



Shire of Lake Grace

28 OCTOBER 2026

Ordinary Council Meeting

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ITEM 16.0 - ATTACHMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORTS:

Title of Report	No of Pages
Infrastructure Services Report	2 - 10

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Provision of GP Services	11 - 13
Lake Grace Visitor Centre July – September 2026	14 - 25
Lake King Library Report July – September 2026	26 - 28
Newdegate Library Report July – September 2026	29 - 29
Newdegate Library Statistics 2026	30 - 30
NDIA Flyer	31 - 31
LG EHO Report July – September 2026	32 - 35
Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group Annual report 25-26	36 - 47
EWBG Meeting Minutes AGM 12 th Oct 2026	48 - 52

CIRCULARS, MEDIA RELEASES & NEWSLETTERS:

Community Newsletters as circulated via email	0
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Information Bulletin
Infrastructure Services Report

Shire of Lake Grace

Prepared for the October 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting
presenting information to the end of September 2026

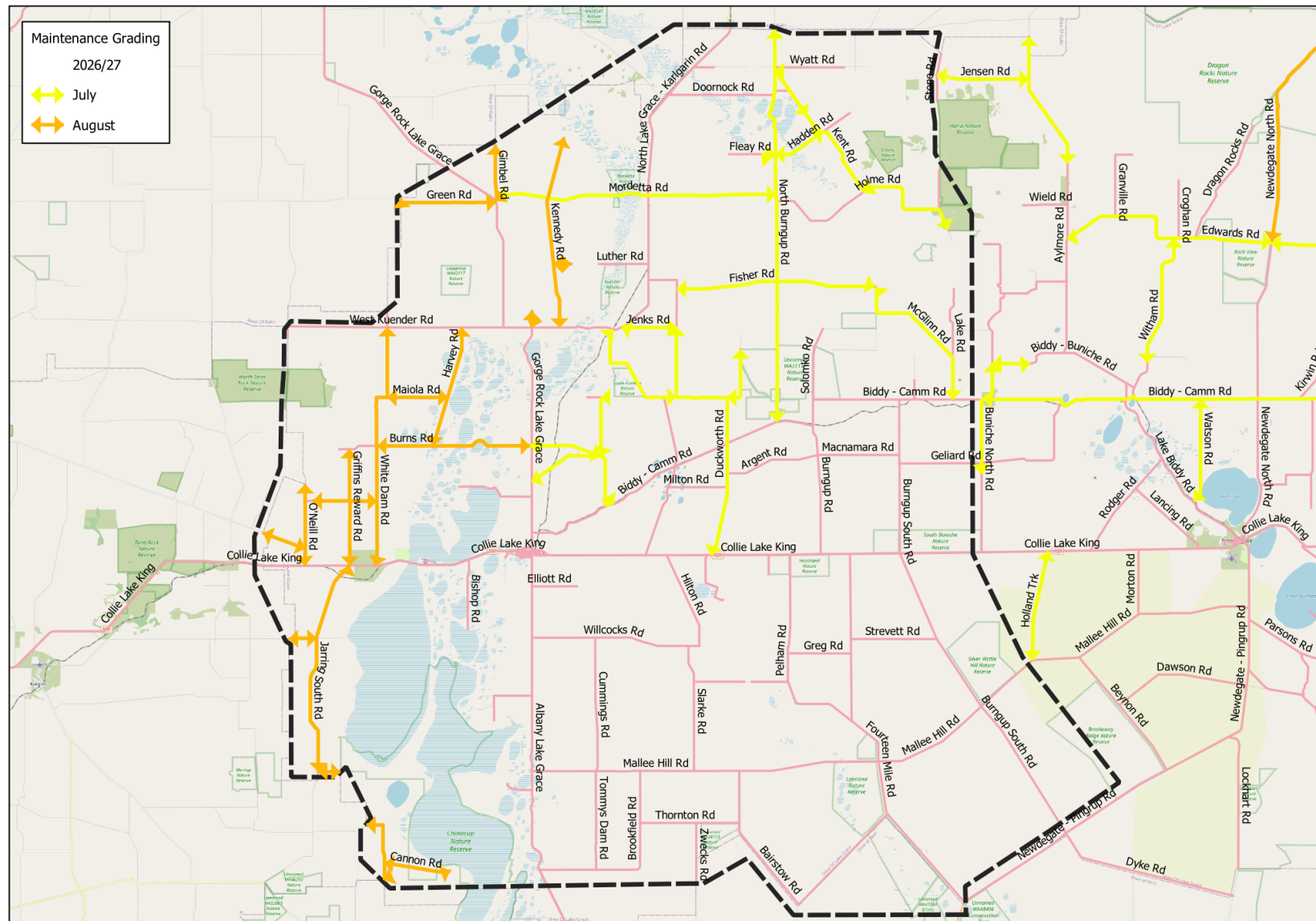
Road Maintenance Grading

For the month of September 2026

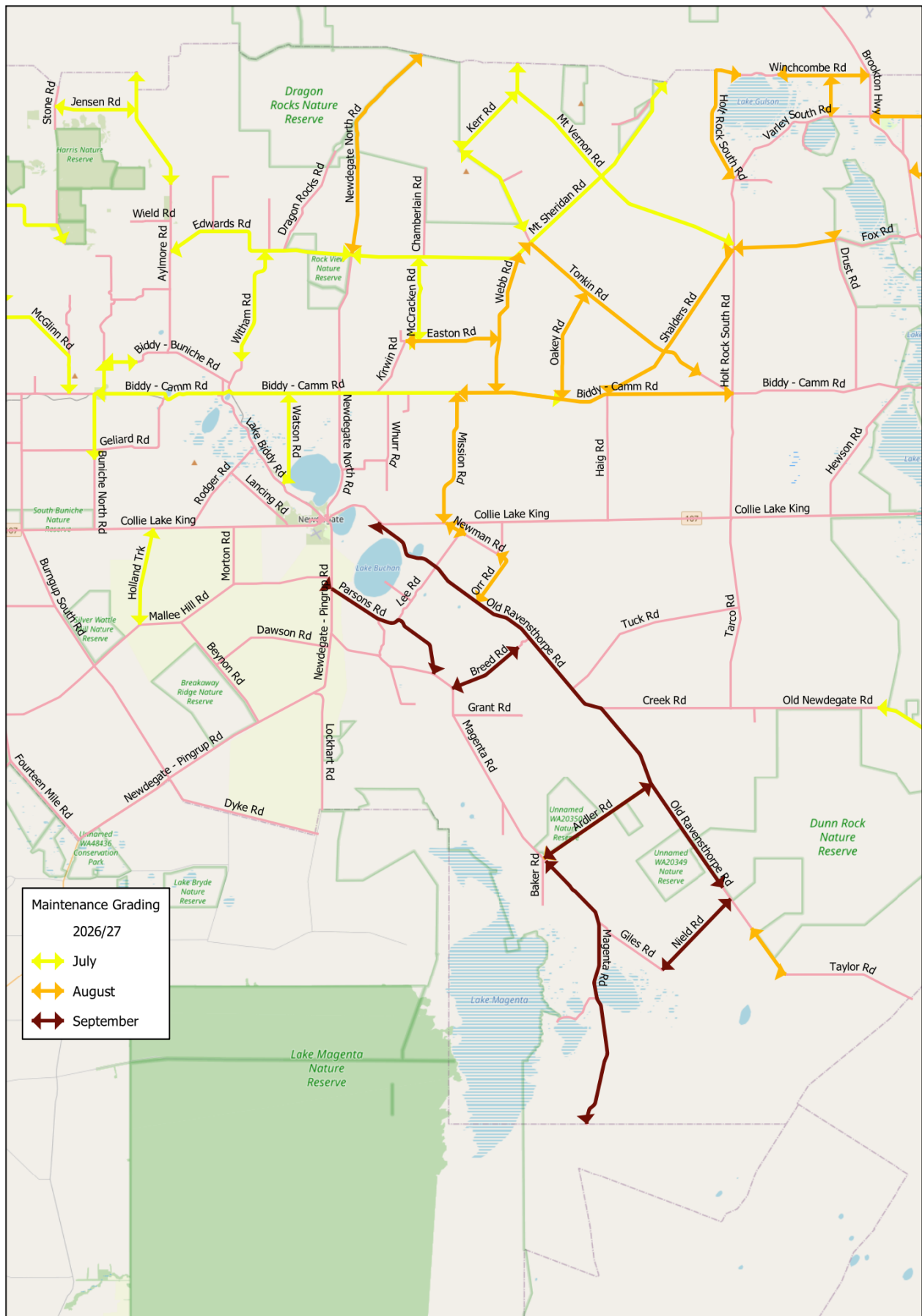
Lake Grace Area		Newdegate Area		Lake King-Varley Area	
Road Name	Graded (km)	Road Name	Graded (km)	Road Name	Graded (km)
		Ardler Rd	10.72	Days Rd	2.86
		Breed Rd	6.50	Hatters Hill Rd	23.2
		Magenta Rd	18.99	Ladyman Rd	8.31
		Neild Rd	8.13	LK Rubbish Tip Firebreak	
		Old Ravensthorpe Rd	35.87	Milarup Rd	4.02
		Parsons Rd	7.14	Muncasters Rd	7.57
				Paulson Rd	3.90
				Smerdon Rd	2.15
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>87.65</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>52.01</u>

