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### List of acronyms

- AWI: Australian Wool Innovation
- DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid
- DPIRD: Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- GG: gelatin gel
- IFS: Industry Funding Scheme
- LPMT: licenced pest management technician
- PGA: Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA
- qPCR: real-time polymerase chain reaction
- WA: Western Australia
From the Chair

I am pleased to present the 2018/19 Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme annual report to the Scheme participants, stakeholders involved in the Western Australian sheep and goat industry and the Minister for Agriculture and Food.

2018/19 was a landmark year for the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme (IFS) and the Management Committee, with us confirming funding for on-ground wild dog control inside fenced areas for the first time. The IFS-funded Wild Dog Eradication Program was the culmination of nearly three years of discussion, consultation and debate with industry groups. Although there was not unanimous agreement that the IFS should be used for programs to address wild dogs, there was unanimous agreement from industry that wild dogs were the biggest threat to the WA sheep and goat industry. With that in mind, the Management Committee agreed for the Scheme to target wild dogs. The investment will see the Western Australian sheep and goat industry join community groups and Government in the battle to control the ever-increasing scourge of wild dogs.

The IFS-funded Footrot Control Program continued to progress. In particular, good headway was made during the year to encourage property-level eradication of the disease. It is critical to continuously monitor, review and improve the program to ensure it is as effective and efficient as possible, and is meeting industry needs. During the year we have been looking at ways to improve the program, and some of these identified improvements are now being put in place. I anticipate that these will be carefully monitored over the next 12 months to make certain that these changes have a positive impact.

It must be pointed out that the costs of the Footrot Control Program are increasing due to increasing number of detections. This is not to say that the Program is not making a difference; rather, we have been putting a greater emphasis on extension and surveillance activities — the more you look, the more you find! Additionally, the use of qPCR in the coming year may also mean more detections, as this technology is much more sensitive to detecting footrot. Whilst costs will increase, it is important to remember that we cannot control the spread of virulent footrot, and its impact on the WA sheep and goat industry, if we don’t know where it is.

I was disappointed in the delays in appointing members to the Management Committee, meaning we operated without our full complement of seven members for half of the year. As a Committee with responsibility for large sums of industry funds, having a full committee is important for robust decision-making. Despite this, our good governance procedures provided a
robust framework for decision-making and, I believe, the
Scheme continued to operate well.

As this will be my final Chair’s Report, having retired from the
Management Committee on 30 June, I would like to take this
opportunity to thank my fellow Committee members and the
Departmental staff for their dedication and commitment to the
Industry Funding Scheme and its programs. I also thank you for
your participation in the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding
Scheme – without the support of sheep and goat producers,
the scheme would not be able to support the biosecurity of our
industry.

Ed Rogister
Chair, Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme Management
Committee (2018/19)
Overview of the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme

In June 2010 the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme (IFS) was introduced to address biosecurity threats relevant to the Western Australian (WA) sheep and goat industry. The Scheme was established under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 to enable sheep and goat producers to identify pest and disease priorities at a whole-of-industry level and raise funds for activities to address these priorities.

There are currently three Industry Funding Schemes in operation. In addition to the Sheep and Goat IFS, there is a Cattle IFS and a Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS. The three IFSs operate in a similar manner.

For the Sheep and Goat IFS, funds are raised through a producer contribution on each chargeable sale. A ‘chargeable sale’ is the sale of sheep or goats (live or carcasses) that are located on a property within the Scheme’s area of operation or moved from the property for the purpose of offering them for sale/slaughter.

The industry’s pest and disease priorities are identified and funds are raised, through producer contributions, for activities to address these priorities. Producers do not have to participate in the Scheme – there is a mechanism that allows them to opt out. Opting out does not remove the legal requirement to deal with the pests and diseases to which the Scheme relates, but does disqualify the producer from any benefits provided by the Scheme such as on-ground assistance and compensation.

