



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



Sheep and Goat
Industry Funding Scheme

Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme

Annual Report

2020/2021



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From the Chair

I am pleased to present the 2020/21 Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme (IFS) annual report to the Scheme participants, stakeholders involved in the Western Australian sheep and goat industry and to the Minister for Agriculture and Food.

Firstly, the efforts of the IFS Management Committee must be commended. The continuing global COVID-19 pandemic has put pressure our industries and regional communities in ways not seen before. As a Committee, we continued to provide effective oversight of the Scheme to ensure the ongoing contribution of our industry-funded programs to the biosecurity of the Western Australian sheep and goat industry.

The Footrot Control Program continued to deliver critical activities to detect and control the disease in the Western Australian flock. In 2019/20 we introduced the qPCR test for diagnosing virulent footrot. This testing method continues to deliver valuable information, with detections discovered and acted upon that possibly would not have been discovered under the previous testing regime.

During 2020/21, a number of projects funded with IFS Wild Dog Eradication Grants continued. The recipients of these grants used the funds well and reported on the progress and achievements. To further the Wild Dog Eradication Program, the Committee initiated a working group comprised of Committee members and staff from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. It is envisaged that the working group will provide us with robust advice on future areas for investment from the IFS to address wild dogs.

Lastly, 30 June 2021 saw the end of my tenure on the Management Committee. As a Committee Member and as Chair, I have seen many positive changes and significant inroads being made into the IFS-funded programs.

At the time of going to print, a new Chair has been appointed, and I would like to welcome Karen Smith to the role. Karen brings a wealth of knowledge and professionalism. I know I am leaving the Committee in very safe hands.

I'd like to also take this opportunity to thank my fellow Committee members for their enthusiasm and passion for the biosecurity of our industry, and to the departmental staff and the biosecurity groups that make the IFS and its programs so successful.



Charles Wass
Chair, Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee
(to 30 June 2021)



Image 1 – Wool

List of acronyms

CWBA	Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
IFS	Industry Funding Scheme
qPCR	real-time polymerase chain reaction test
WA	Western Australia

1. Overview of the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme

The Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme (IFS) has been operating since 2010 to address biosecurity threats relevant to the Western Australian (WA) sheep and goat industry. The Scheme was established by regulation 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 and 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.

A seven-member Industry Management Committee oversees the Sheep and Goat IFS. The Minister for Agriculture and Food appointed the committee members after inviting 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. It also provides 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, as well as financial accounting and reporting. Furthermore, the normal regulatory inspection and compliance activities undertaken by DPIRD closely complement the priorities of the Management Committee.

2020/21 Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme at a glance

During 2020/21:

- Contributions of 17 cents per head/carcass applied to the sale of all sheep and goats produced in WA
- IFS contributions totalling \$1 623 616 were received
- Producer contributions were used to fund a control program for virulent footrot and for activities to eradicate wild dogs from within dog-fenced areas
- The cost of the footrot control program was \$750 126
- The cost of the wild dog eradication program was \$297 472, of which \$12 468 was returned to the IFS as unspent grant money
- Committee costs and other approved activities were \$20 115
- Nine producers opted out of the Scheme, with \$4227 being refunded to three of these producers during the 2021/22 financial year.



Image 2 – Angora goats

2. Industry Management Committee

The Sheep and Goat IFS is overseen by a seven-member Industry Management Committee. The Committee's terms of reference are at Appendix 1.

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

Mr Charles Wass (Chair) farms wheat and sheep on 7300 hectares in Perenjori and West Coorow, including 4000 breeding ewes (commercial and stud flocks). As a qualified accountant and Certified Practising Accountant, he works with directors and owners of medium-sized businesses to monitor and improve business performance. 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. In 2018, Karen completed a course in WA Sheep Meat Value Chain and Sheep Industry Leadership. 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 a variety of networks within the farming community, and has taken on many leadership roles making her a valuable contributor to the Committee.

Mr Guy Bowen graduated as a physical education teacher in 1975 and taught at North Lake Senior High School until 1976 before commencing full time farming in York in 1977. He has enjoyed a direct involvement, in 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. He continues to conduct on-property field days and producer forums for prime lamb producers with the intent of maximizing profitability for farmers.

