



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



Sheep and Goat
Industry Funding Scheme

Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme

Annual Report

2019/2020



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January 2021

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From the Chair

I am pleased to present the 2019/20 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.

2019/20 was my first year as the Chair of the IFS Management Committee. We were a relatively new Committee – on 1 July 2019, of the seven members, three were brand new to the Committee, two had been with the Committee for only six months and I was reappointed after a 12 month break – but we quickly got up to speed and, I believe, had some real successes with the IFS during the year.

Wild dogs were a key topic for the IFS Management Committee during 2019/20. Given the intent of the IFS is to provide funding for programs that safeguard our industry from pest and disease threats, the Committee agreed to undertake a second round of wild dog grants. There are a large number of wild dog control activities being undertaken in Western Australia, primarily through local biosecurity groups. It is important that we target the IFS funds in the best possible way to augment wild dog control at a whole-of-state level – a point that has been reiterated to the Committee by key industry stakeholders – and this was at the forefront of our minds as we considered the grant proposals during the year.

The footrot control program continues to deliver critical activities to minimise the spread of the disease in the Western Australian flock. 2019/20 was the first year for implementing a number of changes to the program. Of particular note was the introduction of the qPCR test for diagnosing virulent footrot. This came about following IFS-funded research that resulted in the qPCR diagnostic test, which is cheaper, quicker and more sensitive than the previous diagnostic method. The increased sensitivity of the qPCR test has meant increased detections of virulent footrot during the year. However, it must be remembered that, now that we know the bacteria is present on these properties, we can work toward eradicating it and ensuring that it does not spread further. Without the qPCR test, these infections may have gone undetected.

The Scheme continues to be well-supported by Western Australian sheep and goat producers. On behalf of the Committee, thank you for your ongoing participation. I look forward to a continuing partnership with producers, industry and Government throughout 2020/21.



Charles Wass

Chair, Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee



Image 1 – Merino rams on pasture

List of acronyms

CWBA	Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
GG	gelatin gel
GNRBA	Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association
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

1. 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.

A seven-member Industry Management Committee oversees the Sheep and Goat IFS. 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.

2019/20 Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme at a glance

During 2019/20:

- Contributions of 15 cents per head/carcass applied to the sale of all sheep and goats produced in WA
- Contributions totalling \$883 534 were received
- 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 \$981 161
- The cost of the wild dog eradication program was \$92 078 in 2019/20
- Committee costs were \$14 822
- Fourteen producers opted out of the Scheme in 2019/20, with \$3489 to be refunded to four of these producers in the 2020/21 financial year.



Image 2 – Merino ewes

2. Industry Management Committee

A seven-member Industry Management Committee oversees the Sheep and Goat IFS. In 2019/20, four new members were appointed to the Committee – Mr Peter Boyle, Ms Michelle Donaldson, Mr Jim Sullivan and Mr Charles Wass. Mr Guy Bowen was reappointed for a two-year term. The Committee appointed Mr Charles Wass, who has previously sat on the Management Committee, to the position of Chair and Mrs Karen Smith as the Deputy Chair.

The Committee 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 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.



Image 3 – Lambs

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 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 Pastoralists and Graziers Association (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 in WA along with her young family. Kelly has had an 18-year career in Agricultural Research. Kelly is the Deputy Chair of the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority, Member of the Biosecurity Council of WA and a Director of the Grower Group Alliance. Kelly is a 2012 Nuffield Scholar, Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Research Fellow with the Australian Farm Institute.

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 12 years, including as the Chair; and is a past Chairman of the Board of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc.

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

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 2019/20 financial year, the Committee held four ordinary meetings and one teleconference, and worked on a number of key activities.

Industry priorities for funding

Virulent footrot: In April 2019, the Committee agreed to continue funding for the Footrot Control Program into 2019/20, as virulent footrot continued to be a priority disease for the industry. Detailed information on the 2019/20 program to address virulent footrot is at Section 5 of this report.

During the year, the Committee once again considered the need for IFS funding to help control the spread of virulent footrot in the WA flock, with the Committee approving funding for a further 12 months.

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

A second round of grant funding was made available during the 2019/20 financial year. In April 2020, the Committee approved funding for one project, conditionally approved another project and requested resubmissions from four applicants – with projects anticipated to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.