The Sheep and Goat IFS is overseen by a seven-member Industry Management Committee. The Minister for Agriculture and Food appointed the committee members after inviting industry nominations and receiving advice from an industry-based Appointments Committee. As required by regulation, the majority of the Industry Management Committee are full participants of the Sheep and Goat IFS.

The Industry Management Committee is responsible for approving payments made from the IFS Account and approving the biosecurity-related programs funded through the Scheme. They also provide advice to the Minister on the Scheme’s area of operation and the contribution rate.

The State Government, through its Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), provides the necessary support to ensure proper governance and the effective operation of the Scheme and Management Committee. This includes secretariat, communications, policy and technical advice and financial management. Furthermore, the normal regulatory activities undertaken by DPIRD closely complement the priorities of the Management Committee.
**2018/19 Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme at a glance**

During 2018/19:

- Contributions of 10 cents per head/carcass applied to the sale of all sheep and goats produced in WA
- Contributions totalling $662,376 were received
- Contributions were used to fund a control program for virulent footrot and for activities to eradicate wild dogs from dog-fenced areas
- The cost of the footrot control program was $818,019
- The cost of the wild dog eradication program was $188,922 in 2018/19
- Committee costs were $24,784
- Ten producers opted out of the Scheme in 2018/19, with $3,172 to be refunded to six of these producers in the 2019/20 financial year.

Image 2 – Merino ewes
Industry Management Committee

In 2018/19, the Sheep and Goat IFS was overseen by a seven-member Industry Management Committee. The Committee terms of reference can be found at Appendix 1.

The Committee facilitates a strong biosecurity ethos within the industry; administers funding to address key industry biosecurity issues; and ensures the biosecurity priorities are addressed to industry expectations.

Mr Ed Rogister (Chair) has 30 years’ experience in mixed farming – sheep, angora goats and grains. He is the past Chair of the WAFarmers Wool Committee that sits within the Livestock Council, and a past Director of Wool Producers Australia. Ed’s previous biosecurity experience includes participation on the Ovine Johne’s Disease Management Team and the Footrot Advisory Panel.

Mr Steve McGuire (Deputy Chair) has been farming sheep for wool and meat at Kojonup and Broomehill for more than 20 years. He is the Junior Vice-President of the WAFarmers Livestock Council and Wool Producers Australia’s representative on the Emergency Animal Disease Response Committee as the Wool Industry Liaison Officer.

Mr Guy Bowen has enjoyed a direct involvement with the sheep industry, particularly the commercial prime lamb industry, for more than 50 years. He has a family-owned farming business that provides elite performance terminal and maternal sheep genetics to producers in WA and over east.

Mr Jorgen Jensen is the manager of Yoweragabbie Station near Mount Magnet, with a lifelong connection to the southern rangelands pastoral industry. He is involved with various community and biosecurity committees, and is keen to see the industries and communities of the southern rangelands reach their potential.

Mr John Moyes is a livestock primary producer based in Bridgetown. He has owned and operated a mixed livestock farm, as well as fruit-growing, for many years. John is currently a representative of the Lower South West Zone on the WAFarmers Livestock Council, and has represented the Lower South West Zone on this Council for twenty years.

Dr Kelly Pearce is a grain and prime lamb producer from Yealering. Kelly has had a 16-year career in agricultural research and continues to coordinate a number of regional science and innovation projects through her regionally-based business Wheatbelt Science Pty Ltd, and has recently taken up a position as a Research Fellow with the Australian Farm Institute. Kelly is also a Director of the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority and Farmers Mutual Limited, and a Committee member of the Corrigin Farm Improvement Group.
Mrs Karen Smith has more than 20 years’ experience farming in the WA wheatbelt and currently manages a sheep enterprise at Cunderdin. Karen is on the Farm Advisory Board for the Cunderdin Agricultural College and is the WA Regional Coordinator for the Australasian Pacific Extension Network. Karen has an interest in promoting a ‘systems view’ that considers the wider economic, social and environmental systems that are interconnected and rely on agriculture.