Mr Peter Boyle has been involved in the prime lamb industry for more than 50 years, based in York. His experience extends to running a large lamb feedlot in partnership and trading sheep to fatten for live export. Peter is a current executive member of the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA.

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. Michelle is also a member of the Bullseye Steering Committee. Michelle has a degree in Applied Science (Agriculture) and more than 14 years working within the wheat, sheep and cattle industries as a producer.

Dr Kelly Pearce is a grain and prime lamb producer from Yealering in WA along with her young family. Kelly is a Director of the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority, Director of the Grower Group Alliance, Member of the Biosecurity Council of WA and Executive Officer of the Facey Group. She is also heavily involved in gene technology, sitting on the Ethics and Community Consultative Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.

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 Declared Species group for 13 years, including as the Chair, and is a past Chairman of the Board of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc. Jim is a former President of the Central Country Zone with the Western Australian Local Government Association.

Membership terms

Name	Position	Expiry of term
Charles Wass	Chair	30 June 2021
Karen Smith	Deputy Chair	30 November 2021
Guy Bowen	Member	30 June 2021
Peter Boyle	Member	30 June 2022
Michelle Donaldson	Member	30 June 2022
Kelly Pearce	Member	30 November 2021
Jim Sullivan	Member	30 June 2022

The membership of the Committee from 1 July 2021 is at Appendix 2.



Image 3 – Alpacas protecting sheep

3. Operation of the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme

Since the introduction of the Sheep and Goat IFS in 2010, the Industry Management Committee (the 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 2020/21 financial year, the Committee held four ordinary meetings and worked on a number of key activities.

Industry priorities for funding

Virulent footrot: In early 2020, the Committee agreed to continue funding the Footrot Control Program into the 2020/21 financial year. The Footrot Control Program encompasses a number of important activities to detect the disease and control its spread into and between WA sheep flocks. Detailed information on the 2020/21 program to address virulent footrot is at Section 5 of this report.

Wild dogs: Wild dogs continued to be a priority for the industry, with three new projects funded through the Sheep and Goat IFS Wild Dog Eradication Program commencing during the 2020/21 financial year. The aim of the Wild Dog Eradication Program is to reduce the impact of wild dogs and, therefore, deliver benefits to the WA sheep and goat industry. To date, the Program has offered grants to groups and organisations. More information on the program can be found at Section 5 of this report.

In May 2021, the Committee initiated a working group comprising of Committee representatives and DPIRD staff. The role of the working group is to develop advice for the Committee on priority areas for IFS investment from 2021/22, to address the impact of wild dogs on the WA sheep/goat industry.

Other industry priorities: The Committee was represented on the Cattle, Sheep and Goat Biosecurity Consultative Group. The group was established to provide a forum to advise of, discuss and communicate biosecurity issues that are of importance to the WA cattle, sheep and goat industries. Importantly, the Consultative Group provides a forum to support the Industry Management Committee's determinations on industry priorities for investment.

Governance

Strategic plan: The Committee was guided by its Strategic Plan, which is available on the DPIRD (agriculture and food) website. The Plan documents the purpose, role, goals and strategies of the Committee, as well as criteria for making investment decisions. The plan will be reviewed during the next reporting period.

Program monitoring, evaluation and continuous improvement: Over the course of the year, the Committee actively monitored the implementation and progress of the IFS-funded programs. Written and verbal progress reports were provided to the Committee at each ordinary meeting, including detailed information on the issues, successes and expenditure.

IFS finances: The Committee monitored the income and expenditure of the IFS funds throughout 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 programs. This oversight helped the Committee ensure funds were being expended appropriately and enabled it to forward-plan.

Governance procedures: Good governance is an essential part of the operation of the Committee. To this end, Committee members registered potential conflicts of interest, which were reviewed at the start of each meeting. In addition, 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 will review these documents during the 2021/2022 financial year.