2026/27 Year-To-Date Grading by Month

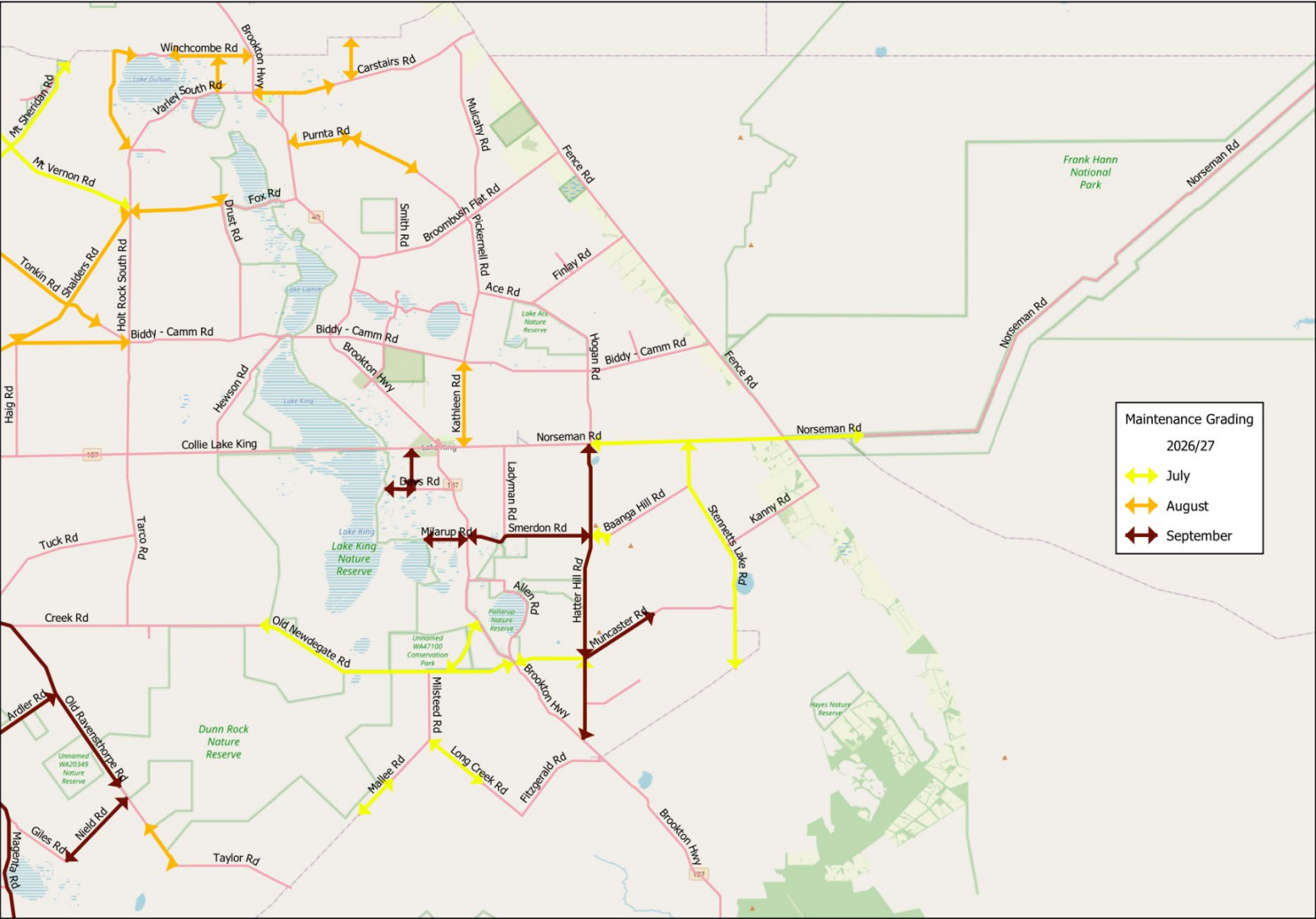
Year	Month	Lake Grace Area (km)	Newdegate Area (km)	Lake King-Varley Area (km)	Monthly Subtotal
2026	July	186.93	220.59	142.38	549.90
	August	126.40	183.44	63.94	373.78
	September	0.00	87.65	52.01	139.66
	October				
	November				
	December				
2027	January				
	February				
	March				
	April				
	May				
	June				
	To-Date	<u>313.33</u>	<u>491.68</u>	<u>258.33</u>	<u>1063.34</u>



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake Grace area



Monthly maintenance grading – Newdegate area



Monthly maintenance grading – Lake King-Varley area

Plant Management

Plant Acquisitions

- Nil.

Plant Repairs

Plant	Plant Description	Action
LG1444	2008 Mitsubishi Rosa Bus	Replacement of battery
LG3498	2022 CAT CW34 Road Roller	Replace engine harness

Building Construction & Maintenance

Capital

- Lake Grace, West Kuender Rd construction.
- North Lake Grace–Karlgarin Road.

Maintenance

Lake Grace

- Mosquito Control.

Newdegate

- Newdegate Field Days.

Lake King

- Cemetery.
- Rec Ground.

Varley

- Nil.

Other

- Nil.

Parks & Gardens Maintenance

Lake Grace

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing & tidying of gardens and parks.
- Shire Depot.

Newdegate

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing of the recreation grounds, parks and skate park.

Lake King

- Carried out general gardening, mowing and spraying to all parks and gardens.

Varley

- Carried out gardening maintenance and general maintenance, including spraying, mowing, raking of the town site, sports complex and cemetery for weeds.

Pingaring

- Nil.

Customer Service Requests

For the period of 1 July 2026 to 30 September 2026:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	3	1	4	75.0%
Building	4	1	5	80.0%
Parks & Gardens	2	1	3	66.7%
<u>Total</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>75.0%</u>

Because July is the first month of the financial year there is no previous month to compare it to:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	3	0	3	100.0%
Building	3	0	3	100.0%
Parks & Gardens	2	1	3	66.7%
<u>Total</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>88.9%</u>

Previous financial year's (2025/26) statistics. To be updated every month:

Category	Complete	Incomplete	Total	% Complete
Works	64	13	77	83.1%
Building	41	14	55	74.5%
Parks & Gardens	19	1	20	95.0%
<u>Total</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>81.6%</u>

PROVISION OF GP SERVICES
REPORT TO THE ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS

TO	Presidents and CEOs of the Shire of Narembeen, Lake Grace, Kojonup, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Yilgarn and Ravensthorpe
AUTHOR	Caroline Robinson, 150Square
DATE	6 October 2026

ACTIVITY SINCE THE CANBERRA JUNE WORKSHOP

Since the national workshop in Canberra on 22 June, which brought together more than 30 councils from all six states, the Alliance has continued to build both the evidence base and the number of decision makers who understand the issue.

On Monday 5 October I met with Senator Tyron Whitten (One Nation, Western Australia) for 45 minutes, following the Shire of Narembeen's letter of 24 July and a reply from his office on 31 August welcoming a meeting. I pitched that One Nation pick up thin market funding for rural general practice as a rural health policy, and I will provide the Senator with our research on GP costs. The Senator was also supportive of my briefing him on the Alliance's pre-budget submission to the Commonwealth.

To strengthen the evidence on what it costs to keep a GP in a thin market, we have now spoken with a cross-section of practices and councils: the former practice managers of the Kalbarri practice as well as a NFP who will likely tender for the new service, which was 100 per cent bulk billing; Bogan Shire Council, on its medical services; St Luke's, which operates practices in Kulin and Albany; Livingston Medical, on its GP costs across the majority of our Wheatbelt and Great Southern councils; Bruce Rock Medical Practice; and a practice in Kalgoorlie. The 150Square Intern Katie Wheeler is preparing the report, then we will ask for a peer review to double check all our numbers and then forward to you for your first review.

WA Country Health Service has put its support in writing. On 12 August the WACHS Chief Executive, Jeff Moffet, wrote to the WA Primary Health Alliance supporting future consideration of our communities as candidates for a thin market proposal or related Commonwealth funding opportunity, and on 20 August he responded to the Alliance, recognising the financial burden on councils and the need for a sustainable, system-wide approach to primary care in thin markets. Hon Rick Wilson MP has also written to WAPHA on our behalf. Minister Butler referred our correspondence to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and we have received a response from the Department.

Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance (Sharon Henderson) and RDA Wheatbelt (Josh Pomykala) took a delegation to Canberra on 16 and 17 September and requested a meeting with Minister Butler, raising the growing reliance on small regional councils to fund local doctors and GP services in thin market communities. I briefed both RDAs ahead of their visit.

Rural Health West asked whether we could share which other local governments around Australia fund GP services, as part of testing interest in a national approach to the Commonwealth. I replied on 1 October, pointing them to the case studies in the appendix of our updated report and noting that we are building more, with Queensland and South Australia likely to yield further examples.

We have updated our original report with the 2025/26 figures and the addition of Yilgarn, thank you and welcome to our newest financial member. The report is now live on the

Alliance website and has been distributed to politicians and key stakeholders, including WALGA.

Although I did not attend the WALGA conference, I did hear that the WA Leader of the Opposition mentioned local governments funding GP services during his opening speech.

In September I received a FOI request from the Freedom of Information Section, Commercial and Information Law Branch of the Australian Government, Department of Health, regarding the Alliance's correspondence with the Department of Health. I agreed to release personal information and hopefully there has been some enquiries on the matter with the Department.

We have prepared the Alliance's pre-budget submission to the Commonwealth. It is currently with a colleague who is well versed in this space for peer review, to make sure it speaks to the Government's priorities, including the National Health Reform Agreement and what Minister Butler is focused on at present. I will share it with you once that review is complete.

And finally thanks to Cr O'Keeffe and David Nicholson for presenting to the inquiry into Local Government financial sustainability in Northam. Cr Armstrong was also in attendance. NEWROC and GSVROC also presented on the day, and also spoke to GP services which supported our key messages.

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

- Report to multiple Zones on the work of the Alliance
- Online meeting with Hannah Godsave, Cr Stephen Strange and Nicole Walker regarding WALGA's work on health reform
- Letter to ALGA seeking an update on the distribution of the WALGA survey to local governments across Australia (to help build the evidence base)
- Senator Rushton online meeting with Cr O'Keeffe 31 July and followed up information
- WA Primary Health Alliance (CEO) and cc'd: Hon Rick Wilson MP; Hon Melissa Price MP; Hon Sabine Winton MLA, Hon Meredith Hammat MLA, Libby Mettam MLA, Hon Steve Martin MLC, Peter Rundle MLA; Lachlan Hunter MLA, Basil Zemplis
- Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (Thin Markets)
- Hon Rick Wilson MP has written to WAPHA in support of the Alliance; letter of support from Hon Melissa Price MP requested
- Cr Armstrong correspondence to Senator Colbeck (Chair) Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
- WA Country Health Service: response to the Alliance (20 August) and letter of support to WAPHA (12 August), both from the Chief Executive
- Minister Butler: correspondence referred to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, which has since responded
- Senators Colbeck, Ruston, Whitten and others (24 July), following our presentation to the Rural and Regional Liberals and meetings during the ALGA National General Assembly
- Office of Senator Whitten: reply received 31 August welcoming a meeting, followed by our online meeting
- Rural Health West: reply of 1 October to their request for examples of other local governments funding GP services
- RDA Goldfields Esperance and RDA Wheatbelt: briefed ahead of their Canberra delegation to Minister Butler (16 and 17 September)

- Politicians and key stakeholders, including WALGA, Rural Health Commissioner, NRHA, Rural Doctors Association: updated report distributed
- Kirrilee Warr MP correspondence on Kalbarri Practice and information on the Alliance

PROFILE

- ✓ www.ruralhealthfundingalliance.au



July - September 2026 Tourism Statistics

Prepared by Jo Morgan



Contents

<u>Introduction</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Origin of visitors to the Shire of Lake Grace</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Local Travelers.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Intrastate Travellers.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Interstate Travellers.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>International Travellers.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Unidentified Travelers/Direction of Travel.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Age Group/ Popular Visiting Days.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Mode of Transport.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Electric Car charges at Lake Grace charging station.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Yearly Growth.....</u>	<u>11</u>

Introduction

This document is prepared for the Lake Grace Shire Council to illustrate visiting statistics to the Lake Grace Visitor Centre.

