

**AGENDA FOR THE BIOSECURITY COMMITTEE OF THE SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ABEL STREET, BOYUP BROOK ON FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2019
COMMENCING AT 6.00PM**

1. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE

Cr G Aird – Shire President
Cr R Walker - Deputy Shire President
Cr S Alexander
Cr P Kaltenrieder
Cr K Moir
Cr H O'Connell
Cr E Rear

Apologies

STAFF

Mr S Carstairs (Acting Chief Executive Officer)
Mrs M Lane (Executive Assistant)

Invited

Katie Hill (Program Manager) Blackwood Basin Group
Dr Per Christensen - Blackwood Basin Group
Mr Peter Chilwell - Director of Boyup Brook Farm Supplies
Mr Michael Wright - Chairman of the Co-Op
Mr Harold Wass - Chairman of the Rylington Park Management Committee

2. PRESENTATION

3. REPORTS

3.1.1 Support for Council's position on Recognised Biosecurity Groups - Preliminary Results
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<i>Location:</i>	<i>Shire of Boyup Brook</i>
<i>Applicant:</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>File:</i>	<i>EN/31/002</i>
<i>Disclosure of Officer Interest:</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Date:</i>	<i>20 June 2019</i>
<i>Author:</i>	<i>Maria Lane - Executive Assistant</i>
<i>Authorizing Officer:</i>	<i>Stephen Carstairs - Acting CEO</i>
<i>Attachments:</i>	<i>Yes</i>

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information in relation to feedback received from the Shire ratepayers in relation to the Blackwood Biosecurity Inc.

BACKGROUND

A letter was posted out on 4 June 2019 to 1,333 ratepayers within the Shire of Boyup Brook.

An online Public Notice replicating the letter was developed and made available for the ratepayers to complete on the website at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7PCTJ23>. (please refer to attachment 3.1.1)

The information was posted on the Shire Face book page and 2 reminders were posted.

A Public Notice was displayed on the Shire Noticeboard.

At the May Council meeting, the Shire President put up the following motion and a letter was posted out to the Minister on 21st May 2019.

MOTION

MOVED: Cr Aird

SECONDED: Cr Kaltenrieder

- 1. That Council not legitimise the activities of Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. within the Shire of Boyup Brook; nor forward the shire's rate record to the Office of State Revenue.**
- 2. The President and Acting CEO inform the Minister for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development of the Council's decision.**

CARRIED 8/0

Res 128/19

COMMENT

The responses received from the shire ratepayers was very supportive.

The Shire received 349 posted copies, 5 came through via email and 100 responses were registered via the website.

- 91 supported the Shire of Boyup Brook via the website.
- 9 did not support the Shire of Boyup Brook via the website
- 336 supported the Shire of Boyup Brook via post.
- 13 did not support the Shire of Boyup Brook via post.
- 5 supported the Shire of Boyup Brook via email.

The Shire received 432 responses who supported the Shire Council's position (95%) and 22 responses did not support the Shire (5%).

CONSULTATION

Shire President, A/CEO and Research & Development Coordinator.

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The shire's Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 identifies a goal of the local government as follows:

Natural Environment

- Maintain and preserve the natural environment, enhancing the 'river and forest' experience of Boyup Brook.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- **Environmental**
Refer to the Strategic Implications section in this report.
- **Economic**
There are no known significant economic issues.
- **Social**
There are no known significant social issues.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple majority

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - 3.1.1

That the Biosecurity Committee recommend that Council:

- (a) receive the preliminary results of the straw poll as follows:
 - 95% (432) of respondents support Council's position on Biosecurity Groups; and
 - 5% (22) of respondents do not support Council; and
- (b) direct the Acting CEO to complete his view of the feedback from the straw poll, and during a final report back to the Committee.

3.1.2 Service Agreement: Blackwood Basin Group

Location:	Shire Boyup Brook
Applicant:	Blackwood Basin Group
File:	BBG
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	None
Date:	20 June 2019
Author:	Stephen Carstairs - Acting CEO
Authorizing Officer:	Stephen Carstairs - Acting CEO
Attachments:	No.