IFS regulation amendments: During the year, the Committee provided a submission on proposed changes to the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Industry Funding Scheme (Sheep and Goat) Regulations 2010. The Committee agreed with all the proposed amendments, which resulted in changes to the regulations to:

- consolidate the Sheep and Goat IFS Appointments Committee into a single committee that covers all three IFSs
- consolidate the Sheep and Goat IFS Review Panel into a single panel that covers all three IFSs
- ensure Committee members and the Review Panel aren't eligible for membership if they opt out of the scheme; and
- ensure alignment between the regulations and the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.



Image 4 – Dorper sheep

Review of the IFS regulations: A review of the IFS regulations was undertaken by DPIRD in 2021. The Committee provided a formal submission in response to a discussion paper released by DPIRD. The submission identified the Committee's position on a number of key areas including the opt out and the compensation provisions, and how the IFS funds can be used.

The Committee also raised concerns with the approval process for expenditure from the IFS Account, the cost-effectiveness of processing applications for refunds of IFS contributions and the ability to monitor compliance, in terms of the payment of IFS contributions in relation to private sales.

Joint IFS Committee meeting: In March 2021, the three IFS Management Committees held a joint meeting to:

- Share successes and insights between Management Committees
- Discuss emerging IFS issues; and
- Agree on future focus areas to be tackled collaboratively across the Management Committees.

The joint meeting was a valuable opportunity for the Sheep and Goat IFS Management Committee to discuss its operations with the other committees, identify shared issues and work on collaborative action across the Schemes.

Compliance with the Industry Funding Scheme 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, or were suspected, the Committee requested these be followed-up by DPIRD. An area of concern for the Committee is the inability to monitor contributions payable to the IFS when sheep/goats are sold to persons other than processors or via stock agents. This issue is also of concern to the Cattle IFS Management Committee and has been raised with DPIRD via the statutory review of the IFS regulations.

Opt out refunds: During 2020/21, DPIRD advised the Committee that it received four applications for refunds of IFS contributions paid during the 2019/20 financial year. After considering the applications, including their validity, the Committee directed the Director General to repay the amounts – in accordance with the requirements of the IFS regulations.

IFS area of operation and contribution rate: As required by the IFS regulations, in May 2021 the Committee made its recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture and Food on the 2021/22 Sheep and Goat IFS contribution rate and area of operation. The Committee recommended that the contribution rate remain at 17 cents per head/carcass, to be applied to the sale of all sheep and goats produced in WA. This recommendation was made by the Committee on the basis that there were sufficient funds available to cover the costs of the 2021/22 IFS-funded programs, whilst maintaining a reasonable level of financial reserves.

The Minister endorsed the Committee's recommendations, as published in the *Western Australian Government Gazette*.

Communication and consultation

Planning: In March 2021, the Committee attended a meeting with the other IFS Committees where communication was a major topic of discussion. All three Committees agreed to pursue various joint initiatives to improve industry/producer awareness of the IFSs.

Communication activities: The Committee participated in various forums and activities to increase producer awareness and understanding of the Scheme, develop networks and encourage industry feedback. Some forums were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions/uncertainties; nevertheless, a number of communications activities were undertaken:

- Participated on the Cattle, Sheep and Goat Industry Biosecurity Consultative Group
- Information display at the Wagin Woolorama; and
- Media releases resulting in articles in the rural press.

IFS webpages: During 2020/21 the Sheep and Goat IFS provided up-to-date information through its webpages on the DPIRD (agriculture and food) website. The [IFS webpages](#) include links to key documents such as the Committee's strategic plan and the Sheep and Goat IFS 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 enables stronger recognition and engagement with the industry base.

Other

Biosecurity funding mechanisms: The Committee participated in a consultation process coordinated by the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia to provide its views on the IFS as a biosecurity funding mechanism. The process focused on the strengths of the IFS and opportunities for improvement, as well as general discussion around industry funding for biosecurity.



Industry Funding Schemes

help agricultural industries address
pests and diseases



Image 5 – Banner used to promote the three IFSs at field days and other events

4. Effectiveness of the Scheme

Opt outs and refunds

The number of producers opting out of the Scheme remains extremely low, with 14 producers opting out in 2020/21 (Figure 1). Of these 14 producers, three applied for refunds of their contributions. These refunds amounted to \$4227 and were paid during the 2021/22 financial year.