The Committee approved funding for the Southern Biosecurity Group to monitor wild dog movements at targeted locations along the State Barrier Fence Esperance Extension.

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.



Image 4 – Goats

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.

Following a review of the Footrot Control Program, several changes were made to the 2019/20 program. These included using Pest Control Notices (rather than Quarantine Notices) and real time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) for diagnosing virulent footrot. The changes will be reviewed to determine the impact that these have had on the program's effectiveness and efficiency.

Governance procedures: 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.

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 was guided by its [Strategic Plan](#). The Plan documents the purpose, role, goal and strategies of the Committee, as well as criteria for making investment decisions. During the year, the Committee reviewed and updated the Plan. This ensured that the Strategic Plan met the needs and direction of the new Committee membership. The Committee endorsed the updated Strategic Plan in March 2020.

IFS regulations: During the year, the Committee participated in a session where the IFS regulations were reviewed and explained. This was particularly important to help the new Committee members better understand the regulations under which the Scheme and Committee operate.

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 during the year, the Committee requested these entities be followed-up by DPIRD.

Opt out refunds: During the second half of 2019, DPIRD advised the Committee that it received six applications for refunds of IFS contributions paid during the 2018/19 financial year. 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 requirements of the IFS regulations.

IFS area of operation and contribution rate: As required by the IFS regulations, in May 2020 the Committee made its recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture and Food on the 2020/21 Sheep and Goat IFS contribution rate and area of operation. The Committee recommended that the contribution rate be increased from 15 cents per head/carcass to 17 cents, to be applied to the sale of all sheep and goats produced in WA.

The increased rate was recommended to ensure adequate levels of funding to cover the costs of the programs to address virulent footrot and wild dogs, whilst maintaining a reasonable level of financial reserves.

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



Image 5 – A mixed load of sheep

Communication and consultation

Planning: During the year, the Committee spent considerable time reviewing and updating its Communications Plan and its Industry Consultation Plan. The Committee endorsed the updated Plans in April 2020.

Industry consultation: As per the Committee's Industry Consultation Plan, the release of the 2018/19 annual report was used as a platform for consulting the industry. Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions affected the Committee's ability to meet with key industry groups. Nevertheless, the PGA's Vice President, Livestock Committee Chair and Policy Officer participated in a teleconference with the Management Committee in March 2020 to discuss the operation of the Scheme and performance of the Management Committee.

In addition, written communications were used to encourage stakeholder feedback following the release of the 2018/19 annual report. However, minimal feedback was received.

Communication activities: 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:

- Discussions at producer/community group meetings
- Participated on the Cattle, Sheep and Goat Biosecurity Consultative Group
- Information stands at major field days
- Media releases resulting in articles in the rural press and radio interviews
- Articles in industry and rural newsletters.

IFS webpages: During 2019/20 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 sheep and goat industry.



Biosecurity Funding Schemes

Industry Funding Schemes are a means by which agricultural industries can raise funds to control pests and diseases.

The Schemes are **industry-driven**, with industry itself deciding if, when and to what extent the Scheme is used.

Managing biosecurity threats requires a collaborative effort. Working together through the Schemes, industry are **addressing the priority issues** that can impact on the industry's future.

Further information

Contact:
Industry Funding Scheme
Executive Officer
IFS@dpird.wa.gov.au

agric.wa.gov.au/IFS

Image 6 – Banner used to promote the three IFSs at field days and other events

4. Effectiveness of the Scheme

A total of \$883 534 in contributions to the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme was received during 2019/20.

The number of producers opting out of the Scheme remains low, with only 14 producers opting out in 2019/20 (Figure 1).¹

Of the 14 producers that opted out in 2019/20, four applied refunds of their contributions. These amounted to \$3489.

