

NATIONAL FERAL PIG ACTION PLAN

Stakeholder survey

December 2020

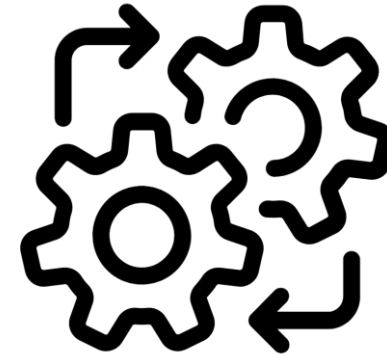


Stakeholder survey



Purpose

- To seek stakeholder input into the National Feral Pig Action Plan's development
- To obtain data on key impacts, control methods used, effectiveness and costs for land managers
- To ensure The Plan engages all stakeholders - land managers, community groups, industry, researchers and governments

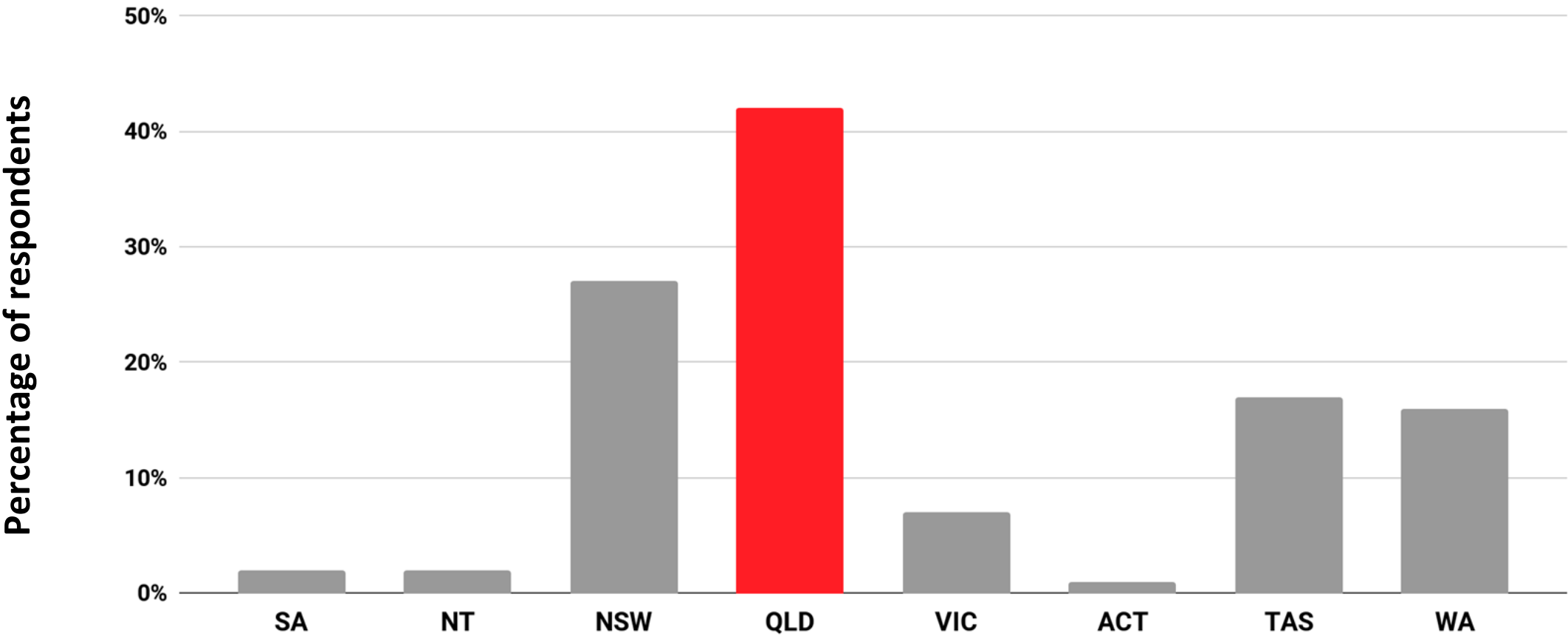


Process

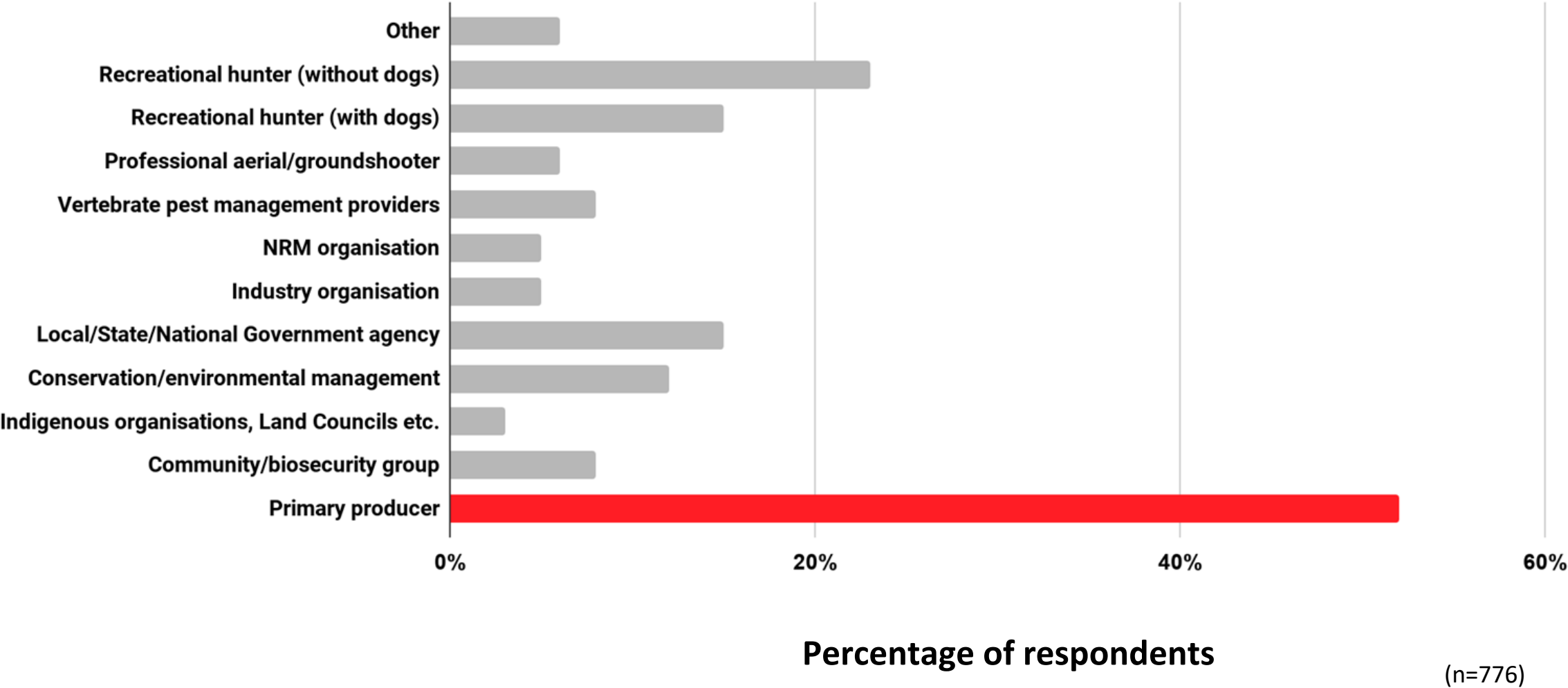
- Conducted via SurveyMonkey
- 28 quantitative and qualitative questions
- Link shared with all stakeholders on the NFPAP distribution list (on August 25, 2020)
- Link also circulated through NFPAP social media and stakeholder networks

