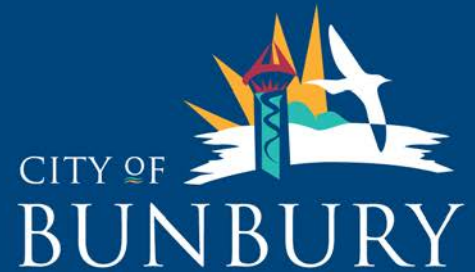


MEDIA STATEMENT



Friday, 20 May 2016

Pet owners warned of 1080 danger

The City of Bunbury wishes to advise pet owners and adjacent landowners it will begin a two-week fox-baiting program in the Bunbury Regional Airport and south-eastern portion of Manea Park this Friday 20 May.

Foxes are an introduced species and are predators to both agricultural and native animals and are known to be in part responsible for the local extinction of some native animals.

Recent fauna surveys have identified regular fox activity in Manea Park which is known to be inhabited by brush-tail phascogales, bandicoots, brush-tail wallabies, western grey kangaroos and endangered western ring-tail possums.

The City is seeking to reduce the impact of foxes on these animals via an integrated control approach which includes: trapping, den fumigation, shooting and 1080 baiting, where safe and appropriate.

1080 – which is poisonous if ingested – will be used in buried baits in an area of the park that is infrequently visited by community members.

Baiting is a widely used by the Department of Parks and Wildlife and farmers as a cost effective and proven control method for foxes.

1080 is derived from species of native pea plants and is non-toxic to most native animals. 1080 is however toxic to non-native animals and will kill cats and dogs.

The poison can only be used under licence issued by the Department of Agriculture and Food and will only be issued where the risk to general public is assessed to be acceptable.

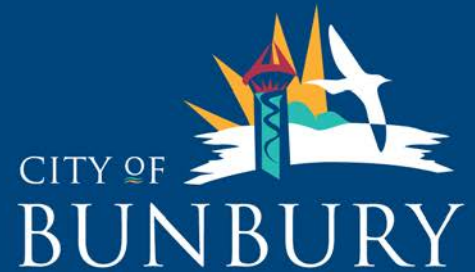
Team Leader Sustainability and Environment Ben Deeley said 1080 can only be used under licence issued by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

“The department will only issue licences where the risk to the general public is assessed to be acceptable,” Mr Deeley said.

Lee-Maree Gallo, Media and Communications Officer
T: 0428 201 253 **E:** imgallo@bunbury.wa.gov.au

4 Stephen Street, Bunbury WA 6230 - PO Box 21 Bunbury WA 6231 **T:** (08) 9792 7000
TTY: 13 36 77 **F:** (08) 9792 7184 **E:** contact@bunbury.wa.gov.au **W:** www.bunbury.wa.gov.au

MEDIA STATEMENT



“Risk mitigation measures put in place include limiting its use to areas infrequently visited by the general public, notification of all neighbours and placement of warning signs on all entry points to control areas, removal of unused baits and disposal of fox carcasses (where possible) after the baiting program.”

The fox baiting program in south-eastern Manea Park is being coordinated and jointly funded by the City of Bunbury and the South West Catchments Council (SWCC) with funding from the Australian Government National Landcare Program for protection of the Preston River to Ocean (proposed) Regional Park. The baiting program being undertaken in the Bunbury Regional Airport is being coordinated and funded by the City of Bunbury.

The City of Bunbury has obtained a permit from the Department of Agriculture and Food to undertake 1080 fox baiting within Manea Park each autumn and spring for a total period of five years.

The first program will be completed by Tuesday 31 May.

ENDS

Lee-Maree Gallo, Media and Communications Officer
T: 0428 201 253 **E:** imgallo@bunbury.wa.gov.au

4 Stephen Street, Bunbury WA 6230 - PO Box 21 Bunbury WA 6231 **T:** (08) 9792 7000
TTY: 13 36 77 **F:** (08) 9792 7184 **E:** contact@bunbury.wa.gov.au **W:** www.bunbury.wa.gov.au