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

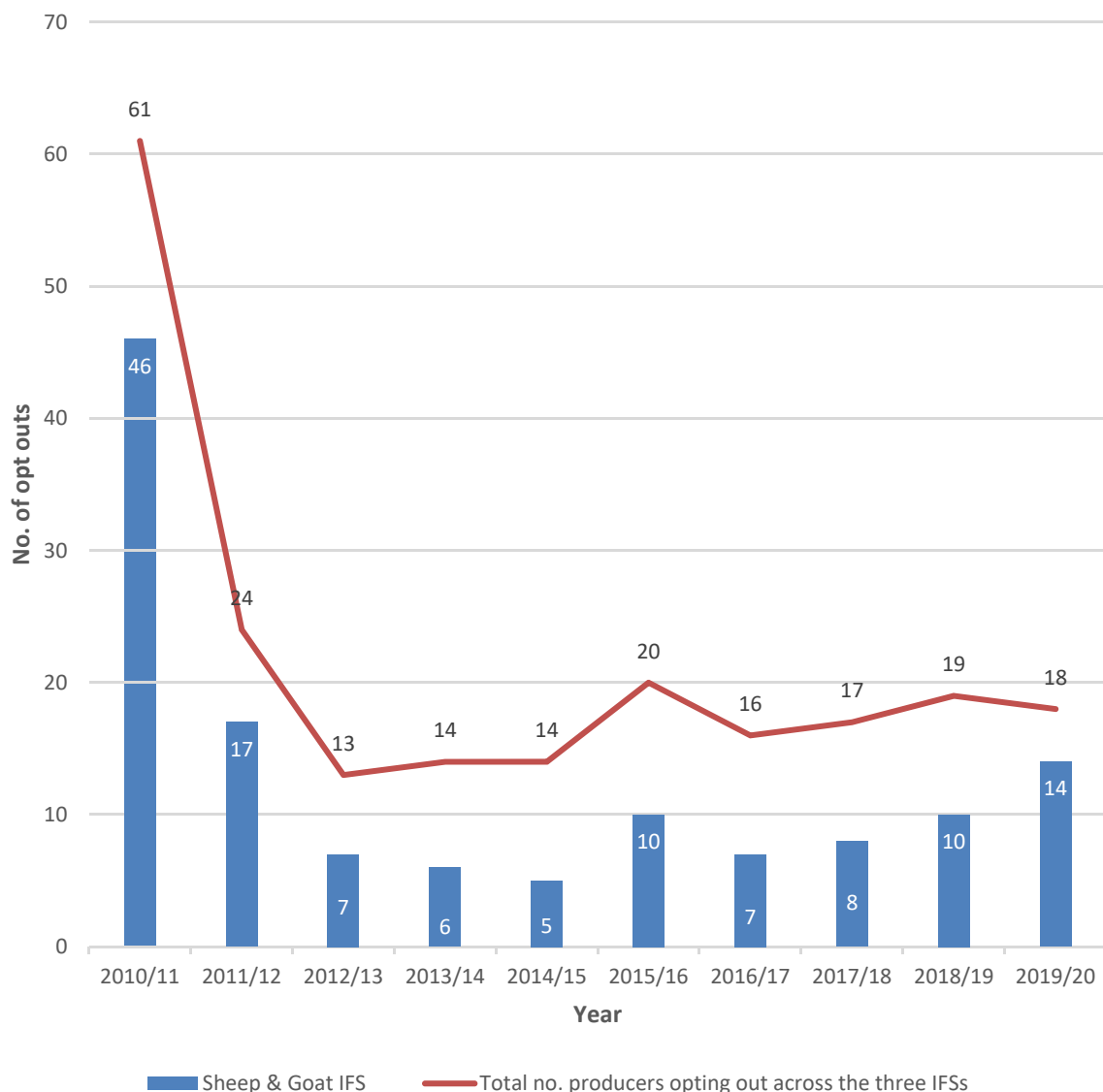


Figure 1 – Number of producers opting out of the Industry Funding Schemes since 2010

¹ 2016 data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that there are more than 4000 sheep producers in WA.



Image 7 – Ewes and lambs

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.

For the 2019/20 financial year, it is estimated that IFS contributions were payable on 6.3 million sheep/goat transactions; however, contributions were paid on 5 890 227 sheep/goats during the year (that is, 93%). As noted previously, the IFS contribution rate changed from 10 cents per head/carcass to 15 cents from 1 July 2019. The reduced level of IFS contributions during the year may indicate that the new rate was not being deducted in some instances.

