



NATIONAL FERAL PIG ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (NFPAPIC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

The Commonwealth, state and territory governments, together with the agricultural sector and environmental bodies, are committed to reducing the impacts of feral pigs in Australia through co-ordinated and strategic landscape-scale actions on a nil tenure basis.

Feral pigs are an established vertebrate pest in Australia and are a major threat to Australian agriculture as a potential carrier of animal diseases such as African swine fever and foot and mouth, a vector for Panama disease Tropical Race 4 in bananas, and through predation of lambs and calves and destruction of land, pastures and crops. Furthermore, feral pigs are responsible for significant losses in biodiversity, environmental and habitat degradation, spreading of weeds and diseases, compete for feed and contamination of water sources.

The ongoing management of established pests, including feral pigs, in Australia is a shared responsibility of all land managers, including local, state and territory governments and private landholders. At the local level, regional natural resource management (NRM) groups and local councils, as well as funding from non-government organisations, support land manager actions to address environmental and/or agricultural productivity issues caused by feral pig activity.

National co-ordination of feral pig management and control activities is required to support and demonstrate the need for longer term action and investment by industry and government to reduce the threats that feral pigs pose. The National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) has been developed to provide a national framework for state, regional and local strategic management plans to support the coordination of feral pig control and their management. The model developed and implemented by the National Wild Dog Action Plan has been utilised and adapted for feral pigs.

The Plan will operate over 10 years, with a progress review to be independently conducted in year five and be supported by Annual Operating Plans. Recommendations from the five-year review, in relation to the Plan's governance and delivery performance, will be incorporated into a revised Plan as necessary.

Governance will be managed through the NFPAP Implementation Committee (NFPAPIC), whose membership will be drawn from the extensive, and diverse, stakeholder base including key government, conservation/environmental management, agricultural sector, Indigenous communities/organisations, and research and development (R&D) representatives, with a proposed number of 10 to manage its effectiveness (Figure 1). An independent chair will be appointed to ensure balanced engagement of all stakeholders and oversee efficient execution of the Plan.

The NFPAPIC will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Plan, key deliverables and milestones. It will also endorse Annual Operating Plans (AOP) by June 30 each year and monitor the delivery of its actions, milestones and achievements. The Terms of Reference for the NFPAPIC will be reviewed annually. Committee members will be appointed against agreed key skills, capability and experience criteria.

The Implementation Committee will commence in April 2021 to:

- drive the implementation of the NFPAP;
- advocate the Plan's purpose and vision to stakeholders;
- set strategic direction and priorities;
- identify and attract long term investment and collaboration from public, private and not-for-profit entities to support best practice feral pig management programs.

It will also ensure the timely development, review and endorsement of Annual Operating Plans (AOP) by June 30 each year, monitoring the delivery of its actions, milestones and achievements.

A Scientific Advisory Panel will be established and will regularly report to the NFPAPIC, with its appointed Chair to be one of the R&D representatives on the Implementation Committee.

Both the National Feral Pig Management Coordinator and the Program Support Officer, managed by Australian Pork Limited, will report to the NFPAPIC on a regular basis.

Agreement and acceptance of the Plan across jurisdictions and by a wide range of environmental, agricultural, and Indigenous land managers is essential. The NFPAPIC will establish a stakeholder consultative process to support the Plan's implementation at the local, state/territory, and national level. Stakeholder activities will be undertaken to provide updates on the Plan's activities, milestones and issues.

ROLE OF THE NFPAPIC

The NFPAPIC will:

1. Provide leadership, oversight and direction to the implementation of the NFPAP;
2. Ensure the timely development of, review and endorsement of the Annual Operating Plan, with agreed key performance indicators and milestones in place, to support the NFPAP's execution;
3. Monitor the implementation of the NFPAP, delivery of the Plan's milestones, key deliverables, and achievements with reference to the Annual Operating Plan;
4. Promote and communicate the mission, vision, objectives and actions of the NFPAP to relevant key stakeholders;
5. Advocate the need for ongoing investment and long term commitment into feral pig management programs to existing and new investment partners;
6. Provide recommendations to attract new investors to support delivery of the NFPAP
7. Provide feedback for use in strategy development;
8. Oversee independent reviews of the NFPAP, including approval of the review scope, examine review findings and monitor the implementation of agreed recommendations;
9. Oversee alignment of the National Feral Pig Action Plan's deliverables with the Australian Pest Animal Strategy, Threat Abatement Plan, Threatened Species Plan and regional, state and territory feral pig strategies.

The role of each individual member includes:

- a) To be genuinely interested in the initiative and the outcomes being pursued;
- b) To be an advocate for the NFPAP's outcomes and communicate key messages;
- c) To be committed to, and actively involved in, pursuing the implementation of the NFPAP
- d) To constructively consider ideas and issues raised;
- e) To ensure the requirements of stakeholders are met by the program's outputs;
- f) To help balance conflicting priorities and resources; and
- g) To review the progress of the NFPAP's implementation.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this Implementation Committee will be drawn from major government and industry stakeholders (Figure 1). Membership recruitment may involve calls for expressions of interest against selection criteria. Membership will be comprised of:

- Independent Chair
- Two state and territory government representatives (to be nominated by the Environment and Invasives Committee)