Membership terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Expiry of term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed Rogister</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>30 June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve McGuire</td>
<td>Deputy Chair</td>
<td>30 June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guy Bowen</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>30 June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jorgen Jensen</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>30 June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Moyes</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>30 June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Pearce*</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>30 November 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Smith*</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>30 November 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Appointed from 1 December 2018

The membership term for five of the seven Committee members expired on 30 June 2019. The current Committee membership is listed at Appendix 2.
Operation of the Sheep and Goat IFS

Since the introduction of the Sheep and Goat IFS in 2010, the Industry Management Committee has governed the collection, management and use of industry funds to deliver a biosecurity funding scheme that benefits the WA sheep and goat industry. During the 2018/19 financial year the Industry Management Committee held four ordinary meetings and two teleconferences, and worked on a number of key activities during the year.

Industry priorities for funding

**Virulent footrot:** In April 2018 the Committee approved funding to continue the Footrot Control Program into 2018/19, with virulent footrot remaining a priority disease for the industry. In April 2019 the issue was once again considered by the Committee, and funding was approved for 2019/20. Detailed information on the 2018/19 program to address virulent footrot can be found in this report.

The Committee also met with Dr Andrew Thompson (Murdoch University) and Dr Mark Ferguson (neXtgen Agri) to discuss the potential for undertaking research into breeding values for footrot resistance — to identify ‘footrot’ genes and phenotypes.

**Wild dog control:** During 2018/19 the Committee developed and approved a new IFS program — the Sheep and Goat IFS Wild Dog Eradication Program — where groups and organisations could apply for grants to develop and/or deliver on-ground wild dog control measures inside dog-fenced areas.

In March and April 2019 the Committee approved funding for six applicants. The projects are to commence in the 2019/20 financial year. Details of the activities being funded are provided in this report.

In May 2019 the Committee received a proposal from Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and TAFE requesting IFS funding to help initiate a two-day landholder ‘trapper’ training course. The course, which is designed to teach landholders the basics of trapping wild dogs, was seen to fill a gap; however, the Committee felt other avenues of funding should first be investigated and approached.

Governance

**Program monitoring and evaluation:** The Committee actively monitored the progress of the IFS-funded footrot control program throughout the year. This included quarterly written and verbal updates on the work undertaken, issues, successes and expenditure.

Continuous improvement is essential to ensuring the program is as effective and efficient as possible, and delivering to industry expectations. The Committee identified the following areas for investigation/review during 2018/19:

- Incentives to encourage landholders with properties under quarantine for virulent footrot to eradicate the disease
- Alternative regulatory instruments that may be applied to properties with sheep diagnosed with virulent footrot
- New technologies for detecting and diagnosing virulent footrot
- The risk posed by long-term quarantines, in terms of disease spread; and
- The epidemiological soundness of the current surveillance regime.

DPIRD provided the Committee with advice in these areas, and changes have been made to the 2019/20 program including using Pest Control Notices (rather than Quarantine Notices) and real time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) for diagnosing virulent footrot. Using Pest Control Notices negates the need for a permit to be issued each time stock are moved from the property – therefore reducing the ‘red tape’ for those with infected flocks. qPCR will be used in conjunction with the current laboratory tests to diagnose virulent footrot. qPCR presents several advantages over the current method – importantly, it is quicker and cheaper. More information on qPCR can be found in this report.

**Governance processes:** Good governance is an essential part of the operation of the Committee. Potential conflicts of interest were reviewed at the beginning of each meeting, formal processes were used for decision-making and the Committee continued to abide by its Code of Conduct and the Public Sector Code of Ethics.

