NATIONAL FERAL PIG ACTION PLAN

Stakeholder forum: 1 June 2022 Response to questions

Q: Its impressive technology and you've show it feasible on KI ..but elsewhere.. how do you think shooting and your fancy camera might be used?

Matt Korcz (PIRSA) This technology has been used on pigs and deer elsewhere around the country and is becoming more and more common. It has the potentially to be used for any pest currently already being controlled via aerial culling. Although many factors apply in each situation I believe there is three main applications for thermal detection with aerial shooting. Large scale knockdown is thick vegetation where normal aerial shooting may not be possible, for population mop up where there is very little target species left and the high detectability offered by thermal cameras is extremely useful (such as our eradication on KI), or for rapid response for emerging populations when high detectability is necessary (pest species escaped from captivity). As this technology improves and our knowledge of how to use it expands there will be greater applications.

Q: How often do you need to check that you have eradicated bearing in mind that Nicolas Baudin dropped two pigs off on KI in 1803 was it?

Matt- Korcz (PIRSA) - The eradication plan includes a proof of freedom component in where we prove that all the feral pigs have been eradicated. This is a multi-layered approach through thermal monitoring, camera networks and eDNA water sampling. Although we are on an Island there is a possibility of re-infestation through malicious releasing of feral pigs or captive domestic pigs escaping. Luckily by working with the local landscape board we have been able to introduce a permit system for any pig moved onto the island, all pigs must be kept in adequately fenced areas, tagged and accounted for. This is followed up with routine inspections, allowing for the local Landscape Board to ensure domestic pigs are accounted for and Kangaroo Island stays feral pig free.

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