



Our first National Feral Pig Conference was successfully held on 20 - 21 June in Cairns!

With a very full program, attendees heard from speakers from across Australia and the US. Dr. Kurt VerCauteren from the United States Department of Agriculture joined remotely to provide an update on the North American feral pig situation.

Attendees

- From all states and territories
- 150 in-person delegates
- 58 virtual registrants

Presentations

- 13 invited presentations
- 27 short presentations and
- 3 posters

Registrants and attendees from across Australia:

- Primary producers
- Private land managers
- Government, industry and NRM representatives,
- Indigenous Rangers
- Local community groups
- Vertebrate pest contractors
- Not for profit organisations
- Hunters and shooters

Common messages from the Conference :

- We cannot manage what we don't measure - it's essential that feral pig management programs are informed by data. Management programs need to be adaptive, data driven, and focussed on impact reduction to be effective and efficient.
- Surveillance of feral pig populations and impact monitoring are critical to optimise efficacy of control programs.
- We need to use available resources in more targeted and strategic ways to maximise outcomes and returns on investment.
- Long term, sufficient resourcing of on-ground programs is required to achieve feral pig population reductions by at least 70% and then maintain lowered numbers.
- Having a local coordinator helps to keep feral pig programs on track and keep stakeholders engaged and motivated.
- Peer to peer knowledge sharing between land managers is critical.
- Awareness by land managers of benefits, and costs, from coordinated community led feral pig programs is urgently needed to encourage ongoing action and participation.
- All available control methods need to be utilised in appropriate combinations to efficiently reduce feral pig populations. It's not possible to rely on one control method.

The NFPAP's activities over the past few years have focussed on building partnerships and networks between different stakeholders. These will now be drawn upon as we move to increase the adoption of best practice methods and systems to deliver lasting change in feral pig populations and their impacts. The Integrated Pest Management approach being used for the Crown of Thorns starfish control on the Great Barrier Reef, as presented by Sheriden Morris, CEO Reef and Rainforest Research Centre at the Conference, provides a great template for a national feral pig control framework.

With many land managers being extensively impacted by feral pigs, despite extensive control efforts, more focus on how land managers can be encouraged to work in coordinated ways together is needed. It was very evident that the damage caused by feral pigs to businesses, the environment and cultural assets, as well as their impacts on people, are very real.

Call for Action

A draft **call for action** was proposed to Conference delegates to seek sustained, long-term funding to effectively deliver a strategic, multi-stakeholder, scientifically and culturally-robust integrated feral pig management program to protect targeted assets from feral pigs. This coordinated program must have clear, measurable objectives, informed by monitoring and surveillance activities.

This call for action is directly aligned with the purpose of the National Feral Pig Action Plan 2021-2031 (NFPAP) as well as the intent of the Prospectus, that was officially launched at the Conference by Ricky Archer, Independent Chair of the NFPAP's Implementation Committee.

[Download Conference proceedings](#)



A photo gallery will be available on our [resources page](#) soon.



**Queensland
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