NAILSMA launches the HealthyCountryAI partnership

With a focus on digital inclusion, the Healthy Country AI partnership will see Indigenous rangers, tech companies and national research organisations working together to co-design a digital skills training program that will deliver environmental, cultural, and economic benefits for local Indigenous communities and land management.

Five Indigenous organisations will help develop this program working across Cape York and the Northern Territory managing over 3 million hectares of globally important ecosystems and cultural landscapes.

Mr Archer says, "*we can now work directly with these 5 Indigenous organisations and prioritise what the values are for their country. For example, in Cape York, we know that feral pigs are threatening the sea turtle population by eating their eggs. The rangers there will now be able to better monitor and track activity in the area to help manage the problem.*"
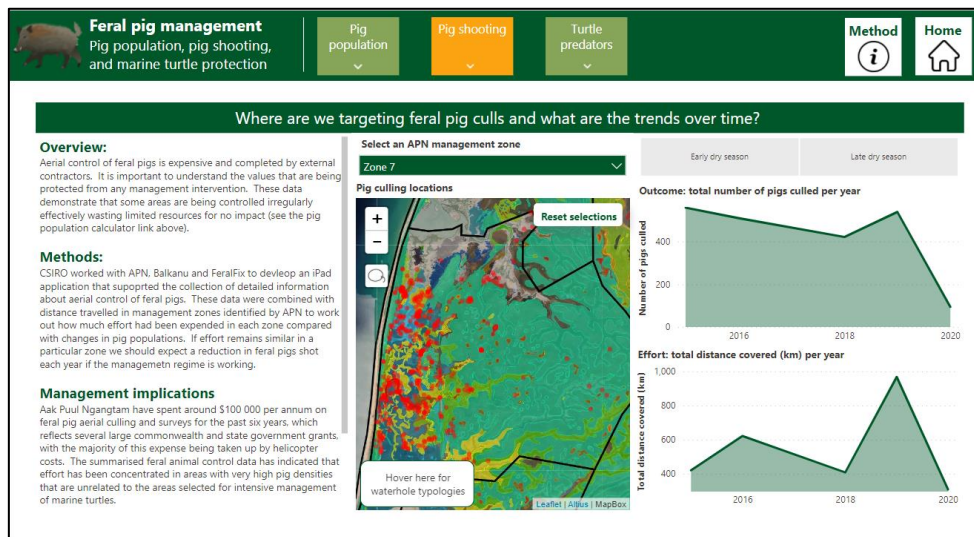
This initiative is particularly relevant to the National Feral Pig Management Strategy as one of the key objectives is to be able to adaptively manage threats to important values. For the past six years CSIRO, NAILSMA, APN and Kalan Enterprises have been working together to develop new tools for measuring the impact of feral pigs on important environmental and cultural values. This initiative is continuing to support these organisations to skill up for the next generation of digital tools.

"*Kalan Enterprises has committed to embedding new approaches to monitoring and reporting into our day-to-day operations over the next seven years as part of our Australian Government Funded-Indigenous Rangers extension*" said Dion Creek, Operations Director, Kalan Enterprises. "*This training program is important to ensure that our people are doing all elements of this work from land management activities to managing data and reporting*".

This initiative will provide the foundational work required to establish robust scalable adaptive management and monitoring systems in remote northern Australia. The power of the program is that it is being built with and led by Indigenous organisations so the digital tools will be developed within the context of operational constraints and local values. The new initiative will include the development of monitoring methods and interactive dashboards that will summarise the data collected using automated analysis.

For more information, please get in touch with Ricky Archer or Justin Perry at NAILSMA.

An example of an interactive digital dashboard that was built as part of a recently completed NESP Northern Australia Hub project and summarises feral pig culling over time for different management zones.