It is a snapshot of visitor profiles that visit our Shire and is not all inclusive. The Lake Grace Visitor Centre (LGVC) only records visitors that physically enter the centre. The use of signage, open flags and being positioned in the main street of town we feel we are getting the majority of genuine visitors calling into the centre.

One of the goals of the LGVC is to provide accurate information for visitors. We also want to provide an enjoyable experience for the visitor by sharing our history with them, i.e. through telling them about the Station Masters House. While in the LGVC we dispense brochures and maps highlighting places to see and things to do in our Shire foremost.

Equipped with additional information about the Shire of Lake Grace and its attractions, the tourist is more inclined to spend more time seeing and doing things in the Shire of Lake Grace. If they have the time visitors often add additional time in Lake Grace after visiting the Centre.

The graphs presented in this document are tracking several different measurements of tourism data. It must be remembered that not all visitors are comfortable with revealing information of their travels so it is based only on the information that has been offered and is not conclusive.

Visitor data measurements recorded include;

- Number of people
- Age
- Origin
- Route
- Mode of transport
- Accommodation
- Yearly tracking from 2017

The graphs provided in this document are mainly based on the visitor numbers and profiles and exclude route, transport, accommodation and sales although data for these has been recorded also.

Origin of visitors to the Shire of Lake Grace

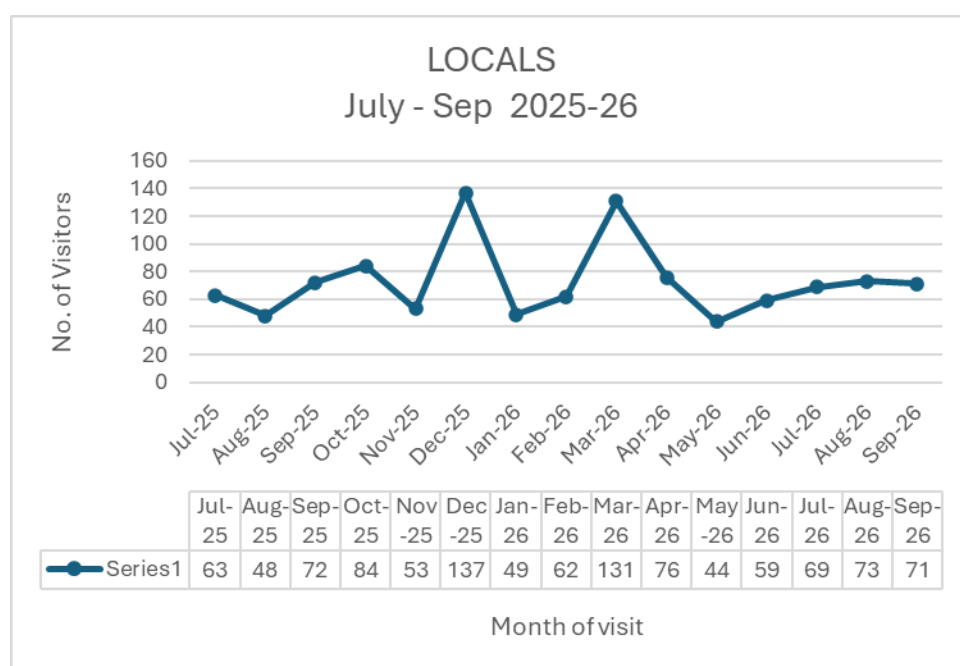
For the purpose of recording data visitors are classed into five groups;

- Locals – indicating they are from the town of Lake Grace. No purposeful travelling was required to visit the centre.
- Intrastate – this term is used to describe visitors from surrounding Shire of Lake Grace towns and the rest of WA, e.g. Newdegate, Kukerin, Wagin and Perth
- Interstate – this term is used to describe visitors from within Australia, including Tasmania who travel through the Shire
- International – this term is used to identify visitors from outside Australia including New Zealand
- Unidentified – Travelers who don't disclose where their place of origin.

Locals

Local visitation has remained steady throughout the winter months. Despite the lack of winter rain, we were amazed to see the orchids came out earlier this year – mid August! It remained cool til mid September so the orchids put on a longer than usual show which was most enjoyed by our wildflower hunters.

The warmer weather and start of spring brings more activity around the town. We expect our numbers to increase as community events pick up over the next few months. New stock and sales for older stock is creating interest amongst the locals. Christmas shopping will soon be on shopper minds.

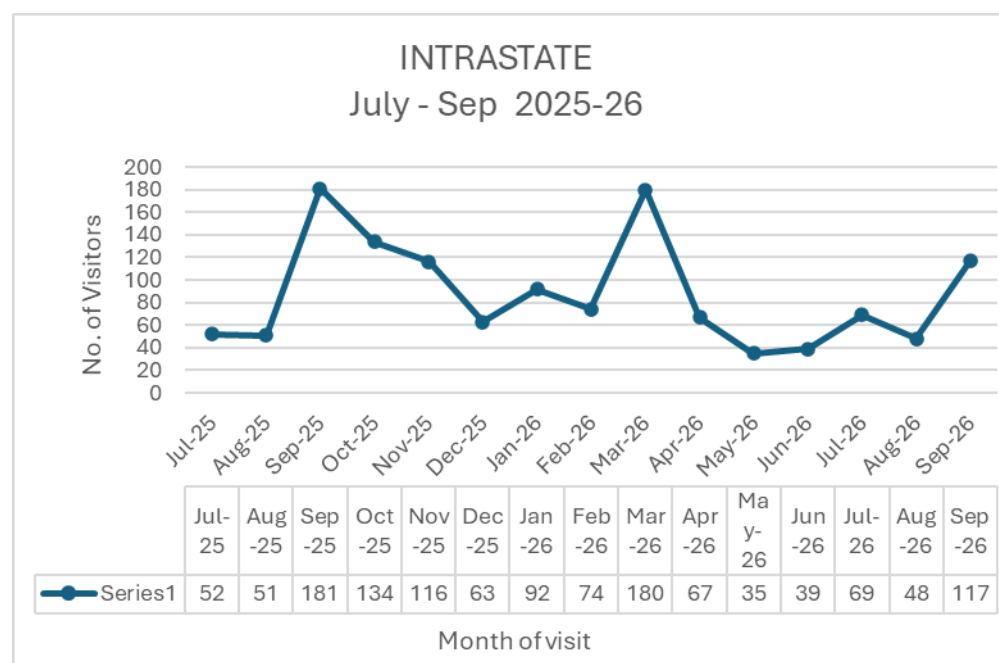


Intrastate Travellers

A slight increase in numbers compared to similar time last year for July. Unfortunately, our plans to reopen on weekends never quite took off, which has likely had impact on our overall numbers. We certainly felt the increase in numbers with the start of spring and the wildflower season. It's been great to see so many travellers return to our region once again.

We hope to find a keen staff member in the future to work weekends as we loved to be able to welcome and provide great information and friendly service in our region 7 days a week.

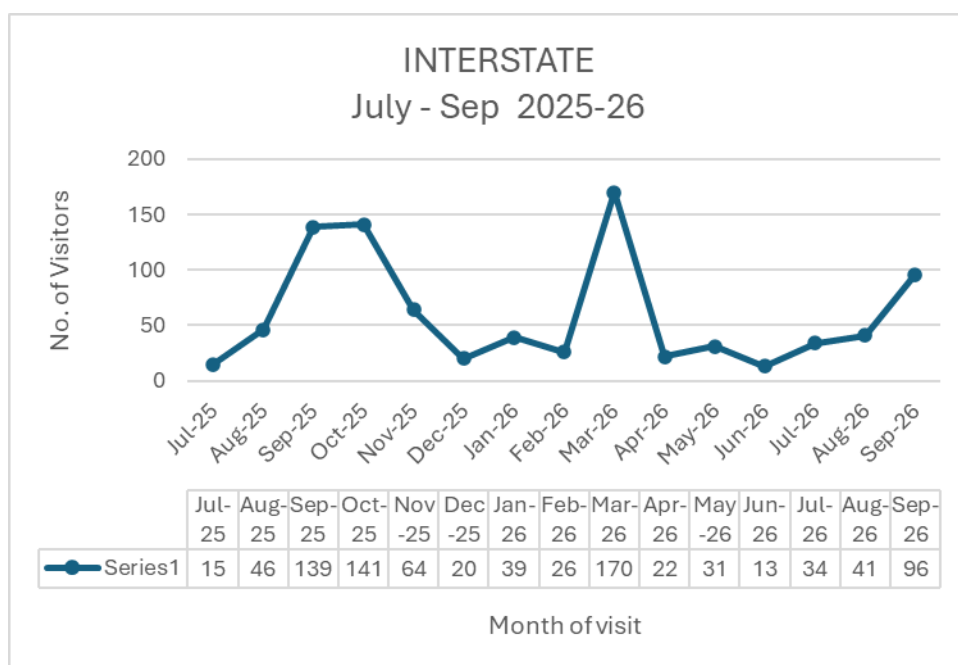
With the long weekend/school holidays starting at the end of September we've already noticed the increase in Esperance and Wave Rock travellers. Many caravan parks are already fully booked. Both destinations are fast becoming a destination you can't just turn up, bookings are essential to avoid disappointment.