Nonetheless, it must be stressed that there are limitations to this analysis – for example, data are not available for private sales and the proportion of saleyard purchases relevant to the analysis was estimated. The 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.

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, to exporters or to other producers) are required to pay the IFS contributions direct to the Scheme.

5. 2019/2020 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.

In the 2019/20 financial year, DPIRD issued 48 Pest Control Notices and 35 quarantine release notices. This resulted in 66 businesses (138 properties) in quarantine for virulent footrot at 30 June 2020 (Figure 2). 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. The Program achieved eight full releases and 11 partial business releases during the year. A further 39 businesses are on track to commence eradication programs in 2020/21. At 30 June 2020, 86% of the quarantined businesses had been in quarantine for less than four years (representing 89% of the sheep under quarantine restrictions). More than three-quarters of the quarantined businesses had been in quarantine for less than three years (representing 73% of quarantined sheep).

Surveillance was carried out at abattoirs from mid-October until mid-March. A total of 565 880 sheep were inspected from 2867 lines during this time. Sixty-one field inspections were conducted on quarantined properties and 31 inspections were carried out on non-quarantined properties. COVID-19 restrictions made on-property inspections more difficult in the March-May period, but critical inspections were undertaken as scheduled.

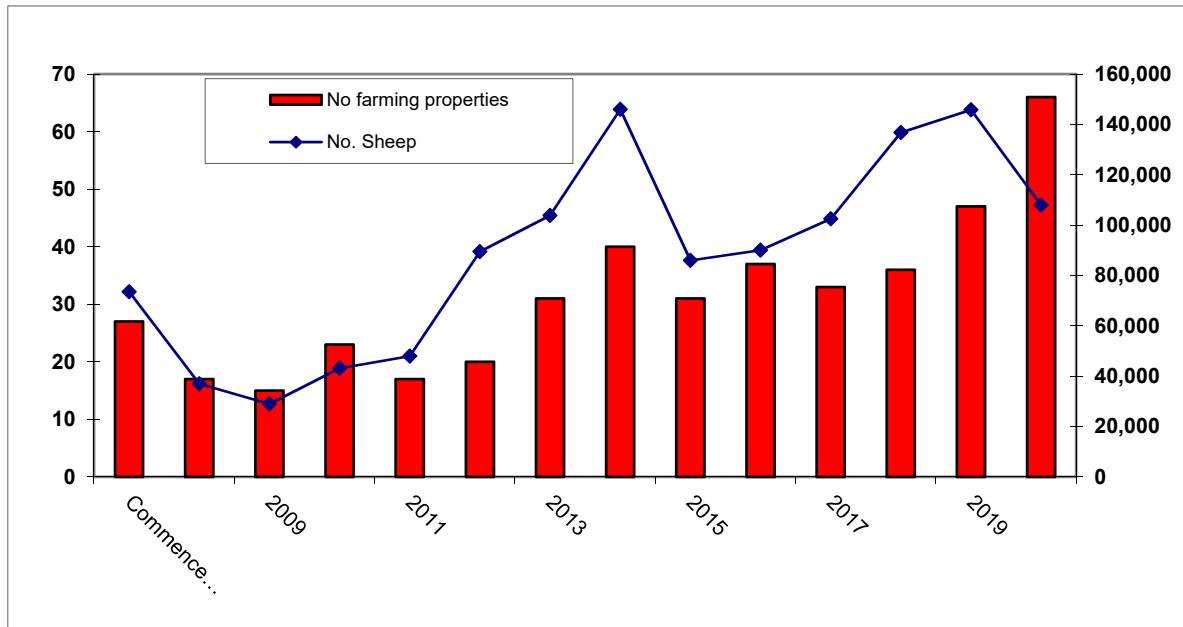


Figure 2 – Annual figures for the number of businesses (farming properties) and approximate number of sheep in quarantine for virulent footrot since the inception of the control program in 2007

DPIRD staff also carried out inspections on 1561 sheep and 12 goats (in 202 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.

Samples from a total of 374 cases were analysed in the laboratory to determine the presence of virulent footrot. Of these, 84 cases tested positive for the bacterium.

2019/20 saw the introduction of a new diagnostic test for virulent footrot. The new qPCR test was used as the main test for samples collected from abattoir surveillance activities during the year; whilst the historical culture, gelatin gel (GG) and zymogram testing process continued to be used where strain-typing of new cases was necessary or where it was important to know if live bacteria were present.