More than 99% of WA sheep and goat producers participate in the Scheme, which indicates the perceived value of the Scheme to the industry.

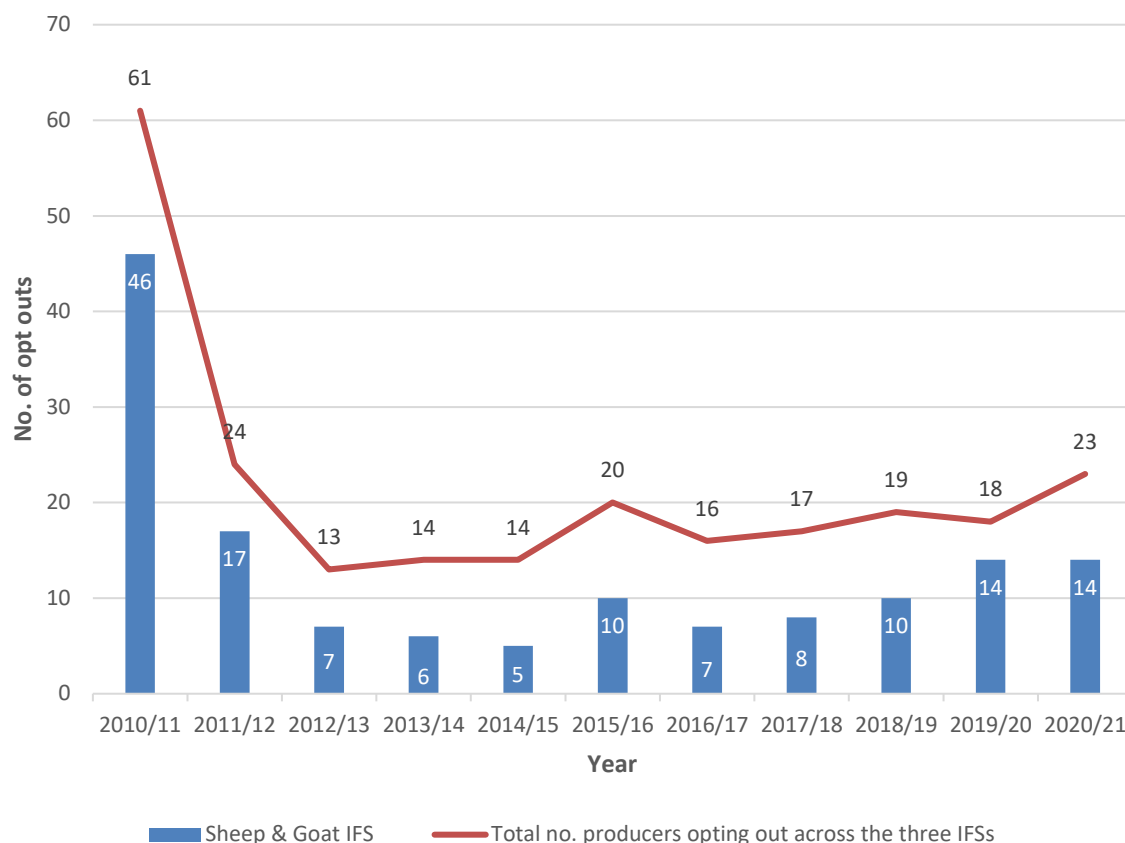


Figure 1 – Number of producers opting out of the Industry Funding Schemes since 2010

Collection rates

A total of \$1 623 616 in contributions to the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme was received during 2020/21.

An analysis of the collection rate for Sheep and Goat IFS contributions during 2020/21 indicates the satisfactory collection of contributions. For the 2020/21 financial year, it is estimated that IFS contributions were payable on 5.8 million sheep/goat transactions; however, contributions were paid on 9 550 682 sheep/goats during the year. This represents a collection rate of 163%.

This analysis uses data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Department of 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 there was scant information on the number of chargeable sales of goats.

