

**NATIONAL  
FERAL PIG  
ACTION PLAN**

# What's the Beef with Feral Pigs?

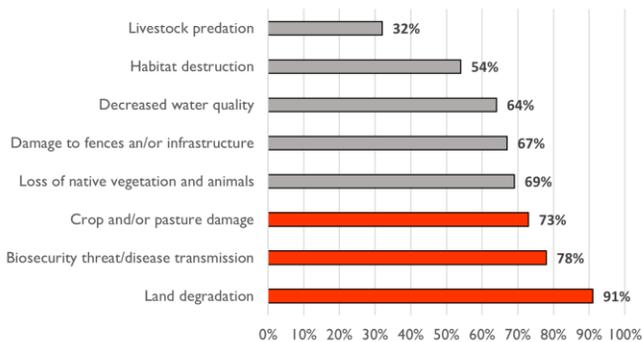


## Financial Cost to beef producers

- Impacts are difficult to quantify and are often unseen
- Specialised beef producers spent \$17.6 million in 2019/20 to control feral pigs (ABARES National Established Pests and Weeds survey; preliminary model)
- 41% of primary producers impacted by feral pigs were beef producers (from National Feral Pig Action Plan Stakeholder Survey, 2020; n=395)
- Estimated annual losses to beef producers in Whitsunday Regional Council region alone between \$1.7 - \$4.2 million<sup>#</sup>

<sup>#</sup>Synergies Economic Consulting (2019)

### Key impacts identified by beef producers\*



\*National Feral Pig Action Plan Stakeholder survey; n=160

## Disease Transmission Risks

- An incursion of Foot and mouth disease is estimated to cost >\$50 billion to the Australian livestock sector
- Impacts on beef industry from response activities to manage exotic disease incursions (e.g. African swine fever)
- Leptospirosis – can cause abortion storms and stillbirths.
  - 7in1 vaccine ~\$1.00 more per head than 5in1
  - Present in 26% of feral pigs<sup>^</sup>
- Brucellosis – health risks to humans and pig dogs
  - Incidence of 4% in feral pigs<sup>^</sup>
- Pestivirus (or bovine viral diarrhoea virus, BVDV) causes abortion, and respiratory disease.
  - Feral pigs can act as a reservoir and carrier of BVDV.
- Parasites

<sup>^</sup>In Northern NSW and QLD (n=114 samples) (Darren Marshall, pers. comm.)

## Impacts on beef production

- Reduced growth rates and sale weights
- Reproductive losses
- Reduced stocking rates due to damage to pastures, watering points, soil and/or land
- Contamination of water
- Mental health impacts
- Increased frequency of stock monitoring
- Spread of weeds
- Time, labour and/or resources on control activities

**Coordinated, long term actions by land managers, working together, increases the effectiveness of control programs to reduce feral pig populations and their impacts**