The qPCR test doesn't require live bacteria to be present in the sample, which is a significant difference from the culture, GG and zymogram testing process.

qPCR presents several advantages. 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. The increased sensitivity of the test at identifying virulent footrot compared to the current methods means that increased detections are likely; however, this means that actions are able to be put in place to stop the potential spread of the disease, which may have otherwise gone undetected.

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.

Table 1 presents the costs of the 2019/20 Footrot Control Program.

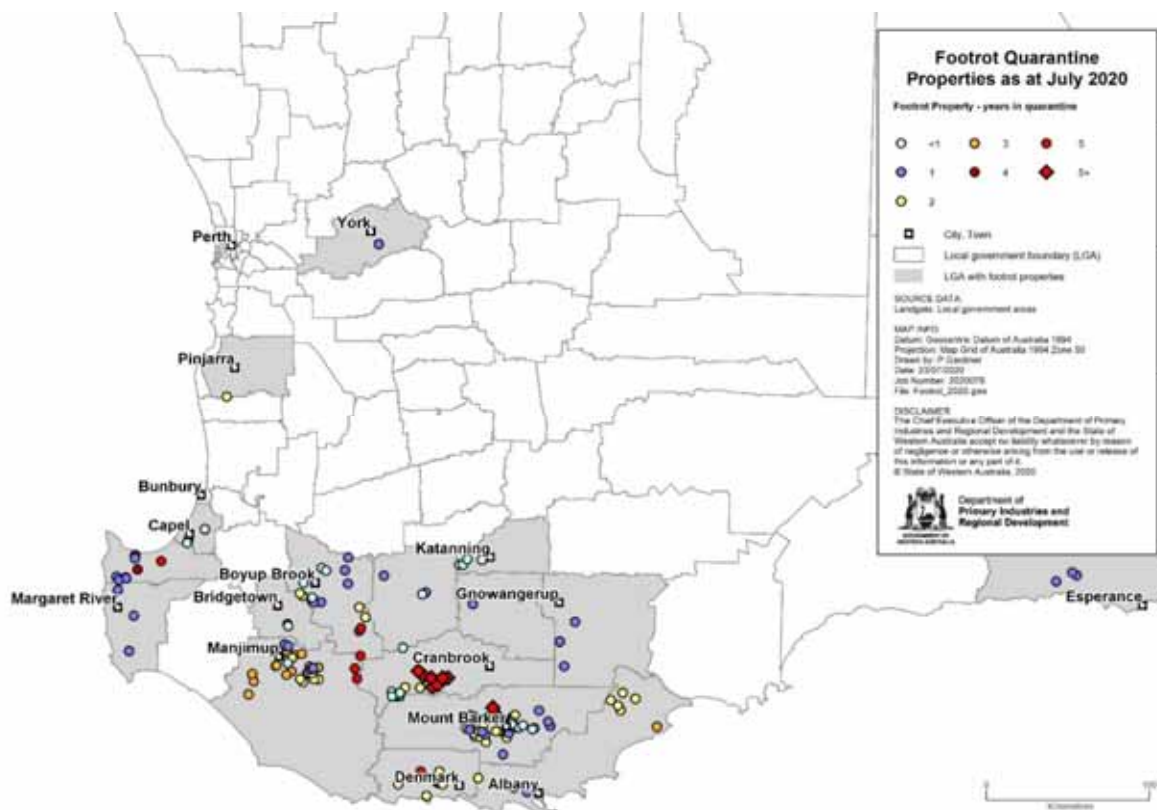


Figure 3 – Distribution of quarantined properties and number of years in quarantine for virulent footrot

Table 1 – Costs of the 2019/20 Footrot Control Program

Expenses	\$
Employee expenses	791 742
Laboratory costs	100 000
Travel	78 797
General consumables	4 298
Freight and mail	3 225
Communications	1 147
Services and contracts	893
Repairs and maintenance	668
Food supplies	262
Fuel and oil	128
Total cost of program	981 161

Wild Dog Eradication Program

Through consultation with the WA sheep and goat industry, wild dogs were identified as a critical issue for the industry. 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 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. In 2019/20, a second round of grants was available to groups and organisations. The purpose of the grants were 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.