The Committee reviewed its governance documents and procedures in March 2019.
IFS finances: The Committee monitored the expenditure of IFS funds over the course of the year. This included quarterly financial reports from DPIRD on the financial position of the Scheme, as well as expense reports relating to the IFS-funded program. This oversight helped the Committee ensure that funds were being expended appropriately.

Strategic plan: The Committee’s Strategic Plan, which documents the purpose, role, goals and strategies of the Committee as well as the criteria for making investment decisions, was reviewed during the year. The review will be completed by the incoming Committee to ensure the Plan meets its needs.

Compliance with the IFS regulations

Remittance of IFS contributions: The Committee monitored the remittance of IFS contributions from livestock agents and processors to ensure compliance with the regulations. Where discrepancies occurred during the year, the Committee requested these entities be followed-up by DPIRD.

Opt out refunds: In October 2018 the Committee were notified by DPIRD that seven applications for refunds of IFS contributions paid during the 2017/18 financial year were received. Good governance practices were used to ensure the validity of the applications. After considering the applications and supporting documentation, the Committee directed the Director General to repay the amounts in accordance with the IFS regulations.

IFS area of operation and contribution rate: In accordance with the IFS regulations, in April 2019 the Committee made its recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture and Food on the 2019/20 Sheep and Goat IFS contribution rate and area of operation. It was recommended that the contribution rate be increased from 10 cents per head/carcass to 15 cents, to be applied to the sale of all sheep and goats produced in WA.

An increase in the rate was recommended to support activities to address wild dogs – a priority threat to the WA sheep and goat industry. The Minister endorsed the Committee’s recommendations, as published in the Western Australian Government Gazette.

Communication and consultation

Industry consultation: As per the Committee’s Industry Consultation Plan, the release of the 2017/18 annual report was used as a platform for gathering industry views on the operation of the Scheme and performance of the Committee. The Chair and Executive Officer met with the Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA) Livestock Committee and WAFarmers Livestock Council. The Chair also discussed the operation of the IFS with the President of the Stud Merino Breeders Association of WA and the Chair and Executive Officer of the WA Livestock Research Council.

In addition, passive communications (e.g. radio, articles) were used to encourage stakeholder feedback following the release of the 2017/18 annual report. However, minimal feedback was received.
Industry communications: The Committee participated in various events and activities to increase producer awareness and understanding of the Scheme. The communication activities that took place during the year included:

- Presented at producer/industry group meetings
- Participated on the Cattle, Sheep and Goat Industry Biosecurity Consultative Group
- Information stands at major field days
- Media releases resulting in articles in the rural press
- Articles in regional AgMemo and other newsletters.

These activities followed the agreed communication protocols documented in the Committee’s Communication Plan.

IFS webpages: During 2018/19 the Sheep and Goat IFS provided up-to-date information through its webpages on the DPIRD website. The IFS webpages include links to key documents such as the strategic plan and annual reports.

Committee policy: It is the Committee’s policy that all IFS-funded programs refer to the IFS in any extension/communication materials that are produced. This is to further raise producer awareness of the Scheme, the programs that it funds and its contribution to the biosecurity of the WA industry.

Other Committee activities

In November 2018, Dr Nicky Buller took the Committee on a tour of the DPIRD diagnostic laboratory, where the process for diagnosing virulent footrot was demonstrated.
Effectiveness of the Scheme

A total of $662 376 in contributions to the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme was received during 2018/19. Of the 10 producers that opted out in 2018/19, six applied for refunds of their contributions. These amounted to $3172.

The number of producers opting out of the Scheme remains low, with only ten producers opting out in 2018/19 (Figure 1). More than 99% of WA sheep and goat producers participate in the Scheme, which may indicate the value of the Scheme to the industry.

Figure 1 – Number of producers opting out of the Industry Funding Schemes since 2010
More than 99% of Western Australian sheep and goat producers participate in the Sheep and Goat IFS, which may indicate the value of the Scheme to the industry.