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 through agents or to processors (for example, stock sold direct to exporters or to other producers) are required to pay the IFS contributions directly to the Scheme.

More than 99% of WA sheep and goat producers participate in the Sheep and Goat IFS, which may indicate the value of the Scheme to the industry.



Image 6 – Sheep grazing on pasture

5. 2020/2021 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; and
- 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.

In the 2020/21 financial year, DPIRD issued 27 Pest Control Notices and released 49 properties from quarantine. This resulted in 48 businesses, comprising 114 properties, in quarantine for virulent footrot on 30 June 2021 (Figure 2). The distribution of the quarantined properties across the State is shown in Figure 3.

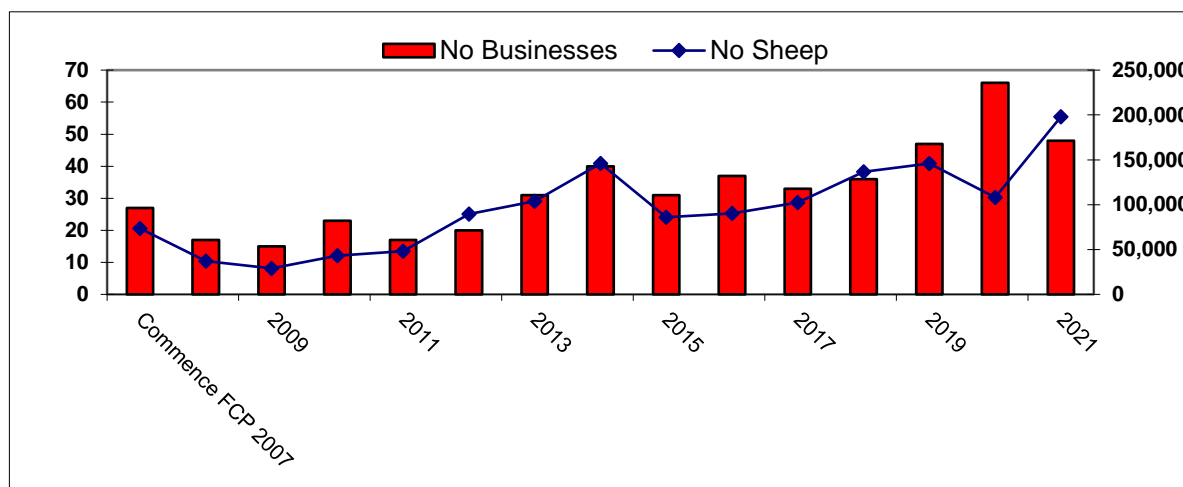


Figure 2 – Annual figures for the number of businesses (farming properties) and approximate number of sheep in quarantine for virulent footrot since the inception of the control program in 2007