Interstate Travellers

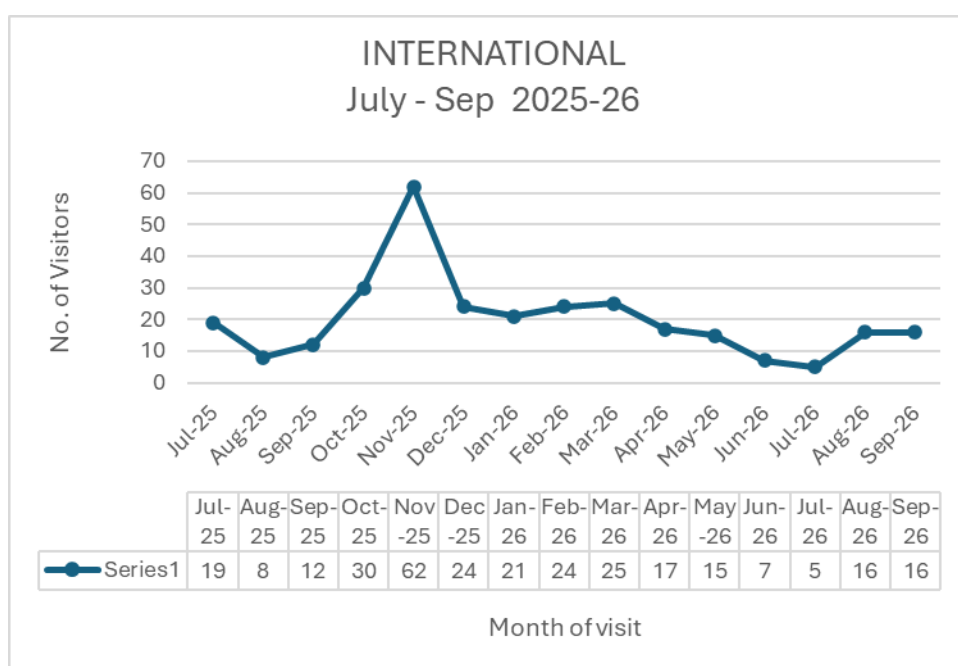
Interstate visitors have shown a steady increase over the past few months. Queenslanders are usually our most popular group through but this year there's been far more South Australians and a few more NSW visitors. It's quite possible the rising cost of fuel has kept travellers home.

On warm days our main street is filled with caravans and groups of visitors roaming around, but on the cooler days it's very quiet. Lots of devoted wildflower enthusiasts travel through our region this time of year, some even repeat visitors and lots of interest in the AIM Hospital tours.



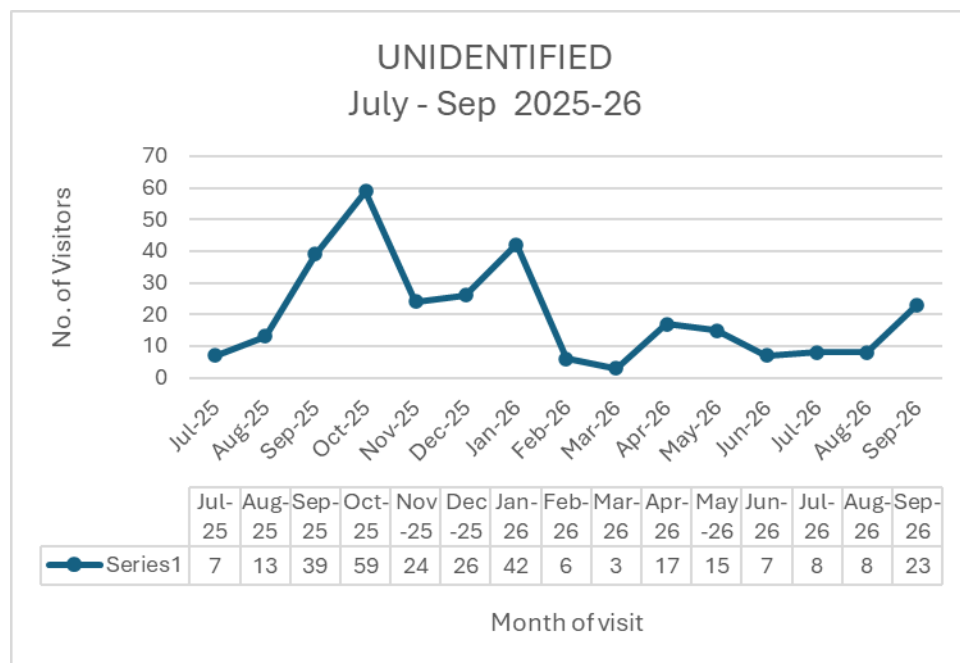
International Travellers

A difficult group to measure as world trends and safety affect the amount of internationals entering WA. They aren't coming through in droves but we sure are delighted when they come through our region. The majority of International travellers, reveal they are here visiting family. These countries included Holland, France, UK, Argentina, Sri Lanka and New Zealand. We're hoping we get an influx of international backpackers for the harvest season next quarter.



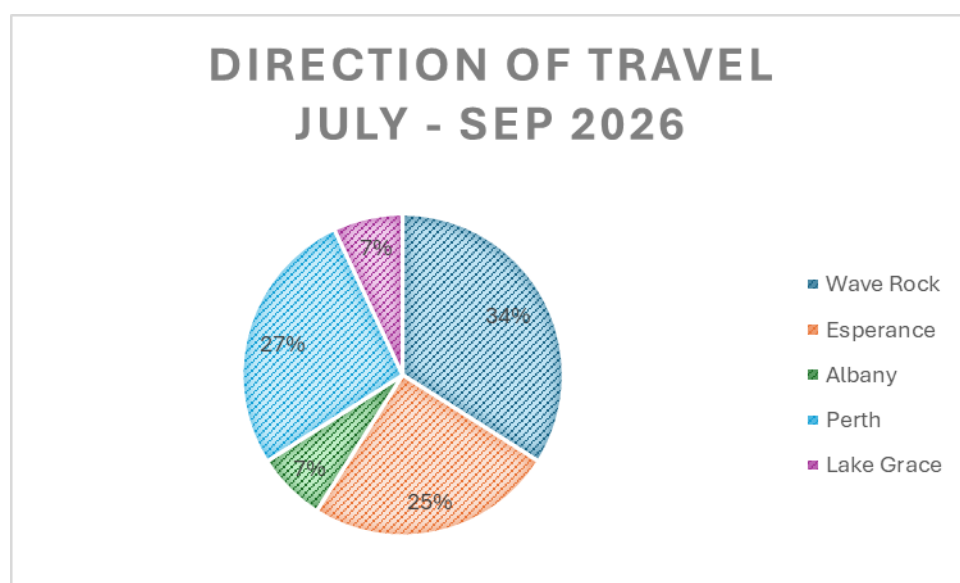
Unidentified Travellers

A group of travellers we try our very best to engage with but keeping in mind some people wish to simply browse and have a look around. We've noted some people prefer to keep in the background and not engage and others could talk for days!



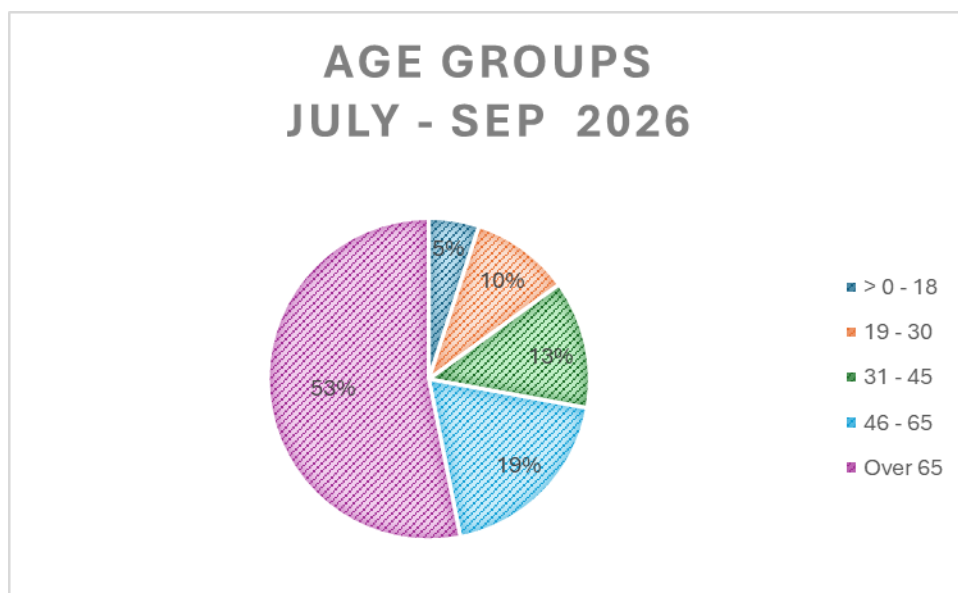
Direction of Travel

It's interesting to note where our visitors are traveling to as the Visitor Centre is positioned near a vital crossroad. Our traffic consists off those heading to either Wave Rock/Hyden, Esperance, Albany and Perth. Wave Rock, Esperance and travellers heading back to Perth seeme to be the most popular route



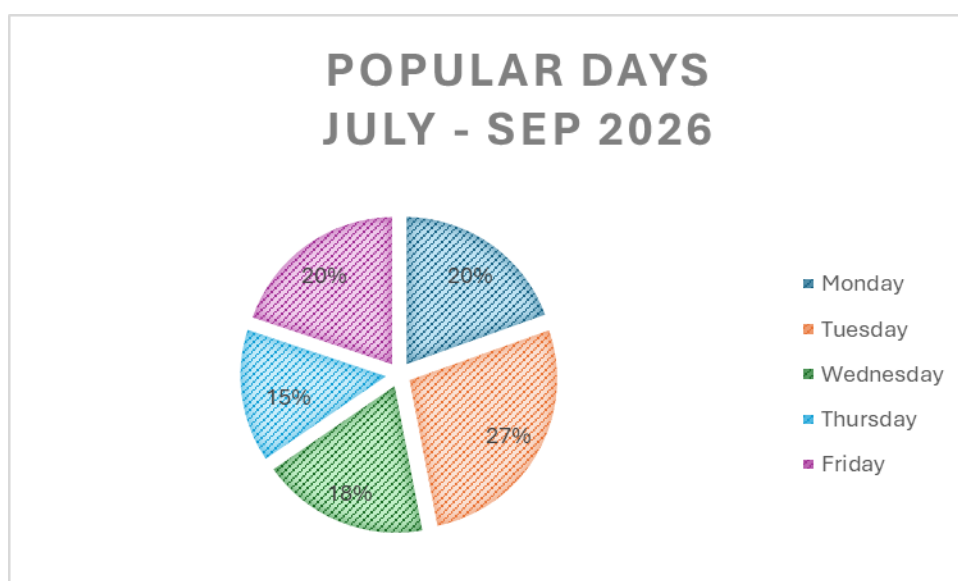
Age Group

The information tracked in this graph is reliant on the recorder's ability to judge the ages of visitors, therefore probably not entirely accurate in all cases. Grey Nomads have excelled in living the good life once again! Exploring our region in droves!



Popular Visiting Days

As we record our daily statistics it was interesting to note which days were popular amongst our visitors. This information over time can be used for staffing needs of the Visitor Centre along with tourism dollar spending in our shire. Tuesdays and Fridays being our most popular days.



Mode of Transport

People travel to and through our Shire in various forms of transport. We have recorded the transport used by those who called into the Visitor Centre. It's a great indication as to how people are moving through our region and how travelers are using our region. This data measures January to March 2025.