Expressions of interest were open for a six-week period during November 2019 to January 2020, and 13 applications were received. An independent panel assessed the applications and made recommendations to the Committee.

In January 2020, based on the recommendations of the panel, the Committee agreed to seek full project proposals from eight of the applicants. The panel assessed the full proposals and, again, made recommendations to the Committee.

In April 2020, the Committee approved funding for one project, conditionally approved funding for another project and requested resubmissions from four applicants – with projects anticipated to commence in the 2020/21.

At 30 June 2020, one project from the second grant round had been approved (Table 2). This project, being undertaken by the Southern Biosecurity Group, will monitor wild dog movements at three strategic locations along the State Barrier Fence Esperance Extension – where there will be gaps in the fence due to natural river crossings. The project will determine what species are using the areas before, during and after the construction of the Esperance Extension. This will help understand how gaps in the State Barrier Fence affect the movement of wild dogs into the agricultural region, which will inform control strategies for the sheep industry.

A further six projects were funded in the inaugural Wild Dog Eradication Program grant round (Table 2). Further information on these projects is provided below.

Table 2 – Successful applicants for Sheep and Goat IFS wild dog eradication grants (2019 and 2020)

		2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
2019	Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association	\$60 000	\$60 000	\$60 000	-	\$180 000
	West Midlands / Midlands Biosecurity Group	\$56 000	\$56 000	\$56 000	-	\$168 000
	Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association	\$65 000	\$65 000	-	-	\$130 000
	Kent Shire Landcare	\$22 922	\$27 078	-	-	\$50 000
	Northern Biosecurity Group	\$50 000	-	-	-	\$50 000
	Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group	-	\$20 760	\$20 760	-	\$41 520
2020	Southern Biosecurity Group	-	\$40 581	\$18 011	\$18 711	\$77 303
	TOTAL	\$253 922	\$269 419	\$154 771	\$18 711	\$696 823

Table 3 identifies the costs of the Sheep and Goat IFS Wild Dog Eradication Program in the 2019/20 financial year. This reflects the grant instalments paid during the financial year. Grant instalments are paid when specific milestones have been completed to the Management Committee’s satisfaction.

Table 3 – Costs of the wild dog eradication program in 2019/20

Item	\$
Kent Shire Landcare	27 078
Goldfields	65 000
Total cost	\$92 078

Progress of the Wild Dog Eradication Program grant projects

Project title: Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA) wild dog management – controlling the gaps

The IFS grant funding has allowed the CWBA to implement wild dog control activities in areas identified as priority gaps in the CWBA region – primarily, areas of land that do not have active surveillance and/or wild dog control activities occurring on them. In 2019/20, the CWBA trapped 38 wild dogs, laid 9880 1080 dried meat baits as part of targeted on-ground surveillance activities and delivered 5000 1080

dried meat baits via aerial baiting. The aerial baiting was undertaken in partnership with the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group.

Reported livestock attacks and deaths by wild dogs have decreased significantly with only 26 wild dog-related stock deaths reported (to March 2020). Four hundred and sixty-eight and 294 wild dog-related stock deaths were reported in the CWBA region in 2018 and 2019.

(Information supplied by CWBA)

Project title: Initiating much-needed on-ground control activities of wild dogs in the Midlands region (West Midlands Group/Midlands Biosecurity Group)

In the first 12 months of this project, the Midlands Biosecurity Group established as a stand-alone entity in the Midlands Region. With support from the Sheep and Goat IFS, it is coordinating the regions response to wild dogs.

An 80-day Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMT) has been contracted to assist land managers with understanding best practice wild dog control and to conduct wild dog monitoring throughout the region. The LPMT has completed over 70 farm property visits, which delivered landholder education and engagement, on-ground inspections and camera monitoring. Sixty-five farmers have now committed to wild dog baiting programs in hotspot areas.

In addition, survey work has begun in parks, reserves and Unallocated Crown Land. Cameras have been placed in areas that are difficult to access, with no wild dog activity found at this stage.

Over the course of the year, three wild dogs have been destroyed and there has been a 40% reduction in stock attacks.