For the 2018/19 financial year, the estimated number of sheep/goat sales on which IFS contributions were payable was 6.1 million; however, contributions were paid on 6,623,760 sheep/goats during the year (that is, 108%). This analysis of the collection rate for Sheep and Goat IFS contributions uses data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia, Meat and Livestock Australia and the WA Meat Industry Authority to estimate the number of ‘chargeable sales’ that took place during the year. It must be stressed that there are limitations to the analysis – for example, data are not available for private sales and the proportion of saleyard purchases relevant to the analysis was estimated.

Owing to the difficulties in accurately estimating the number of chargeable sales, the Committee regularly monitors the contributions being paid to the IFS to ensure the regular and correct remittance of contributions from agents and processors.

Owners of stock sold to persons other than agents or processors (for example, to exporters or to other producers) are required to pay the IFS contributions direct to the Scheme.
2018/2019 approved biosecurity programs

Footrot control program

Virulent footrot (*Dichelobacter nodosus*) is a serious infection of the feet of sheep and goats. In the late 1940s more than 15% of WA flocks were infected. The concerted efforts of industry and Government have seen a remarkable reduction in the level of infection. Today, about 1% of Western Australian sheep flocks are known to be infected with virulent footrot.

The aim of the program is to detect and control the spread of virulent footrot into and between WA sheep flocks.

The program undertakes a number of activities, including:

- Surveillance (field and abattoir surveillance)
- Activities to raise awareness
- Applying regulatory mechanisms and enforcing compliance
- Helping affected producers develop Property Disease Management Plans
- Providing expert advice and support to affected producers and neighbouring properties
- Training and accrediting contractors/landholders to undertake footrot inspections.

To complement the program, DPIRD enforces border controls to ensure footrot is not brought into WA from imported animals.

At 30 June 2019, there were 47 businesses (87 properties) in quarantine for virulent footrot (Figure 2). During the year, eight businesses were released from quarantine and two businesses gained partial releases. In addition, 13 businesses have completed summer eradication inspections and will undergo release inspections in the coming spring. The distribution of the quarantined properties across the State is shown in Figure 3.
Case management of all virulent footrot quarantines focused on mentoring property owners toward quarantine release, with a large body of work performed throughout the year. This has been an important factor in moving the majority of short- and mid-term quarantines (i.e. those that have been in quarantine for up to five years) toward property-level disease eradication.

Surveillance was carried out at abattoirs from mid-October 2018 until mid-April 2019. A total of 561,167 sheep were inspected from 3072 lines during this time. Ninety field inspections were conducted on quarantined properties and 31 inspections were carried out on non-quarantined properties. Inspections were also carried out by DPIRD staff on 1249 sheep and 34 goats (in 193 consignments) that were imported into WA. These were inspected at the border and twice thereafter, whilst quarantined at the importation property, to confirm their freedom from footrot.

A total of 916 individual samples (from 501 cases) were analysed in the laboratory to determine the presence of virulent footrot. Of these, 71 cases tested positive for the bacterium, the majority of which were not new cases.

Communications material continued to be developed and disseminated to ensure livestock producers are aware of the risks posed by virulent footrot and know how to protect their flocks.

The costs of the 2018/19 Footrot Control Program are presented in Table 1.
### Table 1 – Costs of the 2018/19 Footrot Control Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employee expenses</td>
<td>641,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory costs</td>
<td>94,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>65,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety gear, packaging</td>
<td>4,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freight and mail</td>
<td>3,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>2,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>1,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-employment checks, vaccinations</td>
<td>1,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Hill trailer modification</td>
<td>1,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generator hire</td>
<td>888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food supplies</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and oil</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licence, fees, registration</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total cost of program</strong></td>
<td><strong>818,019</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Image 7 – Footrot program team members Janine Ellis and Jemma Thomas at the Footrot Control Program display at the 2018 Wagin Wooloorama
Real time PCR for detecting virulent footrot

The footrot control program uses culture, gelatin gel (GG) and zymogram laboratory tests to detect and identify virulent and benign strains of footrot. This testing methodology provides information on the prevalence, virulence and isoenzyme strain typing of the footrot bacterium, *Dichelobacter nodosus*.

