

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 #4

Held on Tuesday 18th May 2021

commencing at 10am (1pm finish) at

WABSI, WA Trustees Building, Level 2, 133 St George's Terrace, Perth
(via Zoom for those unable to attend in person)

In attendance in person:

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
Jane O'Malley	CEO, PHCC (on behalf NRM WA)
Dr Fran Stanley	Executive Director, DBCA
Dr Bruce Webber	Program Director, WABSI
Dr Judy Dunlop	Executive Officer, WAF CWG
Naomi Briggs	Volunteer Minute Taker

In attendance via Zoom :

Elisabeth McLellan	Manager, Bush Heritage Australia
Professor Simon McKirdy	Chair, WA Biosecurity Council

Apologies:

Dr Rachel Paltridge	Member, Indigenous Desert Alliance
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GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair and Group members welcomed Dr Judy Dunlop who joined the Working Group as Executive Officer on 19th April 2021. .

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



Protecting WA's Biodiversity

The Feral Cat Working Group will make available and act as a conduit for information and experience on feral cat management solutions.

- i. Victoria Aitken, DPIRD and Dr Fran Stanley, DBCA provided updates on statutory responsibility for feral cat management. Feral cats are a declared species under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*. Eradicate feral cat baits and the Felixer Grooming Trap require approvals. Opportunities for the WAFCWG website to reference information on DBCA website to be explored.
- ii. A FAQ questions sheet is in development and in addition, the Executive Officer will progress the development of the Communications Strategy.
- iii. A prototype of the Feral Cat Management Survey was discussed and feedback collated. The Executive Officer will prepare an updated survey.

b. Research Program

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

- i. A framework and Terms of Reference for the Feral Cat Research sub-group will be developed. Three research proposals have been received to date. Bruce Weber will prepare a summary for each meeting of each research proposal and the outcomes. All research projects will be cataloged on the website and reciprocally shared with the National Feral Cat Taskforce.
- ii. Research Funding Updates. NESP2 funding has been delayed. The Executive Officer will spend one day per week on research activities. The flow of funds for feral cat research in this State to be mapped drawing on the stakeholder survey and Working Group members.
- iii. A model of expertise to be developed to promote research in biodiversity research.

c. Co-ordinated Management

- i. The option to submit a nomination to the Threatened Species Scientific Committee to list Feral Cats as a Key Threatening Process under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* was discussed. Predation by feral cats is recognised as a Key Threatening Process under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). It was agreed that feral cats are a biosecurity/agricultural threat that require clearer regulatory intent and clearer recognition in State priorities. The opportunity to support the State in achieving this will be explored by the Group.
- ii. The development of a Feral Cat Management Plan (Cat Action Plan) was discussed with agreement that the WAFCWG needs to have ownership of the plan. More information on regulatory intent and administrative recognition to be gathered and the plan to be developed through the Group.

COMMUNICATIONS

a. Website

Needs to be live by 30 July 2021.

b. Communications Plan

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

#WAFCWG

#FeralCats

#ProtectingWAsBiodiversity

Judy to further progress Communications Strategy/Plan as per 7b.

OTHER BUSINESS

Strategic Plan to be kept updated and circulated with each set of Minyes

Next Meeting Date: November 2021. Doodle poll will be sent.