45%



46% FIRST TIME TO EXCEED CARS



9%



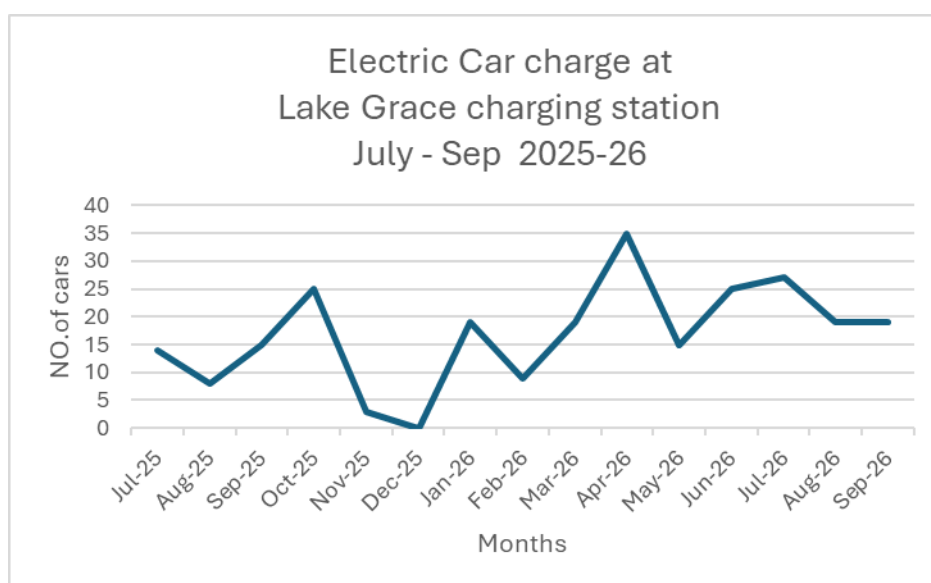
0%



0%

Electric Car charges

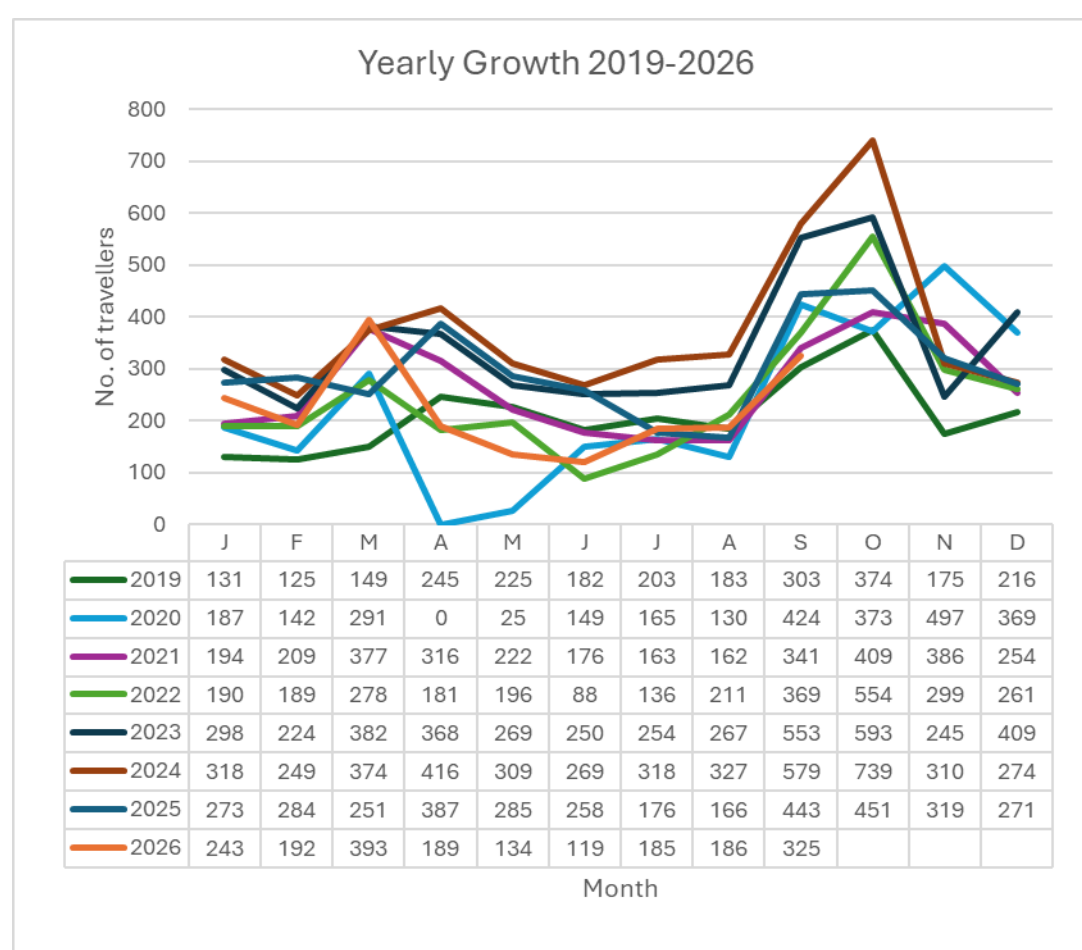
We have the data to view exactly how many charges are happening at our charge post each month. This can show our highs and lows throughout the year and know when a good time to service the machine is, any feedback from travellers etc. Great to see it's getting some great use so far. A drop in the cooler months, but there's consistent growth and feedback from these charger users is gratitude for having such a facility.



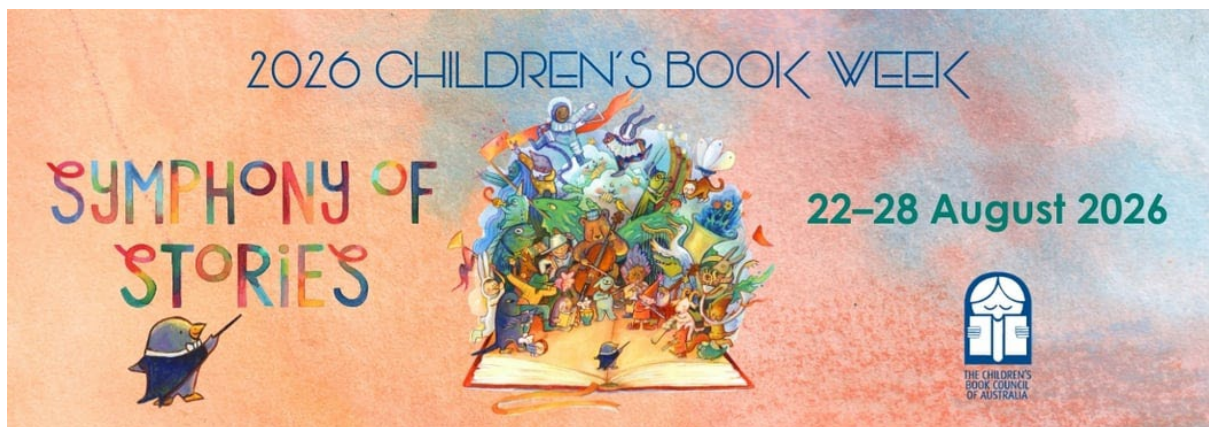
Yearly Trends

The chart below shows the LGVC recorded visitor trends over the past eight years. There has been steady growth in visitor numbers to the Shire of Lake Grace leading up to 2020. After the lockdowns we grew our visitor rate again with 2024 being our standout year to date.

An average quarter for visitor numbers but as the season is warming up a definite growth can be felt. Difference this year is we are now closed on weekends which explains the drop in numbers but it's something we will continue to review. There has been no negative feedback regarding our closure but we know it's a welcoming addition to our region for those choosing to stay or travel through our region.



Lake King Library Report for July - Sep 2026



It was a joy to celebrate book week in August, joining school children and teachers in dressing up as characters from their favourite books. Linking in with the “Symphony of Stories” theme I found a book about an animal orchestra and dressed as a violin playing cow!





Libby.

The library reading app.

WA public library staff were invited to come along and learn more about the [Libby app](#) at a free online Zoom training session presented by the Overdrive Training team in September.

Libby is the mobile app used to access Overdrive's collection of eBooks, digital audiobooks and magazines available to **all WA public library members** through the Western Australian Public Libraries Digital Media Collection.

An avid user of Libby I found this talk a great way to refresh knowledge and stay up to date with the latest features and learn more about the app, so I can confidently support our customers.

With less physical books being borrowed E resources remain popular as this quarter's numbers show. I also realised that newspapers are available on Borrowbox so have added them into the totals.

	July		August		September	
	Libby	Borrowbox	Libby	Borrowbox	Libby	Borrowbox
Audio Book	1	43	2	58	1	41
E book	8	8	11	19	1	7
Mags & newspaper	12	33	3	32	6	31

OFFICIAL

--*--

The “Lake King 100 Years” planning committee is still able to meet in the library on the first Friday of the month however the “Teams” meeting platform is also being utilized to encourage those a little further afield to attend regularly. Steady progress is being made towards a website and collection of historical pictures, documents and photos.

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Newdegate Library Report July - September 2026

The library is often used for pilates, meetings, school assemblies and workshops. This year we had the school use the library space for school photos and displays for their 100 year centenary.

We are still receiving our monthly box of books from the state library and sending them our old books back. For the gate post we do use our library books for our 'This week we are reading' section.

Our monthly loan statistics are:

July: 6

August: 11

September: 3

Regards

Jade Parker

Newdegate Library Statistics

Issued
and
Renewals

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	12	45	37	21	46	33	4	16	6	15	15	14
2006	21	21	27	7	21	22	14	34	27	6	20	15
2007	17	16	24	3	24	32	15	39	25	19	19	4
2008	9	30	15	14	33	14	6	16	9	20	17	8
2009	2	23	20	15	25	28	12	15	10	17	15	8
2010	3	13	16	14	13	23	28	26	27	26	35	27
2011	5	37	52	27	77	54	22	42	35	76	72	38
2012	10	69	33	27	50	20	49	18	26	54	59	31
2013	8	34	30	20	30	21	36	28	18	27	36	29
2014	39	50	35	33	53	36	61	29	24	61	32	47
2015	23	50	52	58	62	53	42	59	45	38	88	38
2016	17	77	29	45	42	15	53	39	43	43	65	42
2017	26	55	40	43	29	29	40	13	29	39	29	28
2018	9	37	15	30	19	36	33	18	51	30	66	48
2019	31	26	54	34	33	39	29	34	7	43	35	33
2020	6	33	42	2	12	23	27	24	39	54	21	16
2021	17	36	51	53	22	32	25	31	38	33	20	27
2022	5	23	27	8	31	13	19	32	8	42	8	17
2023	13	9	14	10	26	29	9	28	21	37	14	10
2024	6	12	18	13	26	16	6	15	12	31	16	4
2025	1	15	9	8	39	19	2	11	9	10	8	7
2026	2	18	12	4	12	13	6	11	3			



Want to learn more about the NDIS?

