

# Managing feral pigs and healing country in Eastern Victoria



**A collaborative project between the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Moogji Aboriginal Council Inc. is helping to control feral pigs and heal country in East Gippsland.**

DELWP's Statewide Invasive Species Programme team are working closely with Moogji following the 2019/2020 bushfires in Eastern Victoria, with a significant increase in feral pig activity due to temporary reduction of feed and cover across the bushfire footprint.

Moogji has been among the first in Victoria to trial the use of HOGGONE® bait and delivery stations in the east of the state. A sodium nitrite-based product, HOGGONE® is designed to kill pigs more quickly and humanely than other feral pig control baits.

The bait is delivered in specially designed stations to reduce the potential for ingestion by non-target species. Feral pigs have been quick to learn how to access the stations, making them an effective control tool.

Feral pig population density and distribution is continuing to be monitored through the project, including the installation of field cameras ready for the next phase of control activities that commenced in January 2022.

It's part of the Landscape Feral Pig Control Project and complements other Victorian Government initiatives including DELWP's Good Neighbour Programme - which is helping to reduce the impacts caused by feral pigs to private land managers whose property borders state managed land.

A coordinated and collaborative approach to feral pig management is needed as they are highly mobile animals with high reproductive rates, making their management complex and resource intensive.

In Eastern Victoria, biodiversity values are significantly impacted by feral pigs through habitat degradation, creation of wallows, erosion of streambanks, and disturbance and destruction of native plants and animals. They also damage agricultural land and spread diseases to humans and other animals.

Significant benefits for the environment and the local community are being realised through the project - allowing all involved to develop a deeper connection to country.

For more information on the Landscape Feral Pig Control Project contact [feral.pigs@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:feral.pigs@delwp.vic.gov.au).



*A member of DELWP's Statewide Invasive Species Programme team setting up a camera to monitor feral pigs. Photo credit: DELWP, Victoria*