(Information supplied by Midlands Biosecurity Group)



Image 8 – Wild dog

Project title: Ensuring future capacity for the skilled management of wild dogs in WA's regions (Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association [GNRBA])

There is a strong demand for more LPMTs in the GNRBA region, to have a greater impact on the growing issue of wild dog management in the region. Over the course of the year, this project recruited five trainees and supported them to build skills, knowledge and understanding of wild dog control. All five trainees completed the relevant TAFE training course and are receiving ongoing support and mentoring from a local, experienced LPMT as they build experience. A Mentoring and Support Guide was developed to assist the mentor in this role.

Three of the trainees are now fully licenced and operating professionally in the regions, with continuing access to mentoring. Two of the trainees are accredited and continue to receive mentoring and support to help them become fully licenced.

(Information supplied by GNRBA)

Identifying and reducing the potential for wild dog attack on farm sheep within and adjacent to the Magenta Hub and Fitzgerald Hub (Kent Shire Landcare)

This project is undertaking wild dog monitoring and control interventions to reduce wild dog-related stock losses on sheep enterprises within and adjacent to the Magenta and Fitzgerald Hubs.

During 2019/20, the project engaged an LPMT who undertook six multi-day monitoring and control interventions between January and July 2020. No sheep deaths caused by wild-dog related injuries have occurred since the on-site LPMT activities commenced. No wild dogs have been trapped, shot or found dead; however, there was one sighting and a significant amount of evidence of wild dog activity in the area.

A project variation was submitted and approved by the IFS Management Committee in November 2019, to reduce the timeframe of the project by 12 months.

(Information supplied by Kent Shire Landcare)

Wild dog control in pastoral gap areas inside the northern section of the State Barrier Fence (Northern Biosecurity Group)

This project provided LPMT support in the pastoral areas inside and along the State Barrier Fence. This area includes State-managed lands and four pastoral leases. The LPMT worked a total of 99.3 days in the area monitoring, baiting and trapping from July 2019 to June 2020. A total of 33 dogs were trapped.

The project was a win-win for sheep producers operating inside the State Barrier Fence, as there is a direct benefit from implementing 'frontline' wild dog control activities at the edge of the agricultural region.

(Information supplied by Northern Biosecurity Group)

6. 2019/2020 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 \$1 514 773 at 30 June 2020.
- The total cost of the 2019/20 Footrot Control Program was \$981 161².
- \$92 078 was provided in grants for on-ground wild dog control.
- Industry contributions to the IFS totalling \$883 534 were received by DPIRD in 2019/20; however, \$3172 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 2019/20 amounted to \$16 048.
- The activities of the Committee resulted in expenditure of \$14 822.

Tables 4 and 5 contains the financial details for the 2019/20 Sheep and Goat IFS. Figure 4 identifies how the funds held in the IFS Account were used during the year.

Table 4 – Sheep and Goat IFS income and expenditure for 2019/20

Expenses	\$
Programs:	
Footrot control program	981 161
Wild dog eradication program	92 078
Other expenses:	
Board member fees	7 550
Travel expenses	4 225
Teleconferencing	1 524
Meeting expenses	1 004
Advertising/media	368
Printing	151
2018/19 opt out refunds	3 172
Total expenses	1 091 233
Income	\$
Contributions	883 534
Interest revenue	16 048
Total income	899 582
NET COST OF SERVICE	\$191 651

² Some of the costs of the 2019/20 footrot control program were deducted from the Account during the 2020/21 financial year.

Table 5 – Balance sheet for the Sheep and Goat IFS at 30 June 2020

Balance sheet	Total (\$)
EQUITY at 30 June 2020	1 514 773

Note: the amount shown in Table 4 for the footrot control program is the total cost of the 2019/20 program. Some of these costs were debited from the Account during the 2020/21 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 2020.

The net cost of service for the 2019/20 Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme was \$191 651.