SUMMARY

Committee is requested to ratify a Biosecurity related budget line item recommendation of the Community Grants Committee.

BACKGROUND

At its 18 April 2019 meeting, Committee resolved (Res 69/19) as follows:

5. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

5.1.1 Cr Aird - Biosecurity Groups and the *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007 (the BAM Act)*

MOTION - Item 5.1.1

MOVED: Cr Aird

SECONDED: Cr O'Connell

That after giving due consideration, Committee determines to recommend to Council that it:

- not legitimise the activities of Blackwood Biosecurity Inc. within the Shire of Boyup Brook; nor forward the shire's rate record to the Office of State Revenue.
- allocate \$62,500 to be placed in the 2019-20 draft budget to go towards ranger services/pest and weed control.

CARRIED 7/0

Res 69/19

The minutes of the 18 April were received by Council at its 16 May 2019 meeting as follows:

COUNCIL DECISION & OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – Item 10.1.1

MOVED: Cr Rear

SECONDED: Cr O'Connell

That the minutes of the Biosecurity meeting held 18 April 2019 be received.

CARRIED 8/0

Res 123/19

At its 23 May 2019 meeting the Community Grants Committee resolved (Res 133/19), among other things, as follows:

MOTION

MOVED: Cr Aird

SECONDED: Cr Oversby

That Council consider:

- 1) A Biosecurity line item in the draft 2019/20 budget for a 1 year service agreement with the Blackwood Basin Group up to \$17,640.**

CARRIED 8/0

Res 133/19

In their 2019-20 Community Grants application the Blackwood Basin Group (the Group) identified their project as addressing 'Biosecurity in Boyup Brook' as follows:

3. Project/activity/event information

Project name

Biosecurity in Boyup Brook

Project description - clearly explain what you want the funding for.

The Blackwood Basin Group (BBG) proposes to provide the Shire of Boyup Brook biosecurity services under a 1-year grant, 3-year MOU or other fee-for-service arrangement to be negotiated.

The roles and responsibilities that can be undertaken by the BBG for the Shire include, but are not limited to:

- Member / advisor on the Shire's Biosecurity Committee**
- Provision of weed management advice and strategic direction (seasonal and long term) for Shire managed land and for landholders within the Shire (especially for widespread and established weeds that are not the focus of BBI or DPIRD)**
- Organisation of 'adopt a spot' activities to manage weeds in areas of high community value (e.g. Watsonia weeds in the Mayanup Reserve - see letter of support from Boyup Brook Tourism Association)**
- Preparation of targetted funding applications that align with the Shire's strategic direction on weed management (and other environmental priorities)**
- General promotion of grant opportunities, events, landcage and other topical information in the Boyup Brook Gazette**

Regular reporting / updates to the Shire and Council

The work would be conducted at a rate of \$49/hr. It is recommended that the amount of time required to perform the role would be 7.5hrs/week = \$1,470/mth plus travel

the Group request (up to) \$17,640 under a 1-year grant, 3-year MOU or fee-for-service arrangement.

COMMENT

While the Community Grants Committee (CGC) might make a recommendation to Council on any matter, it seems reasonable that when the CGC makes a Biosecurity related recommendation - that the Biosecurity Committee ratify that recommendation.

CONSULTATION - Nil

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS - Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report has implications for the 2019-20 annual budget.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The shire's Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 identifies a goal of the local government as follows:

Natural Environment

- Maintain and preserve the natural environment, enhancing the 'river and forest' experience of Boyup Brook.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- **Environmental**
Refer to the *Strategic Implications* section in this report.
- **Economic** - Nil
- **Social** – Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple majority

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - Item 3.1.2

1. That the Biosecurity Committee ratify the Community Grants Committee's 23 May 2019 resolution (Res 133/19) as follows:

MOTION

MOVED: Cr Aird

SECONDED: Cr Oversby

That Council consider:

- 1) **A Biosecurity line item in the draft 2019/20 budget for a 1 year service agreement with the Blackwood Basin Group up to \$17,640.**

CARRIED 8/0

Res 133/19

2. That the Biosecurity Committee recommend to Council:
 - (a) that Council direct the Acting CEO engage with the Blackwood Basin Group (the Group) following the adoption of the 2019-20 annual budget, and draw up a 201-20 Service Agreement with the Group for the provision of biosecurity services;
 - (b) that the focus of the agreement is to be on-the-ground outcome; and
 - (c) that the Acting CEO is to bring the draft service agreement back to Committee for Committee's consideration.