Please note for all figures the total number of respondents are included as it differs for each question.

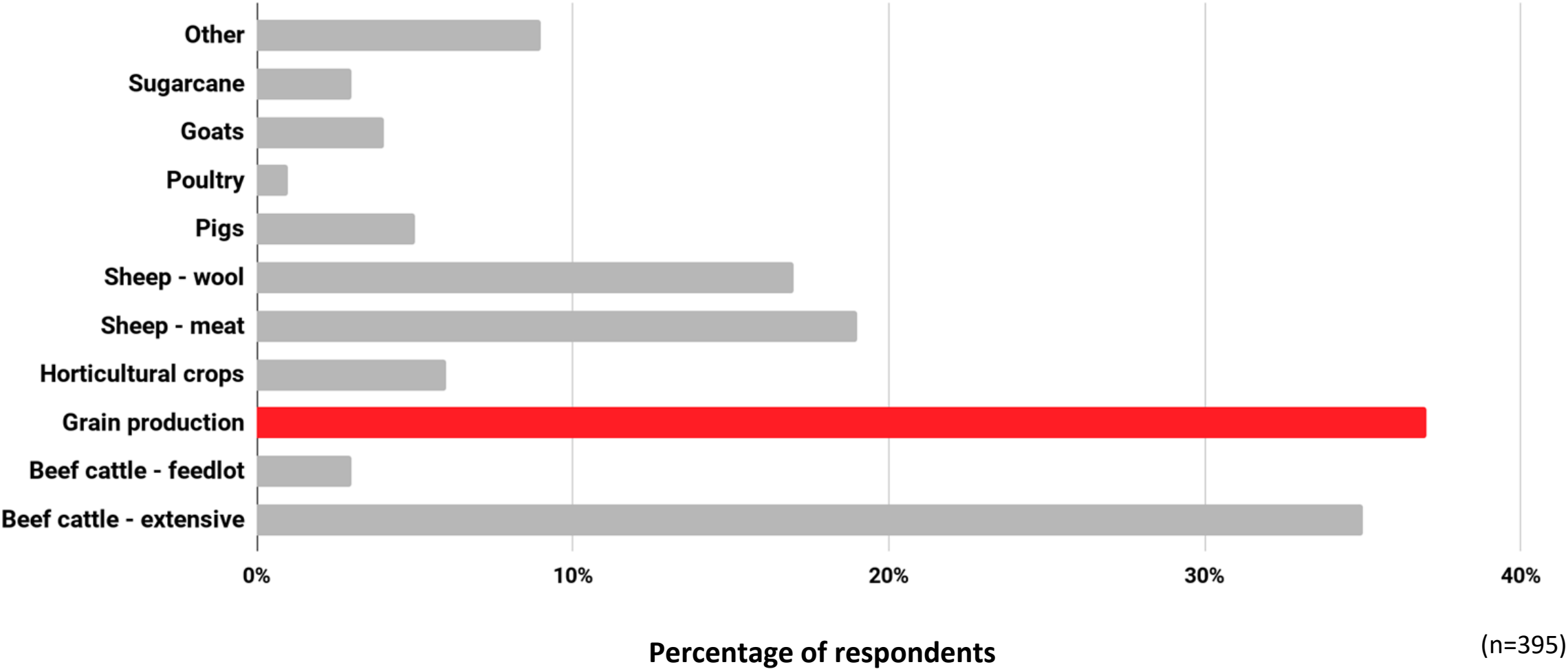
State and territory location of respondents



