

Environmental damage from feral pigs is increasing in north Kimberley



Feral pigs are expanding in their distribution in the north Kimberley, one of Australia's recognised biodiversity hotspots. Signs of feral pigs are increasingly being observed in new areas of suitable habitat along creek tributaries.

Naturally flowing water courses, wetland areas and water quality are being negatively impacted by feral pigs. Their impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, cultural sites and threatened flora and fauna are not well understood.

The North Kimberley Land Conservation District Committee (LCDC) is a statutory body formed under section 23 of the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945. Its members are drawn from a diverse range of land managers from the north Kimberley including pastoralists, indigenous rangers, government representatives, NGOs and other community members.

The group is working to promote and implement cost-effective, best practice feral pig management techniques suitable for use in remote areas and to increase the capacity and capability of people in the North Kimberley to strategically use best practice management practices to effectively control feral pigs.



Some of the North Kimberley LCDC members

Excitingly, the North Kimberley LCDC successfully obtained a \$34,200 grant from WA Natural Resource Management 2021-22 Community Stewardship Grant Round.

This project will assess the current spatial extent of feral pigs in the north Kimberley through a statistically rigorous aerial survey covering 2100km² within a 1 million ha landscape. This study will provide baseline data and modelling of pig presence and abundance as the first step in the development of a regional strategic management plan. The information and data collected as part of this project will then be used by the North Kimberley LCDC to better inform their feral pig management programs being conducted in these remote landscapes.



One of the remote bait stations

Members of the North Kimberley LCDC are also using an automated feeder to deliver 1080-treated grain in remote areas, following a period of free feeding. This feeder was developed through research conducted by Australian Wildlife Conservancy with support from Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association. Field cameras are being used to monitor presence, behaviours and numbers of feral pigs coming to the feeder. DPIRD are supporting the activities of the North Kimberley LCDC by providing training in best practice management and technical advice.

These activities align with WA Feral Pig Strategy and National Feral Pig Action Plan by promoting a tenure-blind, collaborative and evidence-based approach to feral pig control.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Myers, Chair of North Kimberley LCDC via [email](mailto:contact@feralpigs.com.au).