

**NATIONAL  
FERAL PIG  
ACTION PLAN**

**NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM**

MONDAY 5 JULY 2021







NATIONAL FERAL PIG ACTION PLAN

## **Protecting cultural assets from feral pigs in the Budj Bim Cultural Heritage Landscape, Victoria**

Ben Church, Budj Bim Rangers



# Protecting World Heritage Budj Bim Cultural Landscape from feral pigs

Ben Church Team Leader - Budj Bim Rangers -

On behalf of Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and  
Winda-Marra Aboriginal Corporation



# Budj Bim Cultural Landscape

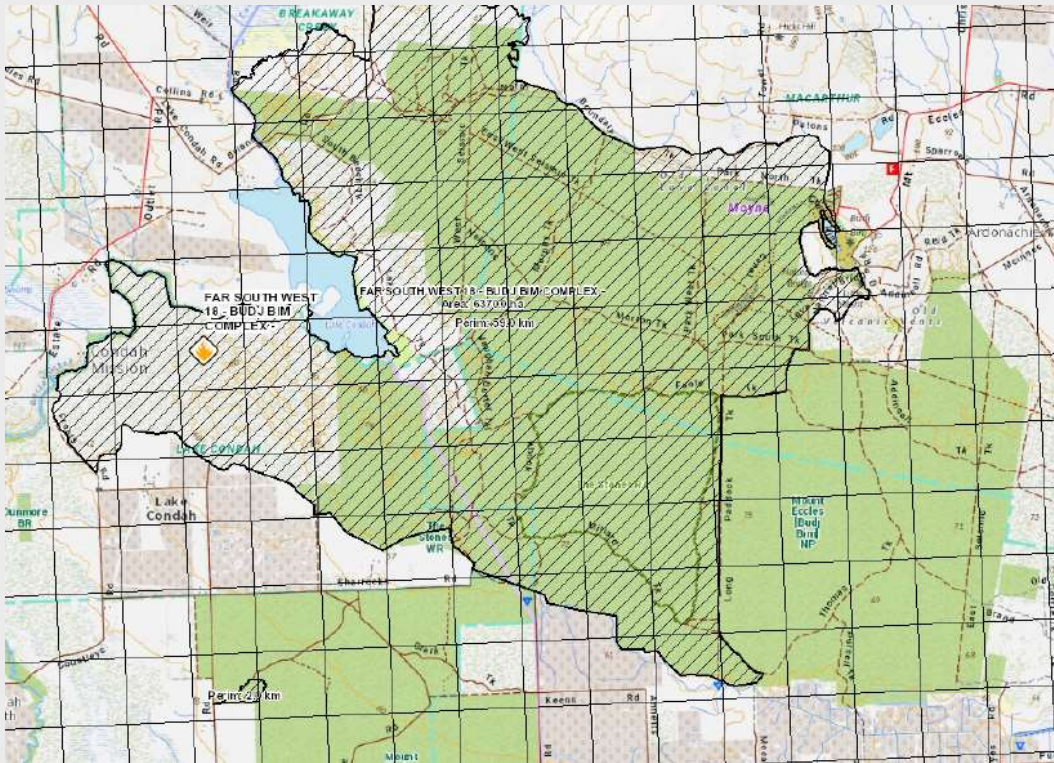
Photo: Tae Rak (Lake Condah)



Photo credit: Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

Unofficial

# Fire affected area



- ▶ Budj Bim 19/20 fire footprint
- ▶ 68% of the cultural heritage landscape was burnt
- ▶ Research shows that after a fire, predation and over grazing by feral animals affect the recovery of native fauna and flora species

Unofficial



# The Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning bushfire funding



► The Budj Bim Integrated Pest Control Program is supported by funding from the State Governments Bushfire Biodiversity Response and Recovery

► The aim of the project is to minimise the threats to the landscape that have been put at risk from the impacts of the 2019-2020 Budj Bim bushfires

► The program is only funded until 30 June 2022

# Project Objectives



- ▶ To protect cultural values, water courses and wetlands from grazing, trampling, wallowing and rooting from feral species
- ▶ Partner with adjacent land holders
- ▶ Assist with regenerating Manna Gum woodlands
- ▶ Provide equipment and capacity build skill

# Budj Bim Rangers



Unofficial



# Technology



Cameras

Remote trap activation  
Jager traps

Bait - HOGGONE

Judas pig -Satellite  
tracking

Aerial Shooting



## What this project has achieved so far...

- ▶ Through ground shooting:
  - ▶ 19 x foxes
  - ▶ 132 x Fallow deer
- ▶ Through pig trapping/HOGGONE
  - ▶ 62 x pigs
- ▶ Through aerial shooting
  - ▶ 1009 x Fallow deer
  - ▶ 2 x Red deer
  - ▶ 38 x pigs
  - ▶ 10 x foxes
- ▶ Judas pig collar satellite collaring
- ▶ Collected biopsy samples for DNA analysis



# Some challenges we face with feral pig management



- ▶ On going funding
- ▶ Poaching illegal hunting - releasing pigs
- ▶ Capacity of rangers - labor intensive work
- ▶ By-in from adjacent landholders
- ▶ Community education

Unofficial

# Looking forward 2021/2022...

- ▶ Undertake monitoring of Manna Gums
- ▶ Continue with ground shooting of deer and foxes
- ▶ Undertake 1-week aerial shooting
- ▶ Use the Judas pig data to target pig trapping and baiting
- ▶ Meet with key stakeholders to try and expand the program - plantations and land holders
- ▶ Produce communications to educate the community on the damage that deer, foxes and pig cause to cultural heritage, agriculture and biodiversity