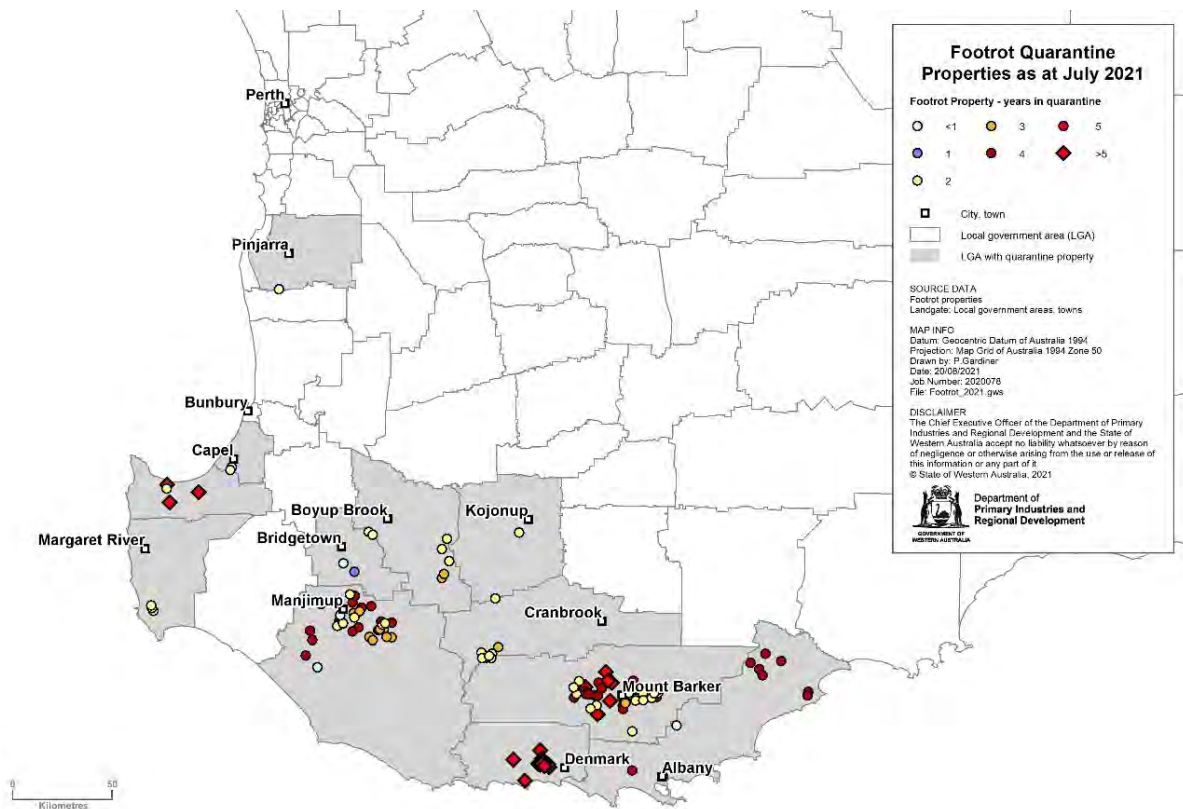


Figure 3 – Distribution of quarantined properties and number of years in quarantine for virulent footrot, at 30 June 2021

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. The program achieved 18 full releases in 2020/21. The program no longer allows partial releases as this can represent an ongoing biosecurity risk. On 30 June 2021, 70% of quarantined businesses had been in quarantine for four years or less and 58% had been in quarantine for three years or less. This represents 54% of the total quarantined sheep numbers.

Surveillance was carried out at abattoirs from November to the end of February. Six-hundred and eighty-eight lines were inspected. Tracebacks to the property of origin were instituted for detections of the disease in saleyard lines, adding significantly to the value of the information gathered through this work. Forty-nine field inspections were held on quarantined properties and a further 59 field inspections were carried out on properties not yet in quarantine.

In 2020/21, DPIRD staff also inspected 3122 sheep imported into WA in 135 consignments. Imported sheep and goats are inspected at the border and followed up with two post-entry inspections.

Samples from 120 potential cases were tested at the laboratory. Of these, 25 were positive for Virulent Footrot.

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. Twelve regional workshops were conducted this financial year. Footrot officers also attended the two-day Wagin Woolorama and spoke to producers at this significant event.

Table 1 presents the costs of the 2020/21 Footrot Control Program.

Table 1 – Costs of the 2020/21 Footrot Control Program

Expenses	\$
Employee expenses	606 792
Laboratory costs	29 990
Travel	89 207
Plant and machinery	12 182
General consumables	4 222
Lease, rental and hire	3 320
Repairs and maintenance	2 486
Freight and mail	1 082
Communications	536
Printing and license	309
Total cost of program	\$750 126



Image 7 – A wild dog in the WA wheatbelt

Wild dog eradication program

The aim of the Wild Dog Eradication Program is to reduce the impact of wild dogs and, therefore, deliver benefits to the WA sheep and goat industry. The program focusses on eradicating wild dogs from within dog-fenced areas. To date, the program has offered grants to groups and organisations to:

- Support the delivery of on-ground wild dog control measures (including monitoring/surveillance; excluding fencing)
- Support research and development (including training) to improve wild dog management and control; and
- Complement the wild dog control activities currently underway in WA.

