

WA FERAL CAT WORKING GROUP

A Working Group to improve native fauna conservation trajectories with a focus on effective and humane management of feral cats

SUMMARY OF MINUTES – MEETING #2

Held on Friday 19 June 2020, 8.55 for a 9am start (finish 12.00)

(via Zoom due to COVID-19 Distancing Restrictions)

In attendance:

Hon Kerry Sanderson, AC CVO	Chair WAF CWG
Victoria Aitken	Director of Invasive Species, DPIRD
Dr Dave Algar	Member, National Feral Cat Taskforce
Tim Allard	CEO, Australian Wildlife Conservancy
Professor Simon McKirdy	Chairman, WA Biosecurity Council
Elisabeth McLellan	Manager, Bush Heritage Australia
Jane O'Malley	CEO, PHCC (on behalf NRM WA)
Dr Rachel Paltridge	Member, Indigenous Desert Alliance
Dr Fran Stanley	Executive Director, DBCA
Dr Bruce Webber	Program Director, WABSI
Naomi Briggs	Volunteer Minute Taker

Apologies:

Nil



GENERAL BUSINESS

- *Resourcing of the Working Group*, specifically the employment of an Executive Officer has not been secured. On behalf of the Working Group the PHCC has submitted two funding applications to the State NRM Office.

Major outcomes sought from the funding applications include:

- Supporting the Working Group through administration and research support activities
- Website development and maintenance
- Website hosting and administration
- Indigenous consultation, knowledge sharing and improving cross-organisation collaborative opportunities
- 2021/22 WA Feral Cat Symposium

Currently waiting for a decision.

- *Engagement of the Advisory Group*

Agreement that the purpose of the Advisory Group is as a mechanism for accessing expertise and drawing in assistance and that communication and engagement is vital and should be presented within this advisory context.

WORKING GROUP PLAN OF ACTION – STRATEGIC PLANNING

Next steps for identified priority strategies and objectives for Action, under each of the key pillars:

a. Accessible Information

The Feral Cat Working Group will collaborate with other groups and act as a conduit for information and experience on feral cat management solutions.

A survey of stakeholders will be undertaken to identify and collate information requirements, that can ultimately be accessed by interested parties. This survey will be refined progressively, being initially developed by a sub-group, then expanded to the Working Group, followed by members of the Advisory Group and, finally broader identified stakeholders.

A FAQ sheet will be prepared for stakeholder use.

The Group will not endorse products or contractors.

b. Prioritised Research Program

https://wabsi.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/WABSI_Mitigating-cat-impacts_FINAL.pdf

The goal of research projects translating into effective on-ground outcomes including effective management resources for end-users was re-confirmed by the group.

A Feral Cat Research sub-group will be formed, with oversight provided by the Working Group.

Various avenues of funding are being pursued to progress research projects with a priority to deliver an evidence based understanding of the impact and effectiveness of feral cat management techniques. Again funding for the research remains an issue.

c. Co-ordinated Management

What are priority actions to support coordinated on-ground management?

There was general agreement that collating and providing accessible information, together with developing a value proposition around feral cat management will underpin co-ordinated management activities. It was agreed that Co-ordinated Management will develop once work in the other pillars is progressed. The premise that co-ordinated management refers to the mapping/provision of linkages rather than coordination of actions was iterated during discussions. Working Group members considered the priorities that had been briefly discussed at the first meeting and expanded upon this being:

- i. *Development of a spatially explicit database*
- ii. *Aligning values with partners and identifying common goals and common values.*
- iii. *Sharing success stories.*
- iv. *Coordination of information*
- v. *Feral Cat Management Plan*

Some preliminary actions to be undertaken include:

- Development of a research project that delivers a value proposition for feral cat management.
- Information gathering/insights on how a Feral Cat Management Plan may be developed in the future.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication mediums were discussed including WA Landcare Networks at their fortnightly check-ins and an article in Bushland News.

Members are requested to use the following hashtags when doing any social media promoting the Working Group.

#WAFeralCatWG
#ProtectingWABiodiversity

Current process for the preparation of articles is for members of the Steering Committee to prepare and edit, and the final version sent to the Chair for endorsement.

A basic Communications Plan template to be prepared.

All members to look for opportunities for a volunteer to develop/manage the Communications plan.

Next Meeting Date: October 2020 (final date to be determined).