With funding from the Sheep and Goat IFS, DPIRD developed and validated a qPCR test. The qPCR test doesn’t require live bacteria to be present, which is a significant difference from the culture, GG and zymogram testing process. The qPCR detects the presence/absence of the bacterial DNA and, if present, can identify whether it is benign or virulent. However, it does not provide isoenzyme strain typing.

qPCR presents several advantages over the current GG test – importantly, the turn-around time is 2-3 days once the sample has reached the laboratory (rather than 10-12 days) and multiple samples can be tested concurrently meaning that costs are reduced. However, relying solely on the qPCR test (and therefore removing the zymogram test from the process, which is used for strain typing) would, over time, reduce knowledge and understanding of the strains of virulent and benign footrot present in WA.

The qPCR test will be used as the main test for samples collected from abattoir surveillance activities in the 2019/20 season. GG and zymogram tests will continue to be used where strain-typing of new cases is necessary, or where it is important to know if live bacteria are present.

During 2018/19, DPIRD also undertook modelling to identify the potential effects of using qPCR as part of the footrot control program, given the increased sensitivity of the test at identifying virulent footrot compared to the current methods. The model was developed to predict the number of new detections and number of properties in quarantine that may occur over the next 15 years with the introduction of the qPCR test. The model is to be revisited following the first year of using the qPCR within the footrot control program.

*Image 8 – Testing for footrot in the laboratory*
Wild dog eradication program

Through consultation with the WA sheep and goat industry, wild dogs were identified as an important issue. In addition to destroying livestock, wild dogs reduce productivity (decreased lambing, stressed animals, price impacts), increase the costs of production, are a public safety concern, can impact native fauna, are a potential source of disease spread and can have psychological impacts on individuals and communities.

Wild dogs have contributed to the significant decline in pastoral sheep and goat enterprises and the risk is increasing in the agricultural area.

The aim of the wild dog eradication program is to enhance the profitability, productivity and sustainability of the WA sheep and goat industry by reducing the impact of wild dogs. In 2018/19, groups and organisations were able to apply for grants to develop and/or deliver on-ground wild dog control measures. The grants were to be used to support activities/projects that:

- Develop and/or deliver on-ground control measures, with the aim of eradicating wild dogs within dog-fenced areas; and
- Complement/enhance wild dog control activities currently underway in WA and/or fill gaps in wild dog control activities, from a whole-of-state perspective.

Applications were open for a six-week period during January-February 2019, and eight applications were received. These were assessed by an independent panel and recommendations were made to the Committee.

In March and April 2019, the Committee approved funding for six of the eight applicants (Table 2). Although the projects are to commence in the 2019/20 financial year, a number of the grants were paid during the 2018/19 financial year (Table 3).
Table 2 – Successful applicants for Sheep and Goat IFS wild dog eradication grants (2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biosecurity Association</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association</td>
<td>$60 000</td>
<td>$60 000</td>
<td>$60 000</td>
<td>$180 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Midlands Group</td>
<td>$56 000</td>
<td>$56 000</td>
<td>$56 000</td>
<td>$168 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association</td>
<td>$65 000</td>
<td>$35 000</td>
<td>$30 000</td>
<td>$130 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Shire Landcare</td>
<td>$22 922</td>
<td>$16 224</td>
<td>$10 854</td>
<td>$50 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Biosecurity Group</td>
<td>$50 000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$50 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$20 760</td>
<td>$20 760</td>
<td>$41 520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$253 922</td>
<td>$187 984</td>
<td>$177 614</td>
<td>$619 520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The successful applicants were:

- Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association: The funds will be used to undertake on-ground control activities (Licenced Pest Management Technicians [LPMTs] and aerial baiting) in identified gap areas, in collaboration with the Northern Biosecurity Group and Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group.
- West Midlands Group: The funds will be used to deliver strategic, integrated wild dog management programs in the Midlands region – an area where no coordinated programs have previously existed.
- Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association: The funding will utilise the vast experience of local LPMTs, in conjunction with TAFE, to train new LPMTs and help ensure effective succession of LPMTs.