Come and meet the NDIA

Take the opportunity to drop by and connect with the NDIA team to discover how we can support you



Wednesday 28 October 2026



9.00am to 12.00 pm



Lake Grace

Community Resource Centre, Bishop St & School Pl

If you want to know more about the NDIS, the team will answer your questions and speak about what we do:



How the NDIS works



Am I eligible?



How do I apply?



Using your plan



INFORMATION BULLETIN

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

July to September 2026

HEALTH

During the July to September 2026 quarter the Environmental Health Service continued to deliver regulatory compliance, statutory assessment and public health functions across the Shire. Key activities included enforcement under the Health Act, food safety inspections, development referrals, onsite wastewater approvals, waste management compliance and planning for major community events.

Community Engagement

- EH Newsletter Articles

Events

- Newdegate Machinery Field Days Event (and Post Event Debrief)

Food Businesses

Inspected the following premises for Food Act compliance-

- Newdegate Recreation Centre

Food Recall Notices circulated to all food businesses

- Snackbrands Australia - Chickadees Various Sizes
- UPDATED 30.07.26 | Auxico (Perth) Pty Ltd - LGM HOT CHILLI OIL 275G
- Key-Sun Kids Honey & Eucalyptus + acerola lozenge - 54 g (12 x 4.5 g lozenges)
- Chen Foods - Mr Chen's Szechuan Chilli Oil - 250g
- Greenstorm Foods t/a Austral Herbs - Certified Organic Premium Peppermint Leaf (*Mentha piperita*) - 250g, 1Kg, 5Kg, 10Kg
- JC Seafood Sweet Chilli & Lime Salmon Portions - 275g

Food Standard 3.2.2A notification circulated to all Food Premises, this requires some food premises to have the following from December 2023:

- Food safety supervisors: Food Premises will need to appoint a food safety supervisor for their business.

- Food safety training: All food handlers will need to show they have had food safety training.
- Key food safety controls: Food Premises will need to keep records of important food safety controls or be able to demonstrate safe food handling practices.

Food complaints

- Lake Grace Meats - labelling of meat products
- Ember and Field Bake House - unregistered food business
- Lake Grace Roadhouse – food handling / hand washing

Food and Public Health Act Annual Report to the Department of Health

Lodging Houses & Caravan Parks

Inspected the following for compliance -

- Newdegate Motel and Caravan Park

Orders and Requisitions

- A5023 – 67 Newdegate North Road, Newdegate
- A6033 – 1 Hetherington Way, Lake King
- A6653 – Lot 216 Newdegate North Road, Newdegate

Onsite Effluent Disposal Systems

- Lot 1 Stennetts Lake Road Mount Madden – Pending Final Approval
- Lot 300 Newdegate-Ravensthorpe Road Newdegate – Pending Final Approval
- Lot 607, 500 Newman Road, Newdegate – Pending Final Approval
- Lot 4487 Pingrup-Lake King Rd, Lake Grace - Pending Final Approval
- Lot 9 Sugg Road, Lake King - Pending Final Approval

Pool Water Sampling

All pools closed

Professional Development

- Information Session for Building Surveyors: Compliance with the NCC Part 3
- Awareness to Action: Strengthening Integrity in Local Government workshop
- Principal EHO Group Meeting
- Environment Online Webinar
- Regulation 18C of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008 Webinar

- Public Health Act seminar – postponed

Public Buildings

Inspected the following for Health Public Buildings compliance -

- Newdegate Recreation Centre

Public Health Plan

- Meeting with DCEO to discuss review of Public Health Plan

Recycled Water Scheme

- Recycled water scheme ready to be used when required but currently offline

Stallholder / Street Trading Permits

- Newdegate Machinery Field Days - various mobile food operators

Strategic Planning

- EHO Upcoming Work Programme October - December

Swimming Pool Fence / Barrier Inspections

- Lot 1 Stubbs Street Lake Grace
- Lot 62 Gumtree Drive Lake Grace
- Lot 154 Elliot Street Lake Grace
- Lot 151 Elliot Street Lake Grace
- Lot 242 Clark Ave Lake Grace
- Lot 236 Clark Ave Lake Grace
- Lot 58 Gumtree Drive Lake Grace

Waste Management

- Ongoing inspections of waste facilities
- Various enquiries for disposal of asbestos
- 2025-26 Annual Waste and Recycling data return under Regulation 18C of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008

Other

- Request from Infrastructure Services to undertake private swimming pool fence inspections
- Central Wheatbelt Regional Health and Building Forum Convenor

- Short Term Rental Accommodation enquiry
- Request for Egg Producers information from Department of Health
- Working through Annual Health Debtors enquiries
- Inspection of Beauty Therapy business Lot 22, 33 Bennett Street Lake Grace
- Annual Report ROE EHO submission
- Award travel allowances and reimbursement of expenses
- Approval to fumigate enquiry – Karta Mia Farms
- Church Op Shop inspection and recommendation to restrict public access
- 5 Collier Street Newdegate – Certificate of Design Compliance issued
- Complaint - unauthorised swimming pool in backyard with no fence / barrier



Brendon Gerrard

Principal Environmental Health Officer

Mobile: 0409 770 824

Email: roeeho@corrigin.wa.gov.au



Registered Building Surveyor BSP2797



EASTERN WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY GROUP INC.

Annual Report

For

2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

Prepared by Lisa O'Neill – Executive Officer

Proudly supported by

- ♦ SHIRE OF KONDININ ♦ SHIRE OF KULIN ♦ SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE ♦ SHIRE OF MERREDIN ♦
- ♦ SHIRE OF MT MARSHALL ♦ SHIRE OF MUKINBUDIN ♦ SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN ♦ SHIRE OF NUNGARIN ♦
- ♦ SHIRE OF TRAYNING ♦ SHIRE OF WESTONIA ♦ SHIRE OF YILGARN ♦



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS



1.0 Table of Contents

1.0 Table of Contents..... 1

2.0 Chair Report – Mick Caughey (Nungarin Representative)..... 2

3.0 Overview 3

 3.1 Achievements 4

4.0 EWBG Aims and Objectives..... 5

 4.1 Our Aim (Vision) 5

 4.2 Our Role (Mission) 5

 4.3 Objectives..... 5

5.0 Direction..... 6

6.0 Summary 7

Appendix 1: RBG Area of Operation 9

Appendix 2: Audited Financial Report 10

Appendix 3: Reported Wild Dog Activity in EWBG Operational Area 11

2.0 Chair Report – Mick Caughey (Nungarin Representative)

I would like to start by taking the opportunity to thank all of you that are involved in the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) as volunteers, your time and commitment are commended for representing your Shires best interests.

As in previous years wild dogs are the major focus of EWBG. Total baits laid for the year comprised a total of 9640 baits. The aerial baiting was completed in September 2025. We had 42 known dogs culled and expect a significantly larger amount controlled through the baiting program. There were 3 reported dog attacks with 45 sheep lost to wild dogs over the last year, slightly up on last year's numbers.

I would like to thank our LPMT's, Frog, Stu and Seb, for all your time and efforts in helping contain the wild dogs over the past year, Stu was out of action for a while there but is now back on deck. Your efforts are truly appreciated by the 11 shires you do work for.

In February the community rabbit bait program was completed. Emus are becoming an increasing area of concern in the northern section of EWBG and there is currently an investigation into their severity and control methods.

We have signed another Memorandum of Understanding with DBCA, this is a good outcome to continue with this collaboration.

The financial assistant agreement with government, through royalties for regions, has been extended for a further 12 months. This is the last expected extension and if that is the case it will have a substantial effect on the EWBG budget in the future.

I will be stepping down as Chair after this meeting and handing over to Peter from the Trayning shire. I would like to thank Lisa on behalf of the whole committee for your continued commitment and dedication to your role, EWBG runs effectively and efficiently due to your efforts through the year, so thank you again.

Thank you.

Mick Caughey- Chair
Shire of Nungarin EWBG Representative.

3.0 Overview

Established in 2001, the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) is an incorporated organisation working across eleven Local Government areas to support coordinated declared pest management throughout the region. The Group is governed by a management team elected biennially, with day-to-day operations coordinated by a part-time Executive Officer.

As a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG), EWBG is authorised to raise a Declared Pest Rate (DPR), which was first introduced in October 2016. The 2025–26 financial year represents the tenth year of the DPR, which remains a critical source of funding for regional pest management. Funds collected through the DPR are matched dollar-for-dollar by the State Government through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), significantly increasing EWBG's capacity to deliver coordinated declared pest control across the Eastern Wheatbelt.

DPR collection continues to achieve a high level of efficiency, reflecting the strong support of landholders across the region. EWBG sincerely thanks ratepayers for their continued contribution and commitment to coordinated pest management.

The Group's management team contributes significant time and expertise on a voluntary basis across the eleven member Shires. This is complemented by the considerable contribution of landholders and community members who participate in and support pest management activities throughout the region.

EWBG engages three Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) to undertake on-ground pest management activities. Looking ahead to 2026–27, the three LPMTs have contracted allocations of 200, 185 and 100 days respectively, providing a substantial on-ground presence across the region.

EWBG's activities are supported through funding and partnerships with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, and its eleven member Shires: Kondinin, Kulin, Lake Grace, Merredin, Mount Marshall, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Narembreen, Trayning, Westonia and Yilgarn.

Through regional coordination, strong partnerships and targeted on-ground control, EWBG continues to strengthen the Eastern Wheatbelt's capacity to manage declared pests. This collaborative approach helps protect agricultural enterprises, reduce livestock losses and pest impacts, and improve the long-term productivity and resilience of the region.

3.1 *Achievements*

The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) maintains a strong focus on the coordinated management of wild dogs, European red foxes, wild rabbits and feral cats across the region. Through targeted control programs and ongoing landholder involvement, these efforts continue to reduce pest impacts, protect livestock and support confidence in livestock enterprises across the Eastern Wheatbelt.

The long-term reduction in reported livestock losses from wild dog attacks demonstrates the impact of sustained regional control. In 2000–01, more than 2,000 sheep were reported lost to wild dogs across the region. This reduced to approximately 1,000 in 2008, 135 in 2017–18 and just 25 in 2023–24. In 2025–26, 45 livestock losses were reported. While this represents an increase from 2023–24, losses remain substantially below historical levels and reinforce the importance of maintaining consistent, coordinated control efforts.