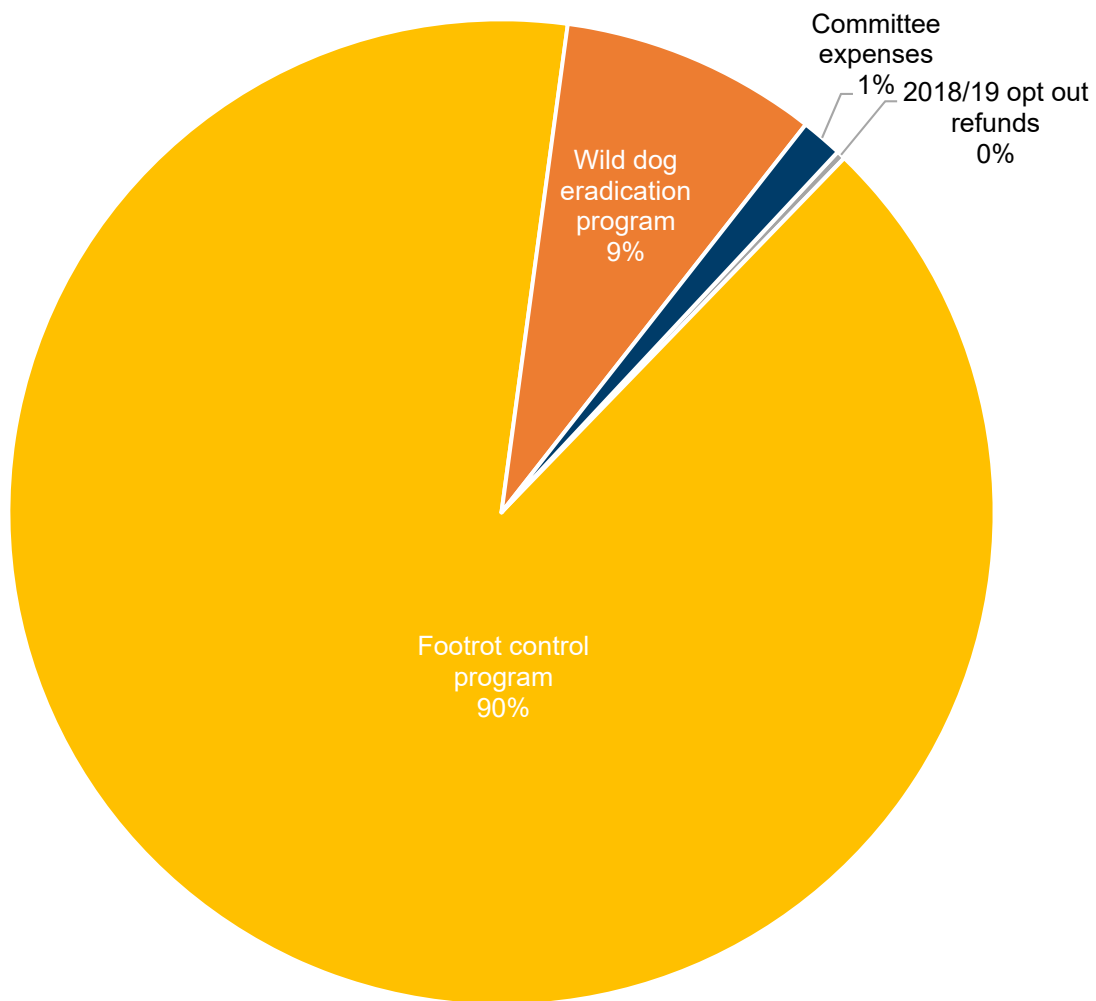


Figure 4 – Use of the funds held in the Sheep and Goat IFS Account during 2019/20

7. Direction for 2020/2021

A key area of focus for the Sheep and Goat IFS Management Committee during 2020/21 will be the IFS-funded Wild Dog Eradication Program. In response to industry feedback, the Committee will explore how the IFS can be used to greatest effect to augment the State-wide wild dog control effort. With the current WA Wild Dog Action Plan due to end on 30 June 2021, the Committee will await information on what the State-wide response to wild dogs post 30 June 2021 will include before committing further IFS funding to address wild dogs. This will ensure industry funds deliver the best value for industry investment by targeting funding gaps.

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 will include careful consideration of the findings from the Department regarding the impacts of the changes that were put in place. As 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 participate in a 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.

2020/21 will also see the Committee undertake its biennial review of its governance practices and procedures to ensure efficient and effective decision-making and accountability.

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.



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.