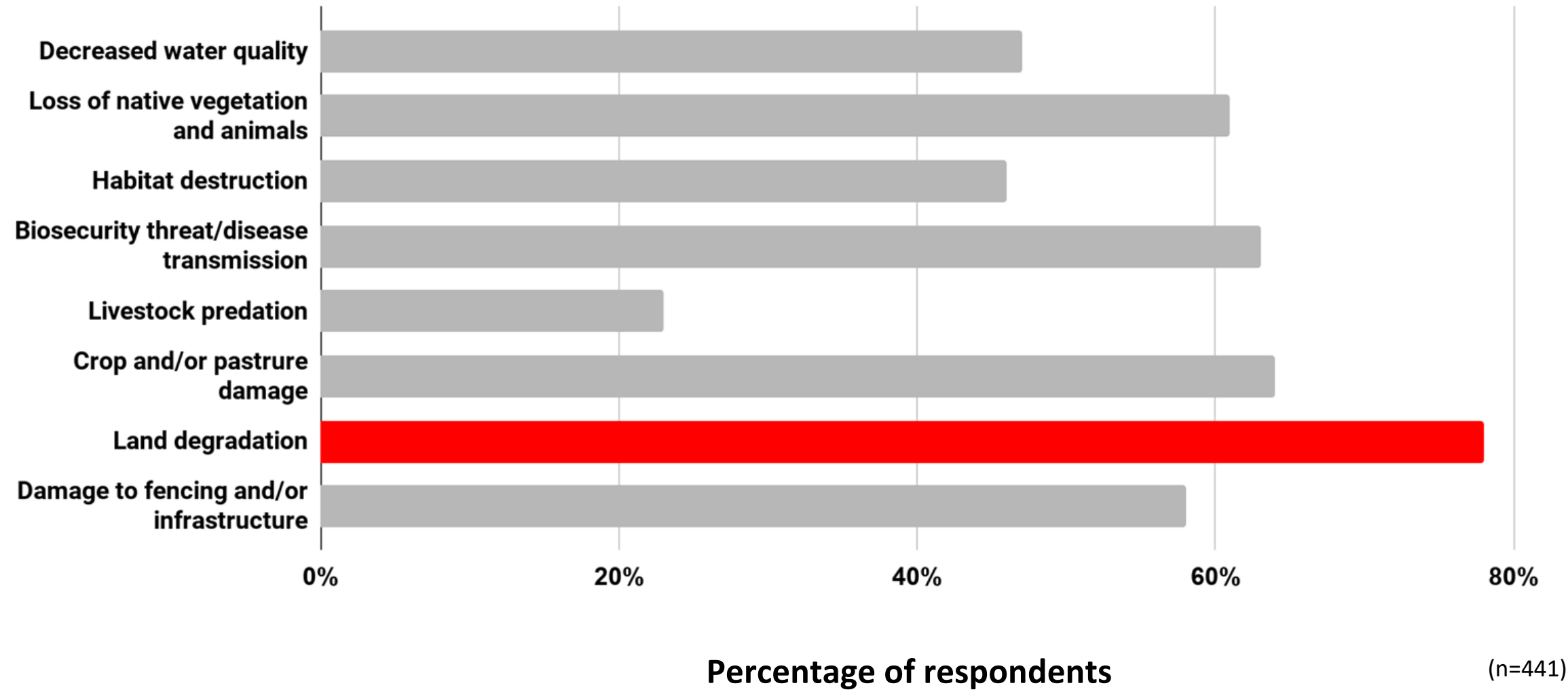
Who responded to our survey?



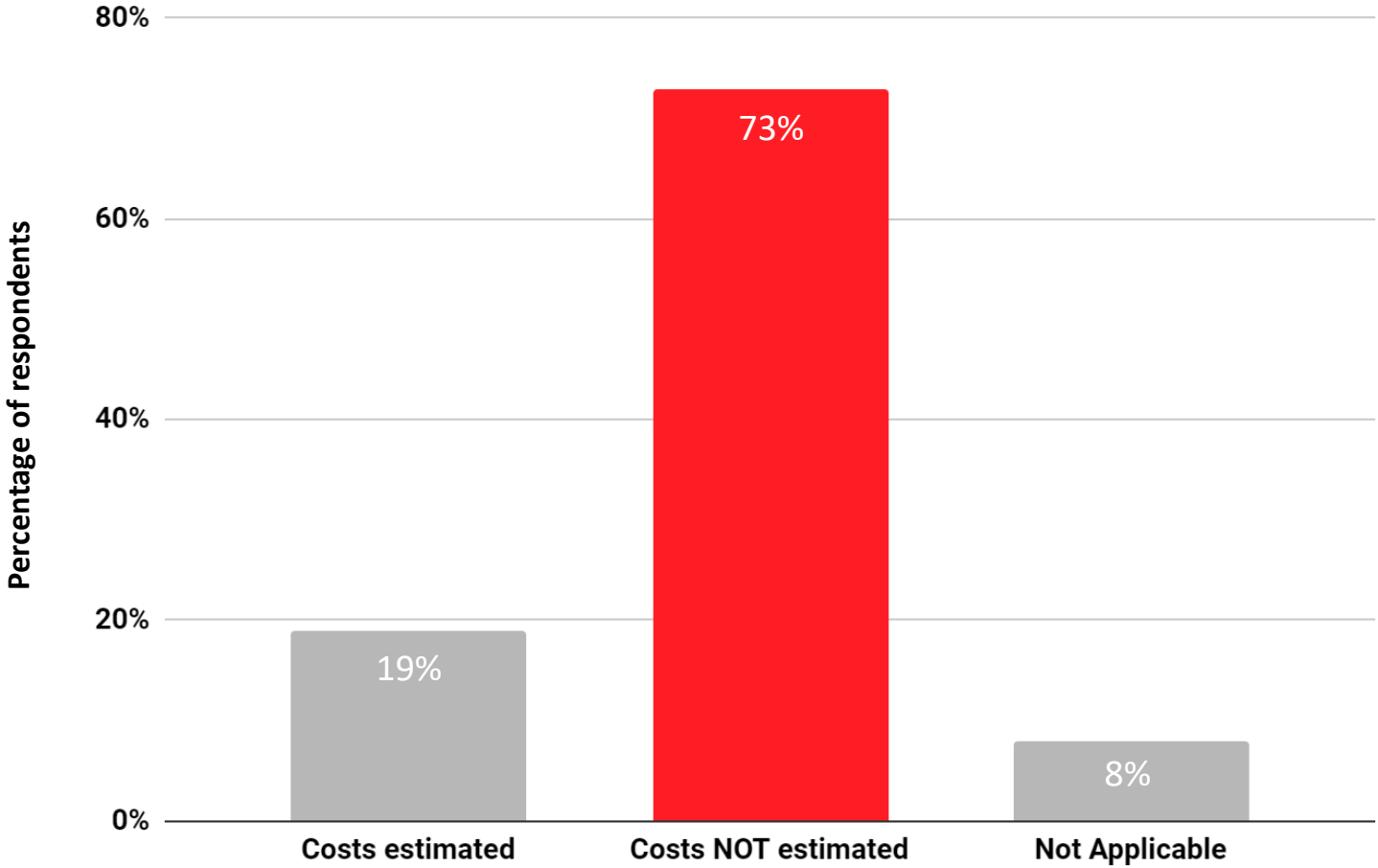
Enterprises affected by feral pigs



Impacts reported from feral pigs



Costs from feral pigs per annum were not estimated by the majority of land managers