The Restricted Chemical Product (RCP) Permit program remains an important component of EWBG's approach, enabling landholders to actively participate in vertebrate pest control on their properties. EWBG assists eligible landholders within its prescribed area with the permit application process and covers associated permit costs, helping reduce barriers to participation in coordinated control programs.

Accurate reporting and data collection also underpin EWBG's pest management activities. Wild dog sightings and control activities are recorded and contributed to FeralScan, providing valuable information to guide local control activities, monitor pest activity and support broader strategic pest management.

Throughout 2025–26, EWBG continued to deliver coordinated wild dog management both inside and outside the State Barrier Fence. Through the combined efforts of Licensed Pest Management Technicians, landholders and partner organisations, the program maintains an extensive regional approach to reducing wild dog impacts and protecting livestock enterprises across the Eastern Wheatbelt.

4.0 EWBG Aims and Objectives

4.1 Our Aim (Vision)

Community control of community pests.

4.2 Our Role (Mission)

Protect and support the future of the Eastern Wheatbelt by working with landholders to fulfil their responsibility of managing declared pests on their land.

The EWBG believes declared pests can be better managed by working together as a community in conjunction with industry and government. Through a coordinated approach utilising a variety of strategies and technologies, EWBG can better assist and support landholders.

4.3 Objectives

The objectives of the EWBG are to:

- Coordinate and support effective control of declared pests to reduce their impacts on agricultural production, livestock, crops and the broader landscape.
- Develop and implement strategic management programs that minimise current and future impacts of declared pests across the region.
- Promote and implement best-practice declared pest management across private and public land.
- Increase landholder and stakeholder participation in coordinated pest management activities.
- Support improved agricultural productivity and land condition through targeted control of declared pests, including wild dogs, foxes, feral cats and rabbits.
- Monitor, evaluate and report on declared pest activity, control outcomes and program effectiveness across member Shires.
- Build community awareness and understanding of declared pest issues through proactive communication, education and extension activities.
- Strengthen collaboration between landholders, Local Governments, government agencies and other stakeholders to achieve coordinated, landscape-scale pest management.

5.0 Direction

The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) supports landholders and land managers in the coordinated management of declared pests across the region. The Eastern Wheatbelt continues to experience pressure from declared animal pests, creating economic, agricultural and environmental impacts across private farmland, Unallocated Crown Land and areas of remnant vegetation.

Wild dogs, European red foxes, feral cats and wild rabbits remain the key declared animal pests targeted by EWBG. While long-term control efforts have substantially reduced the impacts of wild dogs across the region, maintaining this progress requires consistent and coordinated management. Ongoing surveillance and control are particularly important in protecting livestock enterprises and preventing wild dog populations from re-establishing in previously controlled areas.

EWBG's Wild Dog Operational Plan provides the framework for coordinated wild dog management across the region. During 2025–26, the program was further supported through the Wild Dog Action Plan, with funding extended for an additional 12 months in 2026. This funding supports EWBG's capacity to maintain coordinated and strategic wild dog control across its prescribed area.

As part of the regional control program, aerial baiting was undertaken in late September and early October 2025, targeting the northern areas of the EWBG region. Aerial baiting complements ground-based control undertaken by EWBG's Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) and participating landholders, enabling coordinated control across large and less accessible areas and strengthening the overall effectiveness of the wild dog management program.

Control of foxes, feral cats and wild rabbits also remains an important component of EWBG's broader pest management activities. Foxes and feral cats pose significant risks through predation on livestock and native fauna, while rabbits can have substantial impacts on cropping and grazing enterprises through crop and pasture damage, competition and land degradation. Coordinated management of these species contributes to improved agricultural productivity while also supporting the protection of native biodiversity and the region's natural environment.

Monitoring, data collection and reporting are central to EWBG's operations and form an important component of its funding arrangements with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). Pest sightings and control activities are recorded through FeralScan, providing consistent regional data on pest activity and management outcomes. Information recorded by EWBG's LPMTs, together with landholder reports and data collected through motion-activated cameras, assists in monitoring pest distribution, evaluating control effectiveness and identifying areas requiring additional attention.

Through coordinated control, surveillance, landholder participation and evidence-based planning, EWBG continues to strengthen the region's capacity to manage declared pests and reduce their impact on agricultural production, livestock, native biodiversity and the broader Eastern Wheatbelt landscape.

6.0 Summary

The 2025/26 year marked another productive year for the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG), with the Group continuing to strengthen coordinated declared pest management across its eleven member Shires. Now in its tenth year of implementing the Declared Pest Rate (DPR), EWBG remains focused on supporting landholders and land managers to meet their responsibilities while delivering practical, landscape-scale pest management outcomes across the region.

Strong relationships with landholders, Local Governments, government agencies and industry partners remain fundamental to EWBG's operations. Throughout the year, the Group continued to engage with stakeholders to identify emerging pest issues, determine regional priorities and coordinate appropriate responses. This collaborative approach allows resources to be directed where they are most effective and supports both agricultural productivity and environmental outcomes.

Wild dogs, European red foxes, feral cats and wild rabbits remained key priorities during 2025/26. EWBG delivered a combination of ground-based control, surveillance, landholder support and coordinated baiting activities across the region. An aerial baiting program was undertaken in late September and early October 2025 across northern areas of the EWBG region, complementing the ongoing work of Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) and participating landholders.

Supporting landholders to undertake effective pest control on their own properties also remained an important focus. EWBG continued to assist eligible landholders with 1080 accreditation and Restricted Chemical Product (RCP) Permit applications, including covering permit costs within the Group's prescribed area. This support helps increase landholder participation and strengthens the region's capacity to respond to pest activity as it occurs.

Community engagement, collaboration and knowledge sharing continued throughout the year. EWBG representatives participated in industry meetings, workshops and events, while maintaining strong working relationships with DPIRD, DBCA, Local Governments and other Recognised Biosecurity Groups across Western Australia. These connections provide opportunities to share knowledge, identify emerging issues and ensure EWBG's programs remain aligned with contemporary pest management practices.

Through sustained investment in on-ground control, landholder participation, monitoring and regional partnerships, EWBG continues to build on the progress achieved over many years. The Group remains committed to practical and coordinated pest management that protects agricultural production, supports biodiversity and strengthens the long-term resilience of the Eastern Wheatbelt.

Committee of Management:

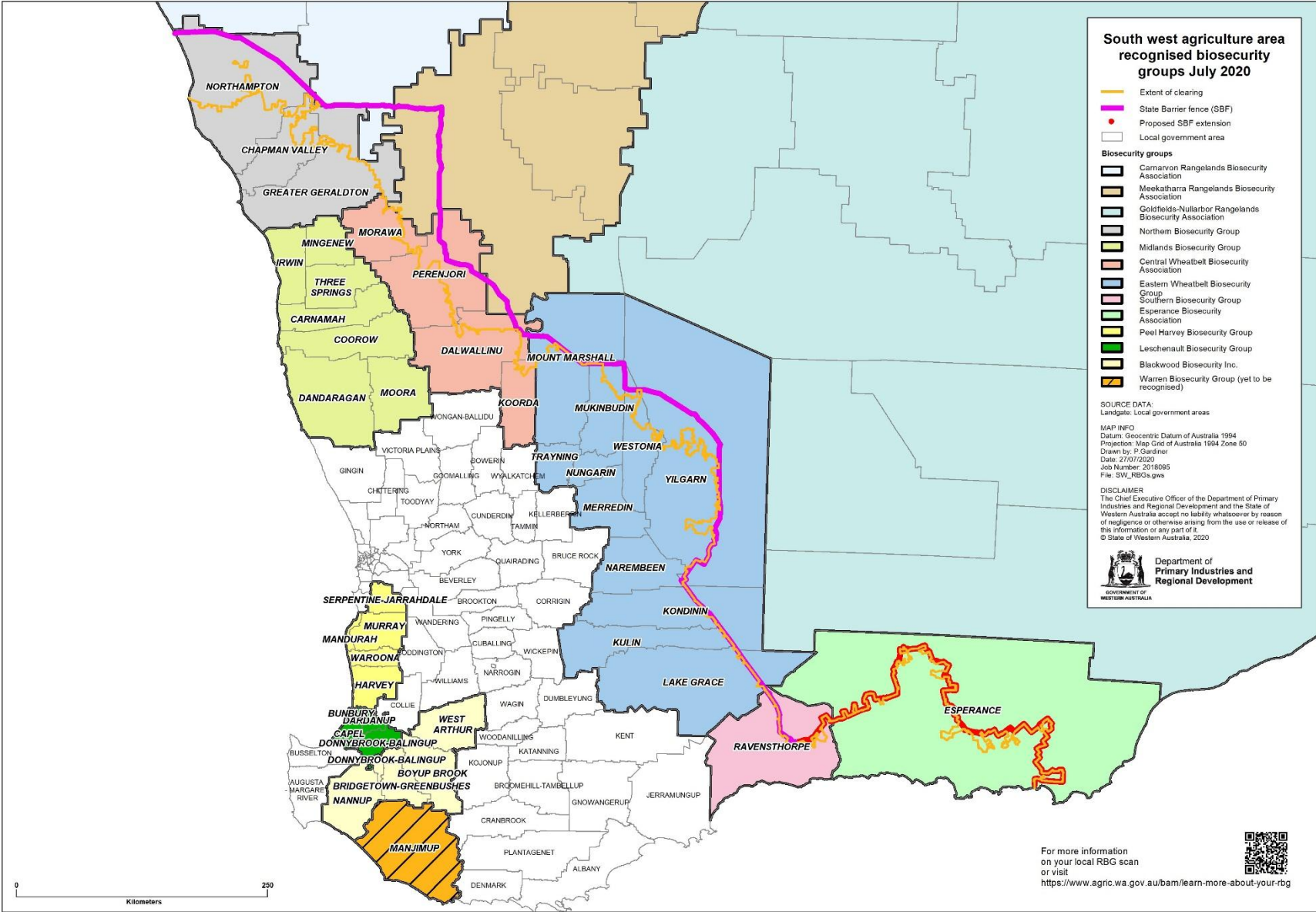
- **Chair:** Mick Caughey
- **Deputy Chair:** Peter Barnes

Committee Members: Jim Sullivan, Brett Smith, Dean Sinclair, Ross Della Bosca, Scott Stirrat, Steve Palm and Steve Hunt.

