inquiries. Local Governments receive many public inquiries, often about issues that are not actually dealt with by the sector. If Local Government had greater clarity about the regional group process, and who they should be directing inquiries to, then this would be a significant process improvement.

DAFWA should create resources (perhaps using e-learning technology) specific to Local Government. This could outline issues such as:

- The regional group process;
- How different types of complaints/ queries are dealt with;
- Who the responsible agencies are – i.e. a regional group or which State Government agency, etc.;
- How to seek or seek or provide information on potential declared and other pest plants and animals.

This will mean that Local Government will be better placed to answer community inquiries and quickly direct the caller to the correct party (a regional group, DAFWA, DPAW etc.)

This option would provide:

- Greater clarity around roles and responsibilities (as recommended by the Auditor General);
- Better collaboration across State agencies and Local Government; and
- A more efficient public service outcome for our community.

2.5 Proposed amendments to the BAM Act

The Perth workshop identified issues around RBG implementation within urbanised areas. This issue was then raised at other regional workshops, such as in Katanning where Local Governments have to deal with pest species within town sites.

The BAM Act could be amended to provide greater guidance for biosecurity management within urban areas. It is acknowledged that the cost of rate collection in urban areas on a state wide basis may be prohibitive. However there are a number of instances where urban generated biosecurity issues need to be managed to prevent impacts on adjacent agricultural production (e.g. declared avian species impacting on peri-urban and rural horticulture/viticulture and/or high conservation value native species, etc.).

It is therefore recommended that provision be made in the BAM Act, that where there is a demonstrable and significant impact on either agricultural or biodiversity values from declared species emanating from urbanised areas, that amendments to the BAM Act be made to provide the Minister with the power to:

- Require the development of a species specific declared urban pest management plan for all or part of an urban area;
- Make an appropriation of not greater than 50% of the total cost for the development and implementation of a declared urban pest management plan; and
- Review the implementation of a declared urban pest management plan after a period of not greater than five years.

2.6 Auditor General Review of DAFWA management of post border biosecurity

WALGA considers it important for the Auditor General to revisit the operations of DAFWA in relation to its management of post border biosecurity governance, resourcing and knowledge management. The Auditor General report of December 2013 highlighted a number of findings and recommendations. WALGA contends that the Auditor General should, at a minimum:

- Maintain oversight of DAFWAs commitment to, and implementation of the recommendations made by the Auditor General in his report of December 2013 that DAFWA has committed to, both in terms of timeliness and effectiveness.
- That his review take place in 2018, (five years after his initial review) regardless of whether the Minister for Agriculture commits to undertaking the statutory review of the Act or not in 2017.
- That if the statutory review BAM Act is not undertaken in 2017, that the terms of reference for the Auditor General report include an analysis of the rationale for not undertaking said statutory review of the BAM Act.
- A future report should include an analysis of any delayed statutory review and its implications for efficient and effective on-ground management outcomes in the intervening period, including:
 - A contemporary assessment of the spatial increase or otherwise of declared species;
 - The degree of leveraging or otherwise of stakeholder investment in post border biosecurity;
 - The degree of stakeholder satisfaction with DAFWA in relation to post border biosecurity policy, governance, regulation and resourcing; and
 - An assessment of the economic impact of post border biosecurity impacts on agriculture of DAFWAs implementation or otherwise, of his 2013 recommendations.

