



WAFCWG

WA Feral Cat Working Group

Protecting WA's Biodiversity

Meeting 12 Communiqué

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

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the Working Group's (WG) meeting as well as other important information.

Date: Thursday 6 June 2024

Location: WABSI, WA Trustees Building, Level 2, 133 St George's Tce, Perth

Organisations represented: WAFCWG, Natural Resource Management WA, National Feral Cat Taskforce, CSIRO, Australian Wildlife Conservancy, The WA Biodiversity Science Institute. Invited guests from Peel-Harvey Catchment Council and Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.

The WA Feral Cat Working Group Meeting 12 received information on Executive Officer activities and future workplan, funding update, Research Pillar update, guest presentations from PHCC – Defending Dryandra and DBCA Feral cat strategy update. Meeting concluded by hearing update of working group member activities in the feral and pet-cat management space.

Summary of Matters for Decision:

Action: A meeting Communiqué will be written following each meeting and distributed to our stakeholders including our Working Group organisations, Advisory Group and Research Sub-Committee. It will also be added to the webpage.

Action: A new page on our webpage will be created to highlight Local Governments who have implemented best practice cat local laws, including laws covering cat-containment or exclusion zones. Information around some waste management sites and cat-trapping activity will be shared.

Action: A protocol will be developed to allow stakeholders seeking our support for grant applications (e.g. asking for in-kind time or project review etc) to view. It will include required timeframes for requests and will be added to our webpage.

Action: The Third WA Feral Cat Symposium is pencilled in for late February 2026.

Summary of Matter for Discussion:

Action: Progress Lotterywest funding application to include a part-time communication officer, Third WA Feral Cat Symposium and support to the EO to run workshops (both feral cat management and pet-cat containment) and travel to stakeholder field locations to gain on-ground information and be able to share learnings widely.

Action: We will clarify the nine research projects submitted through WABSI on their status and if they are still seeking funding. WG and research sub-committee will be asked to rank/prioritise the projects (and note where conflict of interest arises) to reinvigorate the process of securing funding for one or two projects on file.

Summary of Matters for Noting:

- WAFCWG with support from Responsible Cat Ownership – Stirling sent a survey of 10 questions to all 139 WA Local Governments about pet-cat containment and desires to implement cat-containment legislation. We are aiming for a 75% response rate and are following up with councils who have not responded yet. The results will be summarised in coming months.
- PHCC Farmers for Fauna Coordinator provided us with an overview of their funded project “[Defending Dryandra – Feral hotspots projects](#)”.
- DBCA Invasive Animals Project Officer presented an update on DBCA activities under the State Feral Cat Strategy funding. Infrastructure (including a sea container freezer storage for Eradicat baits, battery storage, mobile bait trailer) have been purchased and set up at the Northern Hub near Port Headland. The Feral Cat Strategy Coordinator role will be re-advertised following the recent resignation of previous incumbent. DBCA and WAFCWG EO aim to meet on-line every 3 weeks to discuss any developments and collaboration opportunities.
- Extended leave notifications – NRM WA/PHCC member on leave from mid-July to mid-October.

Highlights of Working Group Activities:

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

- Felixer and PAPP pen-trials have been completed
- Bush Guardian trap pilot pen-trials have been undertaken
- Research scientist has been appointed to the position under the State Feral Cat Strategy funding
- Lake Magenta Nature Reserve – Feral cats trapped and fitted with satellite radio-collars to collect data on movement and habitat use. This information will assist in enabling baiting programs to be more strategic and targeted.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

- Aerial Eradicat bait drop conducted at Mt Gibson and further Eradicat bait deployment coordinated with DBCA and the Northern Hub.
- Student thesis completed at Western River Refuge, Kangaroo Island comparing the success rates of feral cat trapping through cage traps, soft-jaw leg-hold traps and Felixers.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

- A new code of practice is being finalised between Department Health, DBCA and DPIRD that provides overall governance of access to Schedule 7 poisons.

CSIRO Health & Biosecurity

- Presented at The Grove Community Learning Centre, Peppermint Grove 19.5.2024 for the elected members Sustainability Network with Cr Adin Lang and Dr Heather Crawford, Murdoch University “Keeping cats at home: who is it good for?”

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday 19 September 2024.

Note

This communiqué presents a synthesis of the meeting and should not be taken to represent the position of any individual Feral Cat Working Group member.

Susan Hunt AM PSM

Chair, WAFCWG