3.1.3 Pest plants Local Law

Location:	Shire Boyup Brook
Applicant:	N/A
File:	x/xx/xx
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	None
Date:	20 June 2019
Author:	Stephen Carstairs - Acting CEO
Authorizing Officer:	Stephen Carstairs - Acting CEO
Attachments:	Yes: 1. Western Australian Organism List of Declared Pest plants. 2. Denmark Pest Plant Local Law and Quairading Pest Plant Local Law

SUMMARY

Committee is requested to appraise the Western Australian Organism List (WAOL) of Declared Pest Plants and plant lists appearing in other shire Plant Pest Local Laws e.g. Quairading which has a short list (2 x plant species) and Denmark which has a substantially longer list (17 x plant species), and recommend to Council that the administration partner with the Blackwood Basin Group and together engage with community sectors (e.g. farming and residential) about what the sectors recognise as plant pests in the district.

BACKGROUND

To protect Western Australian agriculture the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development regulates harmful plants under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (the Act).

Plants that are prevented entry into the State or have control or keeping requirements within the State are known as declared pests.

The WAOL contains information on the area(s) in which a plant is declared and the control and keeping categories to which it has been assigned in WA (refer attached excerpt from the WAOL showing Western Australian declared pest plants under the Act).

COMMENT

It would be inconsistent for a local government to declare a plant as a 'pest' if it appears in the WAOL list of pest plants for that district. The pest plant lists in the local laws of the shires of Denmark and Quairading (refer attached), then, should contain plants not showing in the WAOL list of pest plants for their districts.

Onus is upon those who have control of land to manage it so as not to impact the amenity or value of adjacent/neighbouring land.

CONSULTATION - Nil

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007

POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should Council determine to commence the process of implementing a Boyup Brook Pest Plant local law, then in 2019-20 allocations for officer time (e.g. 50 hrs) and consultant costs (e.g. 75 hrs) will need to be funded.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The shire's Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 identifies a goal of the local government as follows:

Natural Environment

- Maintain and preserve the natural environment, enhancing the 'river and forest' experience of Boyup Brook.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- **Environmental**
Refer to the *Strategic Implications* section in this report.
- **Economic**
Refer to the *Comment* section in this report.
- **Social** – Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple majority

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - Item 3.1.3

1. That having had regard for the Western Australian Organism List (WAOL) of Declared Pest Plants and plant lists appearing in other shire Plant Pest Local Laws e.g. Quairading which has a short list (2 x plant species) and Denmark which has a substantially longer list (17 x plant species), the Committee recommends to Council that the administration (Acting CEO or his/her delegated officer) partner with the Blackwood Basin Group and together they engage with community sectors (e.g. farming and residential) about what the sectors recognise as plant pests in the district.
2. Having engaged with said community sectors, the Acting CEO bring a draft list of Boyup Brook pest plants back to the Committee in February 2020.

3.1.4 Biosecurity Grant Opportunities

Location:	N/A
Applicant:	N/A
File:	
Disclosure of Officer Interest:	Nil
Author:	Joanna Kaye - Research and Development Coordinator
Authorizing Officer:	Stephen Carstairs - Acting CEO
Attachments:	No

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Committee to recommend to Council: that Council direct the Acting CEO to develop a science-based biosecurity strategy and plan for the Shire of Boyup Brook.

BACKGROUND

On 21 December 2018, the Shire of Boyup Brook received an Australian Commonwealth Community Grants Hub communication inviting the shire to apply for a *Communities Combating Pests and Weed Impacts During Drought Grant*. The grant round was open from 21 December 2018 to 15 February 2019.