19%

of respondents
estimated costs
per annum from the
activity of feral pigs

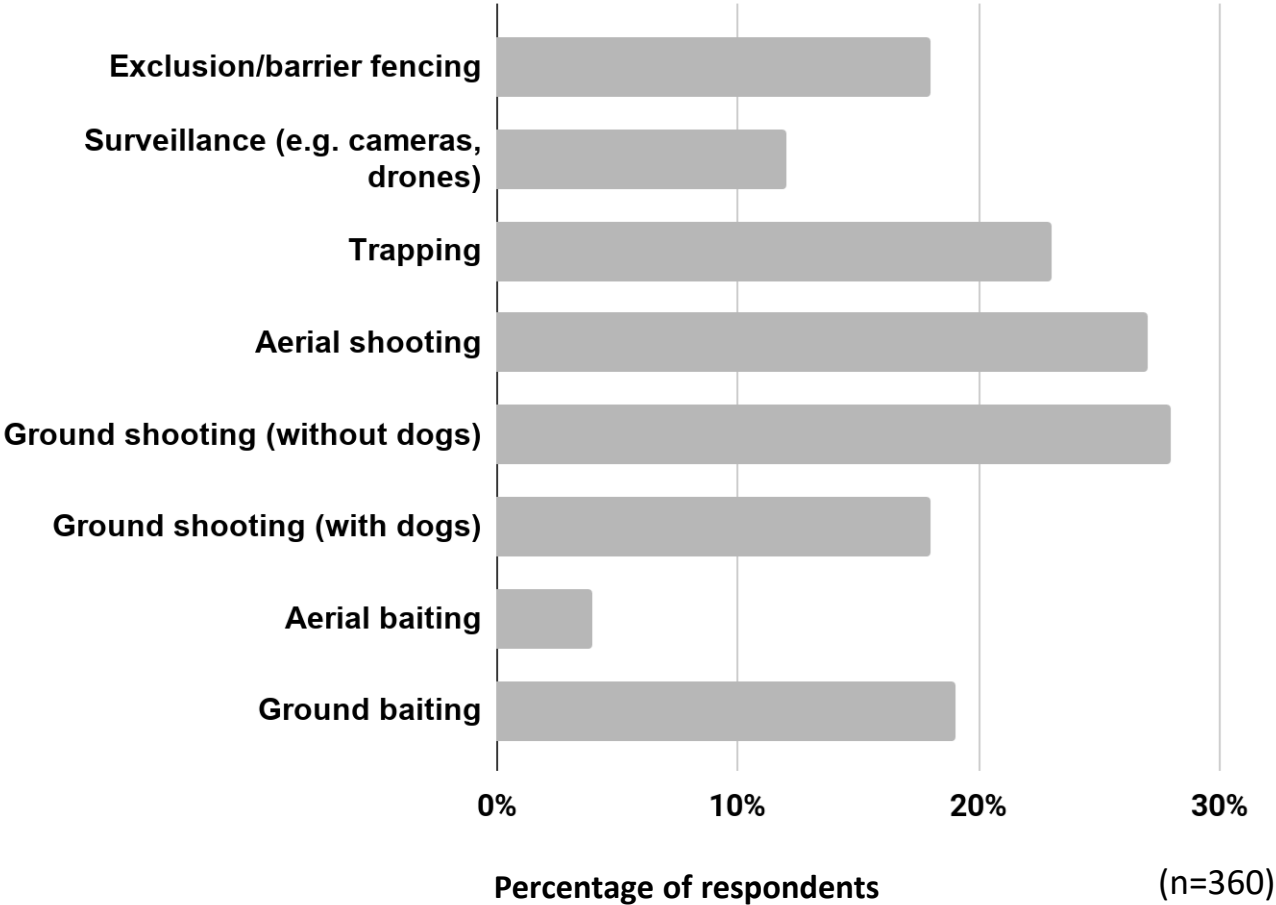
NATIONAL FERAL PIG ACTION PLAN

Estimated costs of feral pig control as stated by primary producers, grouped according to enterprises present (n=61)

