



The Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC) Feral Pig Oversight Group was established as a result of the Panama TR4 outbreak in bananas. It meets on a regular basis to discuss feral pig issues throughout the region.

The Group involves various stakeholders across the region, including CANEGROWERS Innisfail, Australian Banana Growers Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Department of Environment and Science, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Resources, AgForce Queensland, CANEGROWERS Tully, Tully Sugar Limited, Tully Productivity Services, MSF Sugar, Department of Defence, Girrigun Rangers, Mamu Healthy Waterways, Terrain NRM, and Heather Channon in her role as National Feral Pig Management Coordinator.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail has been strongly communicating the severity of damage and costs to canegrowers from feral pigs at these meetings.

In June 2022, the Feral Pig Oversight Group recommended that the CCRC contribute funds toward an aerial shooting program for the northern section of the council region, to be matched dollar for dollar by industry. Both CANEGROWERS Innisfail and MSF Sugar equalled the CCRC's contribution.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail offered to be part of a pilot group to implement a landscape management approach to feral pig control in a targeted coordinated program. The Feral Pig Oversight Group

selected the New Harbourline area as the pilot for this, based on hotspot mapping done through the CCRC.

For six weeks, a group of growers worked tirelessly together to control feral pigs across the landscape.

This program required growers to establish a coordinated free-feeding and baiting program for a 4-week period, which was then followed up with aerial culling. Bananas were used for free-feed and for poison baiting.

Cane growers spent at least 1.5 hours each per day, for 30 days, free-feeding or baiting, checking sites each morning and afternoon and collecting photographic evidence to upload to FeralScan.

In total, 180 kg of 1080 bait was put out and 22 pigs were removed by aerial shooting.

CANEGROWERS staff spent nearly 30 min each day communicating with council and assisting growers.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail will be coordinating an aerial shooting program from September to December across their district in an attempt to reduce pig numbers quickly.

For more information, contact

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