The focus of the grant was specifically for science-based management to significantly reduce population numbers of pest animals and weeds. Funding Guidelines excerpts are as follows:

1.3.2 Pest and weed management activities opportunity

Pest animals and weeds require ongoing management by farm businesses, but farmers' capacity to do this during drought is often reduced at the very time when pests and weeds can cause problems for already stressed pasture and livestock. The impact can undermine drought management and recovery efforts.

Applicants may identify priority vertebrate pests in their LGAs that are problematic during drought conditions and initiate strategic science-based management to significantly reduce population numbers of these pests. Alternatively, applicants may identify priority weed management requirements in their LGAs and target activities accordingly to reduce competition of weeds with fodder and native plants and mitigate the build-up of weed seedbanks.

7. The assessment criteria

You will need to address all of the following assessment criteria in your application. We will judge your application based on the equal weighting given to each criterion. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested.

Criterion 1: What is the need for the grant activity in the eligible LGA?

- Demonstrate the need, including by providing quantitative evidence, for the proposed grant activity in the community and outline how your proposal will address the need.

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- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of either existing wild dog exclusion fencing activity or existing pest and/or weed management activity in the LGA, whichever is relevant to your project.
- Outline how your council's approach to service delivery will achieve the program's outcomes.

Criterion 2: Describe how the development and implementation of the grant activity will contribute to achieving the program's objectives

- Explain how local community spending will be stimulated as a result of the grant activity.
- Explain how local resources, businesses and suppliers will be used to implement the grant activity.
- Demonstrate the long-term benefit of the grant activity to the community/communities and agricultural industries on which they depend.

Criterion 3: What is the capability and capacity of your council (or consortia of councils) to successfully deliver the grant activity?

- Demonstrate your organisation's ability to manage Commonwealth and/or state government grant funding responsibly and effectively.
- Demonstrate your organisation's capability to engage relevant expertise, including any technical expertise, required to achieve positive outcomes for all stakeholders.
- Explain how you will measure outcomes and progress towards achieving the objectives of the grant opportunity.

Criterion 4: Stakeholder engagement and employment

- Demonstrate your ability to work collaboratively with other government and non-government agencies to ensure high quality service delivery that achieves positive outcomes for the farming community.
- Demonstrate how stakeholders such as local Landcare, farming system or other groups will be engaged, describing the coordination of management where appropriate.
- Demonstrate how affected landholders will be consulted and involved as part of the development of the proposal.

COMMENT

Clearly Biosecurity focussed grant funding opportunities arise from time to time. More so during drought.

Given Boyup Brook currently does not have documented *science-based* plant and animal pests management strategies and plans in place, it wasn't sufficiently well placed to submit an application for the 2018-19 Communities Combating Pests grant round.

CONSULTATION

Acting CEO - Stephen Carstairs, Dr Susan Campbell - Research Officer, Invasive Species for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS - Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report impacts the 2019-20 annual budget.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Relevant excerpt from the Adopted Boyup Brook Strategic Community Plan 2017 - 2027.

Natural Environment: Preserve and Sustain our Natural Environment

Our Vision:

Our environment will be preserved, enhanced and we will retain our 'river and forest' identity.

We will value our natural resources, managing our use of water and energy. Our objectives and priorities are built from our outcomes.

OUTCOMES	OBJECTIVES	PRIORITIES
Preserved and enhanced natural environment	Maintain the natural environment.	+ Beautification of parklands and gardens, utilising native species. + Showcase the Blackwood River foreshore as a natural asset.
Sustainable resources	Support the use of sustainable and renewable resources.	+ Support the use of renewable energy resources and recycling.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- **Environmental**
Environmental implications would be identified through the planning process.
- **Economic**
Nil.
- **Social**
Nil.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple majority.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION - Item 3.1.4

That the Biosecurity Committee recommend to Council:

- (a) that Council direct the Acting CEO to engage with the Blackwood Basin Group (the Group) following the adoption of the 2019-20 annual budget, and develop a draft science-based biosecurity strategy and plan; and
- (b) that the Acting CEO is to bring the draft science-based biosecurity strategy and plan back to Committee for Committee's consideration.