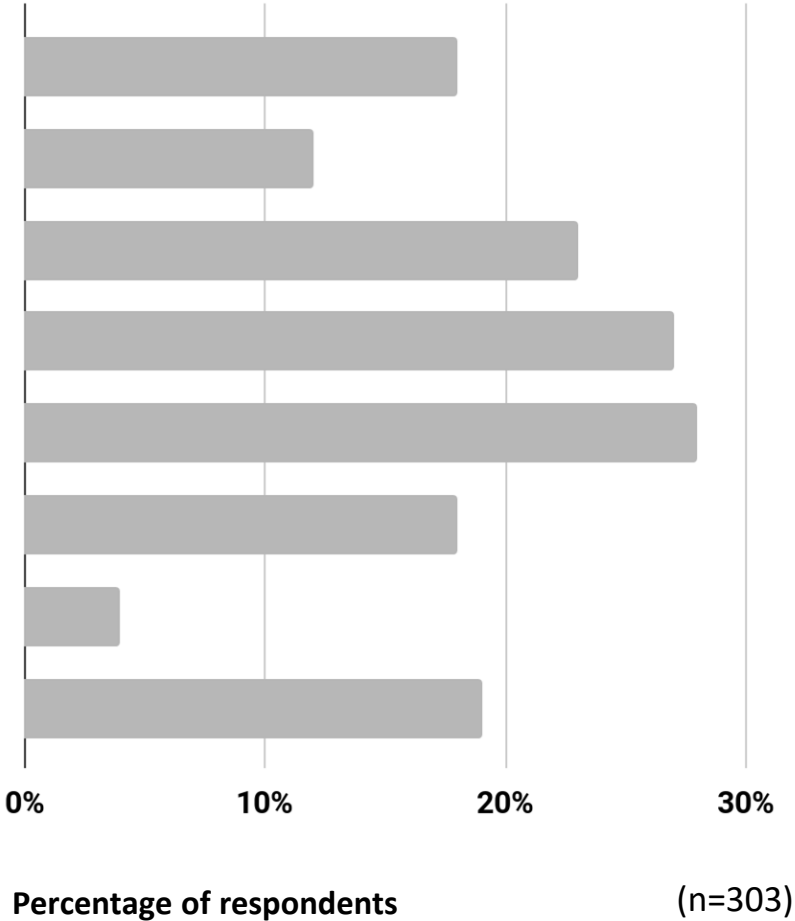
Production type	\$0-5,000	\$5,001-10,000	\$10,001-\$20,000	\$20,001-30,000	\$30,001-50,000	\$100,001-150,000	\$200,001-500,000	TOTAL	29% of primary producers, across different enterprises, estimated an average cost from feral pigs per annum to be between \$10,001 - \$20,000
Beef	2		1	2	1			6	
Grain production	2	3	4	3	5			17	
Horticulture		2	3		1			6	
Pigs							1*	1	
Sheep	1	1	3	1				6	
Sugarcane		1			1	1		3	
Beef, Grain			1	1		1		3	Estimated costs include: exclusion fencing* (and maintenance), aerial shooting, trapping, baiting, crop and pasture damage, stock losses, labour and other infrastructure
Beef, Sheep	1							1	
Cotton, Grain		1	2					3	
Sheep & Grain production	1	1		4	1			7	
Beef, Cotton, Grain		1						1	
Beef, Sheep production	1		1					2	
Horticulture, Sugarcane, Bananas			1					1	
TOTAL (no. of producers)	8	10	17	11	9	2	1	61	

Key integrated control strategies implemented

First choice



Second Choice



Ranking question - respondents asked to rank methods used in order from 1-8

Other approaches stated by land managers to managing feral pigs

1. Integrated programs with neighbours / facilitated management groups
2. Stimulate interest and action by other landholders
3. Allow ground shooters to access property with/without dogs
4. Use of different crop rotations
5. Removing water supply eg. turning off troughs
6. Use of technologies (eg. drones, GPS collars and tracking, remotely operated traps)
7. Education programs on best practice management techniques

(n=73)



Ideas provided by land managers to improve the effectiveness of control methods

26%*

Regionally focussed action

- Participation, coordination (including agreements between landholders to gain access to land for coordinated activities)

20%

Increased availability of cost-effective humane control tools

- eg. traps, baiting, aerial shooting

16%

Increased funding and resourcing

- e.g. from local, state or federal governments)

10%

Technology

- Surveillance, movement and monitoring (thermal imaging sensors, cameras)

5%

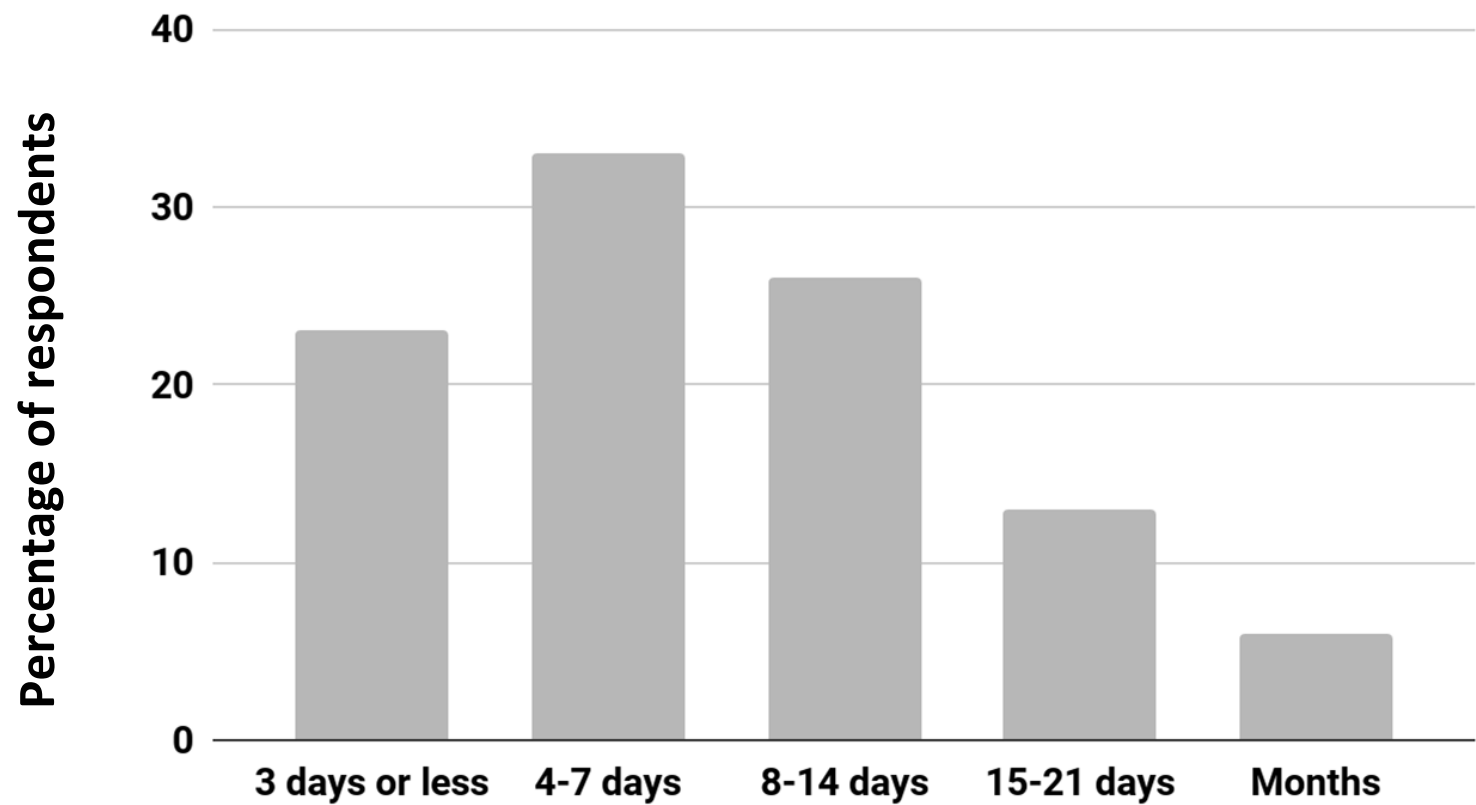
Increased focus of pig control on private land