Table 3 – Costs of the wild dog eradication program in 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kent Shire Landcare</td>
<td>22 922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Biosecurity Group</td>
<td>50 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Midlands Group</td>
<td>56 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association</td>
<td>60 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total cost</strong></td>
<td>188 922</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Shire of Kent: The funds will be used to undertake wild dog control and monitoring interventions within and adjacent to the Magenta Hub – an area where no activities are currently being undertaken.
- Northern Biosecurity Group: The project will assist three Recognised Biosecurity Groups to manage wild dogs in 'gap areas' inside the northern section of the State Barrier Fence.
- Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group: The funds will be used in collaboration with the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association to undertake an aerial baiting program targeting areas that are difficult to access by ground.
The IFS finances are administered by the Director General of DPIRD through an agency special purpose account called the Sheep and Goat Industry Declared Pest Control and Compensation Account (the IFS Account). DPIRD manages these funds on behalf of the Committee and prepares financial reports including the end of financial year statement.

- The balance of the IFS Account was $1,692,348 at 30 June 2019.
- The total cost of the 2018/19 Footrot Control Program was $818,019\(^1\).
- $188,922 was provided in grants for on-ground wild dog control.
- Industry contributions to the IFS totalling $662,376 were received by DPIRD in 2018/19; however, $3424 of this was reimbursed to producers that had opted out of the Scheme in the previous financial year.
- Interest applied to the IFS funds during 2018/19 amounted to $43,427.
- The activities of the Committee resulted in expenditure of $24,784.

Tables 4 and 5 contain the financial details for the 2018/19 Sheep and Goat IFS.

\(^1\) Some of the costs of the 2018/19 footrot control program were deducted from the Account during the 2019/20 financial year.
Table 4 – Sheep and Goat IFS income and expenditure for 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footrot control program</td>
<td>818 019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild dog eradication program</td>
<td>188 922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board member fees</td>
<td>16 452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td>6080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising/media</td>
<td>1165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting expenses</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teleconferencing</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18 opt out refunds</td>
<td>3424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>1 035 149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>662 376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest revenue</td>
<td>43 427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>705 803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET COST OF SERVICE</td>
<td>$329 346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 – Balance sheet for the Sheep and Goat IFS at 30 June 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Balance sheet</th>
<th>Total ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EQUITY at 30 June 2019</td>
<td>1 692 348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the listed expenses are the total cost of the 2018/19 programs. Some of these costs were debited from the Account during the 2019/20 financial year. The balance sheet identifies the actual equity at 30 June 2019.

The net cost of service for the 2018/19 Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme was $329 346.
Direction for 2019/2020

Wild dogs will continue to be an important topic on the agenda for the Sheep and Goat IFS Management Committee during 2019/20. With the first round of grants approved, the Committee will consider how the IFS might continue to augment the state-wide response. If further IFS funding is deemed appropriate, it may be necessary to further increase the contribution rate.

In partnership with DPIRD, the Sheep and Goat IFS Committee will continue to manage and monitor the program it has in place to address virulent footrot. This includes careful consideration of the anticipated advice from the Department regarding options to improve the effectiveness of the program and monitoring the implementation of the qPCR test to detect and identify virulent footrot. Continuous improvement is critical to ensure the program remains effective, efficient and relevant to modern farming practices.

The Committee will discuss the possibility of holding another joint meeting with the other IFS Committees. This will provide an opportunity to reflect on progress made to address the issues identified at the last joint meeting (held in 2017) and to discuss the operation of the IFSs into the future.