During 2020/21, six IFS-funded projects were underway (Table 3). Table 2 identifies the costs of the Sheep and Goat Wild Dog Eradication Program in the 2020/21 financial year. This reflects the grant instalments paid during the year.

Table 2 – Costs of the Wild Dog Eradication Program in 2020/21

Item	\$
Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (baiting program)	20 760
Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association	60 000
Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association	65 000
Midlands Biosecurity Group	56 000
Southern Biosecurity Group	40 581
Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (staffing succession)	33 000
Shire of Kent	22 131
Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association (repayment of unspent funds)	-12 468
Total cost of program	\$285 004

Table 3 – Current projects funded with grants from the Sheep and Goat IFS Wild Dog Eradication Program

Organisation	Project title	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA)	CWBA wild dog management - controlling the gaps	\$60 000	\$60 000	\$60 000	N/A	\$180 000
Midlands Biosecurity Group	Initiating much needed on-ground control activities of wild dogs in the Midlands region	\$56 000	\$56 000	\$56 000	N/A	\$168 000
Shire of Kent	Focusing wild dog monitoring and control around potential sheep attack areas identified within the existing Magenta project area	\$22 922	\$22 131	\$21 591	N/A	\$66 644
Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group	Aerial and ground baiting program	N/A	\$20 760	\$20 760	N/A	\$41 520
Southern Biosecurity Group	Monitoring species movements through three strategic gaps in the Esperance extension of the State Barrier Fence to inform management interventions	N/A	\$40 581	\$18 011	\$18 711	\$77 303
Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group	Staffing succession	N/A	\$33 000	\$33 000	N/A	\$66 000

6. 2020/2021 financial details

The Director General of DPIRD administers the IFS finances 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 \$2 140 156 at 30 June 2021.
- The total cost of the 2020/21 Footrot Control Program was \$750 126¹.
- \$297 472 was provided in grants to address wild dogs; however, \$12 468 of unspent grant funds was returned to the IFS.
- Industry contributions to the IFS totalling \$1 623 616 were received by DPIRD in 2020/21; however, \$3602 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 2020/21 amounted to \$5147.
- The activities of the Committee, including Committee costs, resulted in expenditure of \$20 115.

Figure 4 identifies how the funds held in the IFS Account were used during the year. Tables 4 and 5 contains the financial details for the 2020/21 Sheep and Goat IFS.

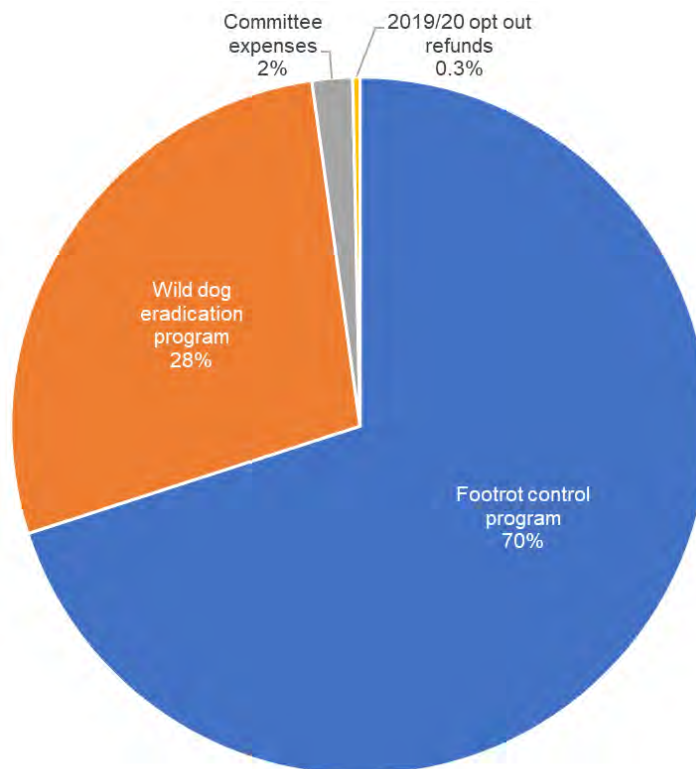


Figure 4 – Use of funds held in the Sheep and Goat IFS Account during 2020/21

¹ Some of the costs of the 2020/21 Footrot Control Program were deducted from the Account during the 2021/22 financial year.