Shire Representatives for EWBG:

- **Merredin:** Hayley Billing
- **Mukinbudin:** Steve Palm
- **Narembreen:** Scott Stirrat
- **Westonia:** Ross Della Bosca
- **Trayning:** Peter Barnes
- **Nungarin:** Mick Caughey
- **Mt Marshall:** Stuart Putt
- **Lake Grace:** Steve Hunt/Len Armstrong
- **Kulin:** Clinton Mullen
- **Kondinin:** Brett Smith
- **Yilgarn:** Gary Guerini

Appendix 1: RBG Area of Operation



Appendix 2: Audited Financial Report

EASTERN WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY GROUP INC ABN 97 381 980 973

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026

Income	DBCA	DPR	R4R	Other	Total
DBCA	44,000	-	-	-	44,000
Declared Pest Account	-	420,850	-	-	420,850
R4R Funding	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Membership Fees Received	-	-	-	1,100	1,100
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Other Income	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Total Income	44,000	420,850	100,000	4,100	568,950
Expenses					
Accounting Fees	-	3,408	-	-	3,408
Administration Costs	-	59,399	-	-	59,399
Administration Support & Consultancy	-	75	-	-	75
Aerial Baiting	-	24,000	-	-	24,000
Baits, Toxin & Traps	-	24,678	-	-	24,678
Bank Charges	-	85	-	-	85
Community Engagement	-	4,078	-	-	4,078
Contractor Payments	16,609	259,469	100,000	-	376,078
Insurance	-	32,947	-	-	32,947
Office	-	3,750	-	-	3,750
Office Supplies & Subscriptions	-	988	-	-	988
Superannuation	-	6,384	-	-	6,384
Travel	-	770	-	-	770
RCP Permits	-	819	-	-	819
Total Expenses	16,609	420,850	100,000		537,459
Carryover	27,391	-	-	4,100	31,491

Appendix 3: Reported Wild Dog Activity in EWBG Operational Area

END OF YEAR STATICS

2025-26 Fiscal Year

	LPMT 1	LPMT 2	LPMT3	Total for EWBG
Number of days worked	160	179	100	439
Baits laid (inc Aerial Bait)	2,000	6,540 (inc. Aerial bait)	1,100	9,640
Wild Dogs Controlled (not inc. all baited)	11	18	12	41

*Landholders reported 5 Wild Dogs Controlled.

Reported Wild Dog attacks and stock death:

Year	Month	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	TOTAL
2012/13	Attacks	3	3	1	3	3	2	2	1	4	5	4	4	35
	Stock Losses	16	3	2	5	8	6	5	2	23	31	10	13	124
2013/14	Attacks	2	3	5	8	2	1	4	3	2	3	1	3	37
	Stock Losses	14	9	64	34	10	4	6	8	6	9	1	30	195
2014/15	Attacks	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	5	1	2	1	0	16
	Stock Losses	2	40	4	8	0	0	8	9	2	5	2	0	80
2015/16	Attacks	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	7
	Stock Losses	8	0	6	0	2	7	0	1	0	30	5	0	59
2016/17	Attacks	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	8
	Stock Losses	4	5	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	16
2017/18	Attacks	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
	Stock Losses	5	2	8	0	3	60	3	8	2	27	12	5	135
2018/19	Attacks	2	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	11
	Stock Losses	10	3	28	2	0	13	0	0	0	4	10	0	70
2019/20	Attacks	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	4
	Stock Losses	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	50	1	55
2020/21	Attacks	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	6
	Stock Losses	1	8	0	0	4	3	0	8	8	0	0	0	32
2021/22	Attacks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	6
	Stock Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	1	51	5	69
2022/23	Attacks	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	7
	Stock Losses	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	15	16	0	10	1	47
2023/24	Attacks	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	7
	Stock Losses	1	0	0	0	0	1	15	0	0	1	1	1	20
2024/25	Attacks	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
	Stock Losses	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	20
2025/26	Attacks	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
	Stock Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	10	0	20	45



***Minutes for the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) Annual General Meeting held
Monday 12th of October, 2026 at Merredin Community Resource Centre Conference Room.***

Chairperson: Mick Caughey.

1. Opening of Meeting: 10.31am.

- a. Attendance:** Mick Caughey, Peter Barnes, Steve Palm, Dean Sinclair, Jim Sullivan, Margaret Sullivan, Chris Patmore, Ross Della Bosca, Beau Wegner, Pippa de Lacy, Stuart Putt, Mark Sinclair, Glenice Batchelor, Craig Watts, Lisa O'Neill, Linda Vernon.
- b. Apologies:** Gary Guerini, Stephen Hunt, Len Armstrong, Scott Stirrat, Peter Naylor, Travis McDonnell, Clinton Mullan and Hayley Billing.

2. Disclosure of Interests: Nil.

3. Confirmation of Minutes:

- a.** Meeting held 24th of April 2026, at Merredin CRC, Merredin.
- b.** Meeting held 20th of October 2025, at Merredin CRC, Merredin.

Motion:

That the minutes presented from the meeting held on the 24th of April 2026 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

***Moved: R. Della Bosca. Seconded: P. Barnes.
Carried.***

Motion:

That the minutes presented from the meeting held on the 20th of October 2025 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

***Moved: J. Sullivan. Seconded: P. Barnes.
Carried.***

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes: Nil.

5. Adoption of Financial Statement:

- a.** 2025/2026 Audited Financials presented.

Motion:

That the financials presented to be accepted as true and accurate and that the Audit Partners Australia Audit of the EWBG's 2025/2026 financials were tabled at the meeting to the members.

***Moved: S. Palm. Seconded: S. Putt.
Carried.***



6. Appointment of Auditor

Motion:

The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group appoint Audit Partners Australia as the auditors for 2026/27 fiscal year.

**Moved: R. Della Bosca. Seconded: D. Sinclair.
Carried.**

7. Setting of Membership Fee

Motion:

The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group's will set a membership fee of \$100 for 2026/27 for the eleven member Shire's of the group.

**Moved: R. Della Bosca. Seconded: C. Watts.
Carried.**

8. Chairs Report

Motion:

That the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group's Chairpersons report was presented by Mick Caughey and included in the 2025-2026 Annual report.

**Moved: M. Caughey. Seconded: M. Crees.
Carried.**

9. Election of Office

The following nominations were received for the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group Committee of Management for 2026–2027:

- Chair: Peter Barnes (Trayning)
- Deputy Chair: Ross Della Bosca (Westonia)
- Treasurer/Secretary: EWBG Executive Officer
- Committee Members:
 - Dean Sinclair
 - Beau Wegner
 - Stuart Putt
 - Jim Sullivan
 - Steve Hunt
 - Steve Palm



Motion:

That the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group endorses the election of the above Office Bearers and Committee Members to the Committee of Management for the 2026–2027 and 2027-2028 financial years.

**Moved: M. Crees. Seconded: B. Wegner.
Carried.**

10. Agenda Items

a. Tracey Kreplin (DPIRDS Research Scientist)

The attendees received and noted the information as presented during the meeting.

- The effectiveness of the State Barrier Fence continues to be impacted by flooding, grids (identified as the highest-risk crossing points) and gates.
- Squawkers are reportedly working well as a deterrent.
- New camera technology is being investigated to address connectivity issues in areas with limited or no mobile reception. However, the higher cost remains a consideration.
- Cacophony cameras, costing approximately \$1,300 each and operating on the Celium network, will be investigated further as a potential alternative to Evorta cameras.
- AI technology is being explored to identify different animal species and activate gates accordingly. Potential applications include allowing emus to exit the fence and activating baited gates when wild dogs are detected.
- Potential camera locations within the EWBG operational area are to be discussed further.

b. LPMT (Dogger) Update: provided by Jamie Taylor and Seb Jenkin in writing.

The attendees received and noted the information as presented during the meeting.

c. CWBA Update- provided by Chris Patmore.

Background:

Chris is the Chair of the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association and the Wild Dog Action Plan and represents both the Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA) (as Livestock Committee Chair and Treasurer) and the WA Farmers Federation on the Action Committee.

Chris Patmore provided an update on CWBA's 2025/26 pest management outcomes, including:

- 27 wild dogs controlled inside the State Barrier Fence (SBF).
- 207 feral pigs controlled.
- 1,564 emus controlled.



Wild dog attacks on livestock remained minimal. However, increasing restrictions on access to jointly managed land and private conservation estates were identified as emerging concerns for pest management.

National Wild Dog Action Plan (NWDAP) -Funding remains challenging, although joint industry and Federal Government support appears promising. Key projects include dingo DNA research, meat processor reporting of carcass damage and data collection on wild dog-related deaths and injuries in pastoral cattle and calves.

d. EWBG Overview – Executive Officer.

i. Emu control

The Committee discussed the increasing impact of emu populations on agricultural properties within the EWBG operational area, particularly in the Shires of Mount Marshall and Mukinbudin.

It was proposed that emu control be formally incorporated into the EWBG Operational Plan to allow the Group to investigate, coordinate and undertake appropriate emu management activities, including a proposed aerial control trial.

Any control activities would remain subject to relevant regulatory approvals, licensing requirements, available funding and operational feasibility.

Motion:

That the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group amend its Operational Plan to include emu control as an approved pest management activity, enabling the Group to investigate, coordinate and implement emu control programs where appropriate, subject to relevant approvals, licensing requirements and available resources.

**Moved: S. Putt. Seconded: R. Della Bosca.
Carried.**

ii. Wild Dog Action Plan (R4R)

FAA (R4R) funding has been extended for a further 12 months, with arrangements beyond this period remaining uncertain. The DPIRD Advisory Group has requested an update by December 2026.

Wild Dog Action Plan: Further advocacy is required regarding the collection, availability and use of data to inform future wild dog management strategies.

Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act Review: Data collected during the 2021–2023 review, undertaken by Painted Dog Research, has not been released to RBGs. The possibility of obtaining this information through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request was discussed. If the data remains unavailable, the matter will be raised at the 2027 RBG Forum.



WA Wild Dog Action Plan: The WA Wild Dog Action Plan 2021–2025 has concluded, with the third Action Plan yet to be released.

11. General Business.

a. Drought Funding Opportunities

Glenice Batchelor (MADFIG) provided an update on the WDC drought funding opportunities, including business resilience, transition funding and muster support. Funding is available through both State and Federal Government initiatives, with a focus on the livestock industry. Opportunities to access funding through the biosecurity risk management component were discussed. Renee Manning and Tanya Kilminster were identified as relevant contacts for further information.

Action: EWBG Executive Officer to arrange a meeting with Glenice Batchelor to explore potential funding opportunities.

b. Woodside Energy – Tree Farming and Reforestation

Discussion was held regarding Woodside Energy (formerly Woodside Petroleum) and its large-scale tree farming and native reforestation projects across Australia, including operations at Remlap Farm. LPMT Paul Pitario has reportedly been contracted to undertake pest management activities associated with the property.

Action: EWBG Executive Officer to obtain Woodside Energy contact details from Stuart Putt to explore opportunities for collaboration on pest management activities.

12. Next Meeting: March 2025 (TBC).

13. Close of Meeting: 11.41am.