The Committee will also finalise its strategic plan, which will provide the new Committee members with an important opportunity to input to the direction of the Committee over the coming years.

Industry feedback is critical to the success of the Scheme. The Committee welcomes feedback and input to the Scheme, its programs and sheep/goat industry issues in general.

The Committee can be contacted at any time through its Executive Officer. The Committee is particularly keen to hear the industry’s views on the biosecurity risks and opportunities. Committee members are available to participate in industry forums, meetings and field days to discuss the Scheme and answer any questions from industry.
Appendix 1

Committee terms of reference

1. Act in good faith at all times, and without conflict of interest, to fairly and impartially represent the best interests of the industry concerned and the contributors to the Scheme.

2. Provide effective governance over the Scheme.

3. Discharge the functions conferred on the Management Committee by the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 and the enabling Regulations, including but not necessarily limited to:
   - advising the Director General of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on the administration of the prescribed account
   - recommending annually to the Minister for Agriculture and Food the area(s) of the State in which the Scheme should operate
   - recommending annually to the Minister for Agriculture and Food the rate or rates at which contributions are to be paid
   - approving programs and other measures to be implemented under the Scheme
   - approving payments from the prescribed account for compensation in respect of losses (as described in the regulations)
   - consulting annually with the industry for the purpose of ascertaining industry views on the operation of the Scheme and the performance by the committee of its functions
   - reporting at least annually to the Minister for Agriculture and Food on the operation and effectiveness of the Scheme, and any matters relating to the operation of the relevant regulations as the Minister specifies.

4. Undertake such other functions related to the operation of the Scheme as required.
Appendix 2

Committee membership (2019/20)

Mr Charles Wass (Chair) farms wheat and sheep on 3500 hectares in Boyup Brook and West Coorow, including 4000 breeding ewes (commercial and stud flocks). As a qualified accountant and Certified Practising Accountant, he has extensive experience working with farm businesses. Through this and his practical, on-farm experience, Charles has a strong understanding of managing invasive pests and diseases.

Mrs Karen Smith (Deputy Chair) has more than 20 years’ experience farming in the WA wheatbelt and currently manages a sheep enterprise at Cunderdin. Karen is on the Farm Advisory Board for the Cunderdin Agricultural College and is the WA Regional Coordinator for the Australasian Pacific Extension Network. Karen has an interest in promoting a ‘systems view’ that considers the wider economic, social and environmental systems that are interconnected and rely on agriculture.

Mr Guy Bowen has enjoyed a direct involvement with the sheep industry, particularly the commercial prime lamb industry, for almost 50 years. He has a family-owned farming business that provides elite performance terminal and maternal sheep genetics to producers in WA and the eastern states.

Mr Peter Boyle has been involved in the prime lamb industry for more than 50 years, including running a large lamb feedlot in partnership with his brother and trading sheep to fatten for live export. Peter is a current member of the PGA and sits on the PGA Executive.

Ms Michelle Donaldson is the current Chief Executive Officer of the Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association, with strong connections to the pastoral sheep and goat industry. She is a past wheat, sheep and cattle producer and is currently a member of the Bullseye Steering Committee.

Dr Kelly Pearce is a grain and prime lamb producer from Yealering. Kelly has had a 16-year career in agricultural research and continues to coordinate a number of regional science and innovation projects through her regionally-based business Wheatbelt Science Pty Ltd, and has recently taken up a position as a Research Fellow with the Australian Farm Institute. Kelly is also a Director of the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority and Farmers Mutual Limited, and a Committee member of the Corrigin Farm Improvement Group.

Mr Jim Sullivan has been involved in the agricultural industry for more than 50 years, and currently runs a successful livestock enterprise in the Varley-Holt Rock area of WA. He has been involved in the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group for many years, including as the Chair; and is a past Chair of the board of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc.