



4 November 2024

Planning Unit
Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands Branch
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Via email: managementplans@dbca.wa.gov.au

RE: Badimia parks and reserves draft joint management plan

INTRODUCTION

The Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA (PGA) is a non-profit industry organisation established in 1907, which represents primary producers in both the pastoral and agricultural regions of Western Australia.

Current membership numbers equate to over 70% of all pastoral leases, excluding Indigenous and conservation leases, including a significant number of leases that border the Badimia parks and reserves.

BACKGROUND

The PGA notes the following management objective on page 62 of the draft management plan under Pastoralism:

Management objective: To protect the values of Badimia parks and reserves and adjoining pastoral properties through good neighbour relationships and collaborative efforts to address cross-boundary land management issues.

Management strategies

- 1. Monitor for, and control, stray stock within the Badimia parks and reserves.*
- 2. Where control is required, liaise with biosecurity groups and DPIRD through the JMB to determine an appropriate wild dog management approach for the Badimia parks and reserves that:*
 - a. is consistent with the protection of natural and cultural values;*
 - b. adheres to best practice guidelines for wild dog control;*
 - c. does not place Badimia people at risk when undertaking customary activities.*

SUMMARY

The PGA notes that most of the planning area directly adjoins operating pastoral stations, which are running cattle after the small stock (sheep and goats) population was wiped out by wild dog predation.

Wild dogs are declared pests for the whole of Western Australia under section 22 of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act and accordingly are managed by DPIRD. However, the responsibility for wild dog control rests with all land managers, regardless of whether the land is private or public.

The PGA believes that the efficient management of wild dogs within the Badimia parks and reserves, including fencing, baiting, and trapping best practices noted under both the WA and National Wild Dog Action Plans, needs to be a priority within the draft management plan to protect not only livestock on neighbouring pastoral stations, but also native fauna within and surrounding the parks and reserves.

The PGA notes that according to latest figures in the National Wild Dog Action Plan, wild dogs prey on 229 native animals. For some endangered species, predation by wild dogs and other introduced species is their greatest threat.

In addition to direct predation, wild dogs carry hydatid worms (*Echinococcus granulosus*), a zoonotic disease that is easily transmitted to humans as well as to many native animals.

The PGA agrees that there needs to be further consideration and discussion with relevant stakeholders to determine a suitable strategy for wild dog management in the Badimia parks and reserves.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Seabrook', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tony Seabrook
PGA President