

STOP THE TOAD

KEEP WA CANE TOAD FREE

Stop The Toad Foundation (Inc.) Profile and summary of activities March 31 2006

The STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION is a not-for-profit organisation which was incorporated in Western Australia in October 2005.

The Stop the Toad Foundation's primary purpose is to prevent the invasion of cane toads into Western Australia. To achieve this it seeks to ensure that all efforts against cane toads are cooperative, integrated, strategic, cost-effective and safe for participants.

The Foundation endeavors to support and encourage the independent and autonomous activity of all concerned groups working to mutually agreed strategic purposes, operations and procedures.

The Foundation secured \$500,000 of WA Government in 2005 to support cane toad control in the Northern Territory and within Western Australia in the event that populations of toads do establish in this state.

The board of the Foundation have set themselves the target of raising a further \$1 million by the end of 2006 to maximise on-ground action along the length of the cane toad front.

The strategic focus of the Foundation is to alert all Western Australians to the potential impacts of the cane toad and engage everybody in the protection of Western Australia from the toad's imminent invasion.

The Committee of Management

The Committee of Management of the STOP THE TOAD FOUNDATION (INC) is comprised of:

- Chair: Robert Edel (Gadens Lawyers)
- Vice-chair: Luc Longley
- Secretary: Chris Tallentire (Conservation Council of WA)
- Treasurer: Kenneth Bradley (Volunteering WA)
- Dr Andrew Storey (University of WA)
- Russell Gueho (Northern Habitat – Broome)
- Rita Saffioti (WA Govt. Representative)

The Foundation's Patron is WA writer Tim Winton.

Early achievements

Founding members of the Foundation:

- were instrumental in first raising the awareness of the issue, organising and participating in public meetings and forums in Kununurra, Broome and Perth as early as 2004.
- encouraged the WA Government to develop an MOU with the NT Government
- actively promoted the control of cane toads throughout Australia contributing to the Qld Govt. announcing a \$1 million research program and the Australian Govt. doubling its research funding for the search for a biological control.
- began a petition process resulting in a Legislative Council select committee which has produced a report encouraging the Government to continue to support the efforts to keep the State Toad Free.

What the Foundation has achieved to date

1. Incorporated in October 2005.
2. Secured \$500,000 from State Government.
3. Operates a website to promote awareness and act as a conduit for donations and enquiries.
4. Initiated a KEEP WA CANE TOAD FREE bumper sticker campaign.
5. Established a Joint Coordinating Committee with CALM to assist integration of community/government activity.
6. Raised the profile of the issue to all Western Australians, especially those in the populous south of the State.
7. Created opportunities for the broader community to become part of the solution.
8. Supported Frogwatch toad expert Graeme Sawyer deliver the initial toad-busting training program to the Kimberley Toad Busters.
9. Appointed Graeme Sawyer to the key role of STTF Regional Coordinator.
10. Appointed a full-time Operations Manager in Kununurra to foster and administer community effort and integrate STTF/CALM activities.
11. Established a trap building program which is now expanding in Perth schools.
12. Established a Strategic Forum combining the best available expertise of cane toad ecology/behaviour and control techniques with the best available knowledge of the control area terrain and conditions.
13. Met with the Federal Environment Minister, Senator Ian Campbell, who indicated interest in supporting on-ground community-based control initiatives through the Foundation. \$80,000 was subsequently provided to Kimberley Toadbusters.
14. Established an 'Application for support' process which gives groups access to STTF finances and resources to help them contribute to toad control.
15. Developed draft 'Rapid Response Strategy' and 'Fencing Strategy' discussion papers - currently being circulated amongst key stakeholders.

Current objectives and activities

The Foundation:

1. Is refining its core strategies and operational plans for effective on-ground toad control measures.
2. Is establishing its own on-ground operations to supplement existing activity by CALM and KTB.
3. Is conducting and financing research into new methods of cane toad control and elimination.
4. Is preparing to evaluate control measures that will reduce impacts if cane toads breach the WA border.
5. Is encouraging and supporting other groups by establishing a pool of resources (traps, satellite phones, EPIRB's etc).
6. Is making application to Lotterywest and Envirofund for support.
7. Is developing a thorough and detailed risk management plan to ensure all participants are safe and adequately protected in the field.
8. Is in dialogue with many groups including the Northern Land Council's Caring-For-Country Unit, to encourage their active participation.
9. Is raising funds to support our operations - with a current target of \$1M in 2006. It has initiated a 1000x\$1000 corporate campaign which has already seen substantial cash and in-kind support.
10. Has applied to join the Register of Environmental Organisations so that it may offer tax deductibility to donors.

For further information, please contact Dennis Beros 0409 244 029

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