Table 4 – Sheep and Goat IFS income and expenditure for 2020/21

Expenses	\$
Programs:	
Footrot control program	750 126
Wild dog eradication program	297 472
Other expenses:	
Board member fees	6 574
Travel expenses	10 270
Communication services	5
Meeting expenses	1 160
Advertising/media	1 923
Printing and stationary	183
2019/20 opt out refunds	3 602
Total expenses	1 071 315
Income	\$
Contributions	1 623 616
Interest revenue	5 147
Return of unused funds – Wild dog grant	12 468
Total income	1 641 231
NET COST OF SERVICE	-\$569 916

Table 5 – Balance sheet for the Sheep and Goat IFS at 30 June 2021

Balance sheet	Total (\$)
EQUITY at 30 June 2021	\$2 140 156

Note: the amount shown in Table 4 for the Footrot Control Program is the total cost of the 2020/21 program. Some of these costs were debited from the Account during the 2021/22 financial year. As the projects funded through the wild dog eradication program are not annual projects, the amount shown in Table 4 is the actual expenditure from the Account for this item. The balance sheet (Table 5) identifies the actual equity at 30 June 2021.

The net cost of service for the 2020/21 Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme was -\$569 916.

7. Direction for 2021/2022

A key area of focus for the Sheep and Goat IFS Management Committee during 2021/22 will be the IFS-funded Footrot Control Program. In partnership with DPIRD, the Committee will continue to manage and monitor the program. This will include ongoing monitoring and active evaluation of the changes that have been put in place. As previously mentioned, these changes (such as the use of the qPCR test to detect and identify virulent footrot) were made to improve program efficiencies and effectiveness. Continuous improvement is critical to ensure the program remains effective, efficient and relevant to modern farming practices.

The Committee will undertake a review of its Wild Dog Eradication Program to identify how it might provide funding to address this priority issue into the future. The working group will be an important resource for the Committee, as it is expected that the group will advise on the priority activities that are required. This will enable the IFS funds to be used in the most effective way to deliver valuable industry outcomes.

The review of the IFS regulations undertaken in early 2021 was an important piece of work to evaluate the operation and effectiveness of the regulations. Such reviews are vital to ensure the IFS regulations remain relevant and appropriate in an ever-changing operating environment. The Committee are looking forward to discussing the findings and recommendations from the review. If regulatory amendments are recommended, the Committee anticipate providing input to these to make certain the changes will meet the needs of the WA sheep and goat industry and IFS contributors.

In 2021/22, the Committee will also:

- Work with the Cattle IFS and Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS Management Committees to further explore a coordinated approach to IFS communications. This will provide an opportunity to advance the ideas proposed at the joint IFS Committee meeting.
- Hold one meeting in a regional location. The purpose of this is to help raise producer awareness of the Scheme and its value to the industry. It will also provide an opportunity for the Committee to meet with producers and industry representatives and groups to discuss any issues they are facing and their views on the operation of the Scheme and how it can benefit their industry.

2021/22 will also see the Committee finalise its review of its governance processes and practices, review its strategic plan and continue to monitor industry feedback to maintain best practice. The results will be documented in the next Annual report.

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 Sheep and Goat IFS is industry-driven, with industry itself deciding if, when and to what extent the Scheme is used.

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.



Image 8 – Sheep in stubble

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* (BAM Act) 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

Management Committee membership from 1 July 2021

Name	Position	Expiry of term
Karen Smith*	Chair	30 November 2021
Kelly Pearce*	Deputy Chair	30 November 2021
Peter Boyle	Member	30 June 2022
Michelle Donaldson	Member	30 June 2022
Maria Griffiths	Member	30 June 2024
Scott Pickering	Member	30 June 2024
Jim Sullivan	Member	30 June 2022

*At the time of writing, Karen Smith and Kelly Pearce had been reappointed for terms ending 30 June 2024.