4%

Continuity and frequency of control efforts

(n=297)

Duration of free feeding used by land managers (across all feed types)



Free feeding period may take up to 2 weeks or more and must be a minimum of 3 nights
(<https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/poisoning-of-feral-pigs-with-sodium-fluroacetate-1080/>)

(n=88)



Key feed types used

- Grain (63%*)
 - Wheat
 - Barley
 - Corn
 - Oats
 - Sorghum
- Stockfeed (10%)- including molasses, pig feed, protein based licks
- Legumes (5%) - including chickpeas and peanuts
- Fruit (4%) - including bananas and apples

Free text question - responses were reviewed and categorised into key themes;

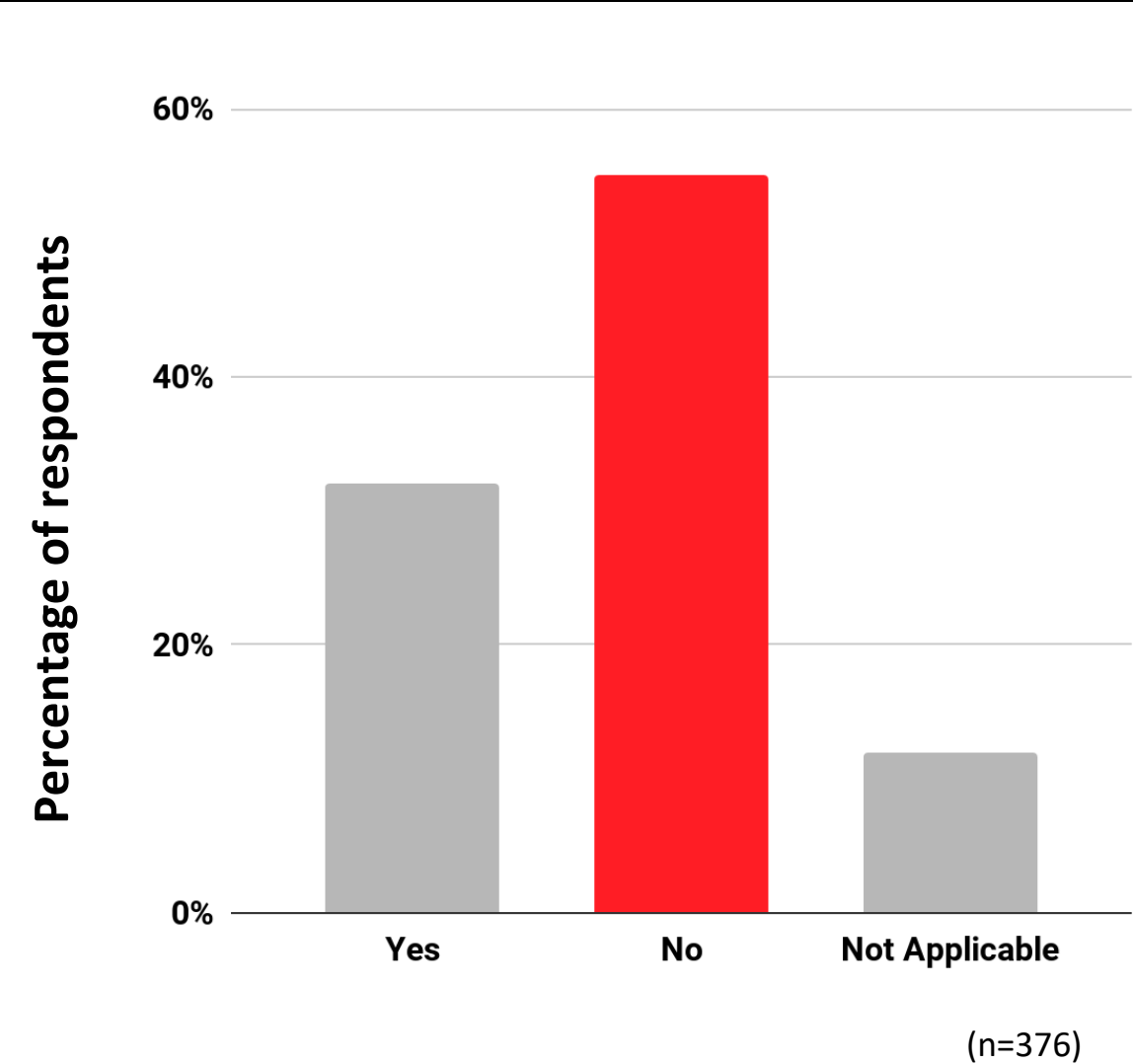
*refers to percentage of respondents

Issues stated by land managers that affect the success of control activities

1. Wariness of pigs to control methods – shooting/trap/bait shy (24%*)
2. Pigs not attracted to free feeding for baiting / trapping (15%)
3. Dispersal - cannot dispatch whole groups, large area needing to be covered (13%)
4. Intensive management, time and labour required (7%)
5. Consistency / frequency of control methods being used (5%)
6. Lack of coordination between land managers (3%)