- One representative of Conservation/Environmental Management
- Three land manager representatives (State Farming Organisations, Peak Industry Bodies)
- One Indigenous Organisation representative
- Two representatives from R&D Organisations (including the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Panel)
- National Feral Pig Management Co-ordinator (NFPMC) – responsible for program management and co-ordination
- National Feral Pig Program Support Officer – responsible for providing administrative support

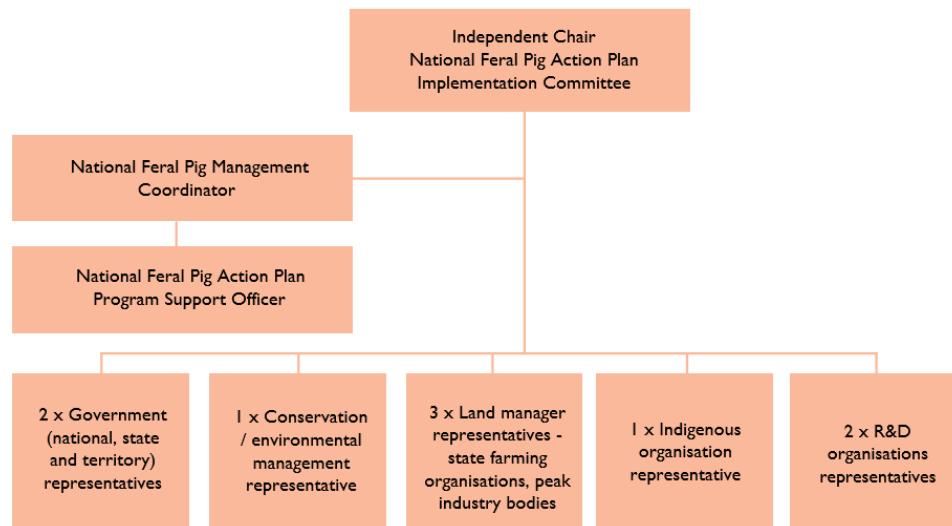


Figure 1: Diagrammatical representation of NFPAPIC structure

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL

The Scientific Advisory Panel will be established to identify gaps and priorities in research, development and extension (RD&E) required to support the implementation of the NFPAP, develop the RD&E strategy and provide regular updates of key activities, outcomes and new RD&E opportunities to the NFPAPIC.

TERM OF APPOINTMENT

The tenure of membership to this Implementation Committee will be for a two (2) year period.

In the event of the resignation by a committee member, the Chair will seek a nomination from the representative stakeholder organisation. If a member does not fulfil their individual responsibilities in accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Chair will have the discretion to seek a replacement from the relevant stakeholder organisation/s.

CHAIR NOMINATION AND TERMS

The Chair will be independently appointed by Australian Pork Limited, for the initial two year term of this Implementation Committee and shall convene meetings. The Chair will guide discussions to set strategic direction and priorities and attract investment to support the NFPAP's implementation. The Chair will lead the implementation of the NFPAP and ensure that the process involves engagement with the wider stakeholder base

If the designated Chair is not available, then an Acting Chair will be nominated by the Committee and will be responsible for convening and conducting that meeting. The Acting Chair is responsible for informing the Chair as to the salient points/decisions raised or agreed to at that meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS, MEETING PAPERS AND MINUTES

All agenda items must be forwarded to the NFPMC by eight working days prior to the next scheduled meeting. The agenda, with attached meeting papers will be distributed at least five working days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

The Chair has the right to refuse to list an item on the formal agenda, but members may raise an item under 'Other Business' if necessary and as time permits.

All decisions made by the NFPAPIC will be agreed by consensus of its members.

The minutes of each meeting will be prepared by the National Feral Pig Management Co-ordinator.

Full copies of the Minutes, including attachments, shall be provided to all members no later than ten working days following each meeting.

By agreement of the NFPAPIC, out-of-session decisions will be deemed acceptable. Where agreed, all out-of-session decisions shall be recorded in the minutes of the next scheduled meeting.

MEETINGS

The NFPAPIC will meet at least quarterly and, depending on available resources, meetings will be held face to face or via teleconference. Out of session items may need to be circulated and responded to electronically, via email, where required. All scheduled meetings should be attended by Members or their nominated proxy.

PROXY

NFPAPIC members may nominate one designated proxy, should they be unable to participate.

OBSERVERS

Observers can be invited at the discretion of the NFPAPIC and approved by the Chair. Observers must fund their own attendance.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Members are accountable to the NFPAPIC Chair when involved in tasks assigned by the NFPAPIC.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members will bring to the attention of the Chair if they have any conflict of interest or potential conflict they may have with any item on the Committee's agenda. Such conflicts (or reasonable perceptions of conflicts) should be declared at the time and where there is real or perceived pecuniary interest, the Chair shall determine the appropriate course of action. Members will excuse themselves from discussions where they have a current or potential conflict of interest.

Any breach of confidentiality will fall under unacceptable norms of business behaviour and may result in removal from the NFPAPIC.

REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

In principle, all NFPAPIC members should provide their own costs to attend.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The NFPAPIC will be supported by the National Feral Pig Management Co-ordinator and the National Feral Pig Action Plan Program Support Officer, and others as appropriate.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The NFPAPIC will be evaluated in line with the AOP of the National Feral Pig Action Plan. This review should include an evaluation of the NFPAPIC's purpose, scope and functions.