Management changes are required on-farm due to feral pigs



Management changes made in response to feral pig activity (n=144):	
19%*	Increased activity, time and labour
17%	Constructed exclusion fencing
15%	Can't grow certain crop types / varieties
9%	Increase surveillance and monitoring
8%	Focused farm management (ie stock/crop rotations, checking of stock, lambing timing, repairs and maintenance)
7%	Change in paddocks used e.g. for highly improved pastures, lambing, calving

Free text question - responses were reviewed and categorised into key themes; *refers to percentage of respondents

Training programs or others resources required by land managers to better support control programs



Free text question - responses were reviewed and categorised into key themes; *refers to percentage of respondents

Suggestions from land managers to improve effectiveness of feral pig control programs

57%*

Increased funding and resources available

24%

Surveillance and information regarding tracking

23%

Use of new technology, new methods, R&D outcomes

17%

Land manager recruitment into coordinated groups

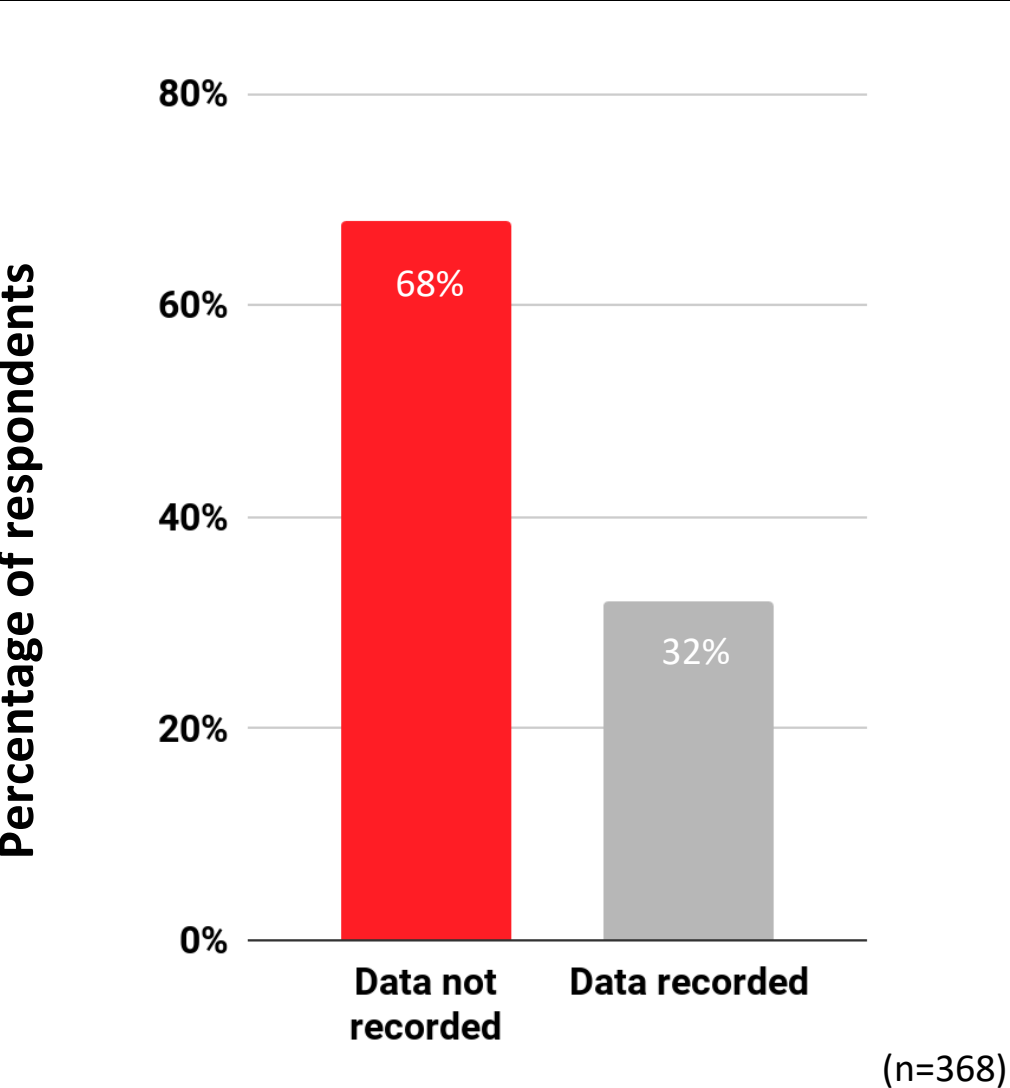
10%

Data and need for a standardised system

9%

Local collaboration between private and public land managers

Data collection by land managers on feral pigs



Data type collected/recorded (n=108):	
56%*	No. pigs dispatched – kept by land manager
30%	No. pigs seen – kept by land manager
30%	Location (GPS, photo monitoring points, area covered by aerial shooting)
18%	No. pigs seen/killed – sent to an agency
13%	Environmental damage, impacts to key assets
10%	Condition, gender, age, size
8%	Crop damage/livestock losses

Free text question - responses were reviewed and categorised into key themes;
*refers to percentage of respondents

“What does the new National Feral Pig Action Plan need to address in your view?” - responses from land managers

21%*

Coordination, engagement and collaborative action (from all stakeholders)

19%

Funding, including from governments

10%

Legislative changes - enforcement to ensure compliance

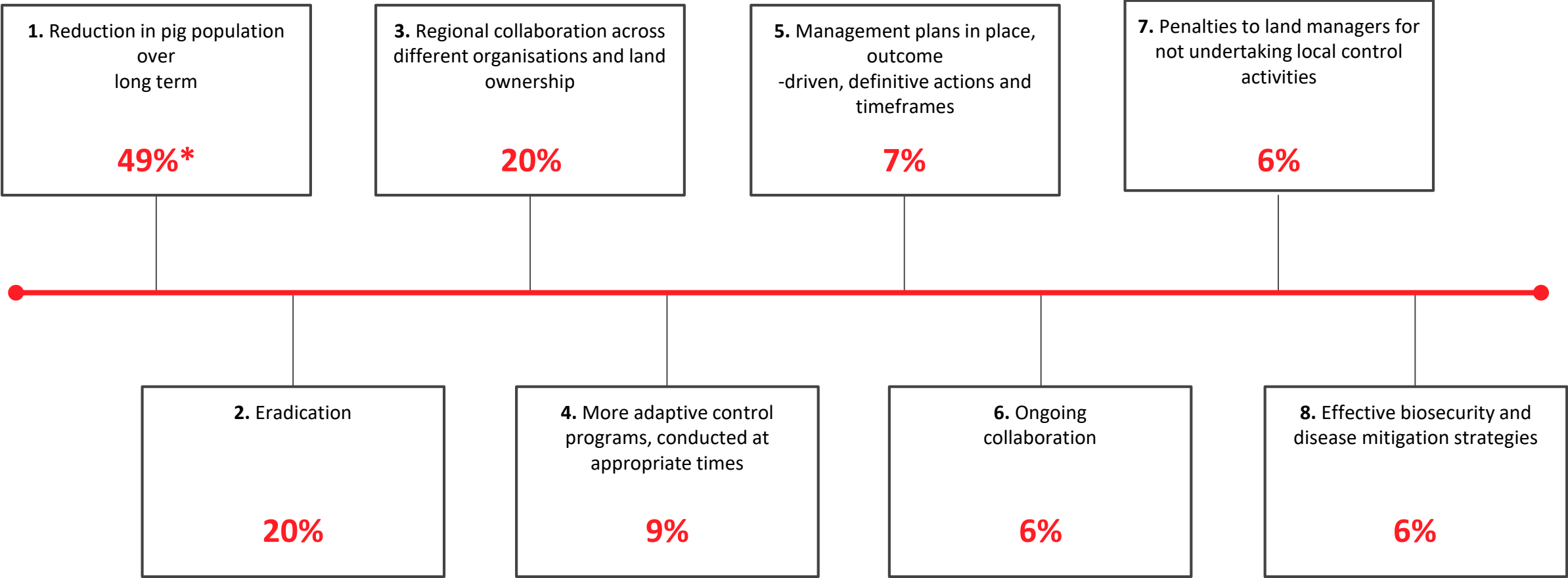
10%

Population reduction and/or elimination over a large area

10%

Increase control activities

What success looks like – key outcomes that land managers would like to see delivered



Free text question - responses were reviewed and categorised into key themes; *refers to percentage of respondents

What the National Feral Pig Action Plan needs to deliver – other stakeholders* view

1.

Coordination

Full participation of all land managers, area wide reduction (17%*)

2.

Ongoing funding

Support land managers on the ground (16%)

3.

Integrated best practice management

Effective, consistently and strategically applied, supported by use of technology (14%)

4.

Bring together...

Governments, industry and community groups to work together in reducing the risks and impacts of feral pigs (12%)

5.

National plan to outline clear measures of success (11%)

Considerations to motivate landholders to work together - other stakeholders* feedback

Knowledge of impacts/damage/costs from feral pigs	39%*
Informed collaborative approach with a common purpose	24%
Funding and/or support on the ground – including from government, regional facilitators/coordinators	19%
Action and successful results in control efforts by public and private land managers	14%
Education and training, events held to demonstrate what can be adopted to help control pigs underpinned by local knowledge and information, case studies	9%

*Other stakeholders = non-land managers
Free text question - responses were reviewed and categorised into key themes; *refers to percentage of respondents

Information or data required by land managers to improve management approaches - other stakeholders* feedback

Location and movement ‘heat-map’ surveillance information (including use of new technologies for - tags, collars, drones, cameras)	22%*
Training and resources on integrated humane best practice management by land managers to reduce (or eradicate where possible) populations	21%
Economic impacts and costs resulting from feral pig activity	17%
Resources and information on feral pig population dynamics, behaviour, abundance, reproduction, and ecology to inform adaptive management practices	15%
Standardised methods and processes to collect, collate and analyse local data for monitoring and mapping of feral pigs populations, impacts and costs	13%

“Collective effort and sharing the success of programs through enhanced communication and availability of resources (personnel and funds) [will help improve management approaches across the industry.”

Survey respondent #199

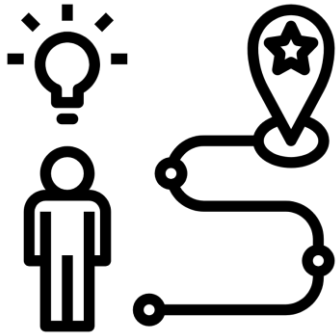
*Other stakeholders = non-land managers
Free text question - responses were reviewed and categorised into key themes; *refers to percentage of respondents

Key responses from other stakeholders* on how to obtain support from the general public on humane control methods for feral pigs

Provide information on Impacts, damage, risks and costs from feral pigs (environmental, agricultural, cultural, social)	36%*
Education, information, knowledge, school education to children	23%
Positive communication, clear and consistent messaging, advertising	23%
Communicate issues with hunting practices, translocation issues	17%
Biosecurity and disease transmission risks – to humans, livestock, plants, wildlife	13%

*Other stakeholders = non-land managers
Free text question - responses were reviewed and categorised into key themes; *refers to percentage of respondents

Moving forward with all stakeholders



Land manager engagement

Coordination, ongoing funding and strategic implementation of effective integrated best practice management



Information required

Control strategies to be informed by data and the application of integrated best practice management



Building community support

Clear and consistent communication to the public about the varied impacts caused by feral pigs and the human application of management methods

Get in contact



To find out more and to subscribe to our newsletter, go to our website:

<http://feralpigs.com.au/>



Get in touch and send us feedback about feral pig management in your area or send us your suggestions to the Action Plan:

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