

# NATIONAL FERAL PIG ACTION PLAN 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo credit: NSW Local Land Services

Feral pigs are a significant risk to **Australia's \$91 billion agricultural sector**. The National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) is a coordinated effort to tackle this invasive pest head-on, hosted by Australian Pork Limited and supported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.



NATIONAL  
FERAL PIG  
ACTION PLAN





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I'm incredibly proud of the National Feral Pig Action Plan's (NFPAP) achievements in 2024.

As we look forward to the rest of 2025 and beyond, it's a good time to reflect on all we have achieved under the NFPAP so far.

We have continued to work with land managers, industry, researchers, governments, and local communities to provide a science-based, nationally coordinated approach to feral pig management.

We've forged local and international collaborations, working with key programs that prioritise coordination, collaboration and cross-tenure action, including 15 reference committees from across Australia, allowing us to provide a national perspective and nationally aligned strategy for feral pig management. We've supported multiple best-practice management programs, connected stakeholders together to drive collaborative efforts and increased our stakeholder engagement efforts to grow awareness of the feral pig issue and NFPAP.

The NFPAP builds on decades of local management efforts and research, supporting community-led groups to humanely suppress or locally eradicate feral pig populations. We provide land managers and other stakeholders with the resources, relationships and expertise they need to address the feral pig problem in their areas, while raising awareness of the devastating impact of this species at a national level.

Despite our successes and hard work of all stakeholders, feral pigs remain one of Australia's most destructive pest species. They inhabit up to 45 per cent of our continent and cause severe damage to our environment, agriculture, cultural heritage, and biosecurity, and cost hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

In 2020, the feral pig population was estimated to be between 2.4 million and 4 million, but due to favourable seasonal conditions in recent years, that number is now likely even higher. We continue to tackle this challenge head-on, but we can't do it alone.

Without sustained resourcing to enable long term, consistent on-ground management actions, our collective ability to manage this invasive species will remain piecemeal, jeopardising all of the significant effort being applied by land managers. Feral pig populations will continue to expand at an unprecedented rate, further degrading our natural environment, threatening Australia's biosecurity, and imposing even greater costs on our agricultural industries.

This is a national problem, therefore nationally coordinated collaboration is the only way to eradicate feral pig populations across Australia by 2031. I'm grateful to all of our partners and stakeholders who have committed their time, expertise and resources, and the investment and the collective will from governments that have allowed us to deliver solutions on a national scale.

We have laid the groundwork to solidly tackle Australia's feral pig problem. Now it's up to all of us to keep working together to see the job through.

John Gavin  
Independent Chair  
NFPAP Implementation Committee



Photo credit: NSW Local Land Services

National Feral Pig Action Plan



# FERAL PIGS:



Cost the Australian agricultural sector approximately **\$156 million** each year.



Could cost **\$82 billion** through the spreading of exotic disease (**\$80 billion** for foot and mouth disease and **\$2 billion** for African swine fever).



Endanger **148 species** of threatened flora and fauna and **eight** threatened ecological communities.



Occupy approximately **45 per cent** of Australia.

## THE NATIONAL FERAL PIG ACTION PLAN:

- Provides a national framework and regional network to deliver best practice feral pig management.
- Supports opportunities for land managers to build collaborative and trusted partnerships with stakeholders.
- Enables information sharing between all land managers to enhance their capacity and capability in best practice management.
- Promotes the use of available systems, tools and resources to optimise the efficiency and efficacy of control programs.
- Ability to monitor impacts of feral pigs to understand the actual size and cost of the problem on a local, regional and national scale.
- Presents a united front to tackle Australia's feral pig problem at a national level, bringing together land managers, researchers and governments for the first time.

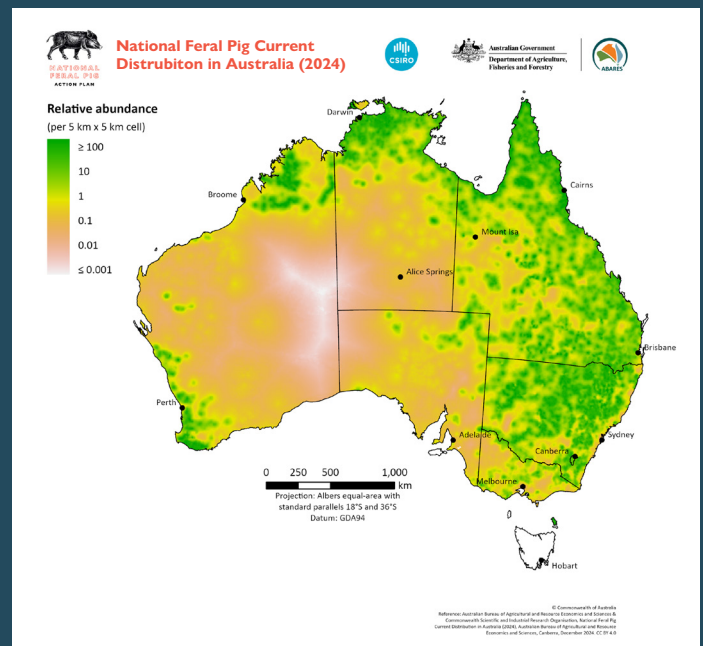


Photo credit: NSW Local Land Services

National Feral Pig Action Plan



# OUR IMPACT IN 2024

Throughout 2024 we continued to work with key stakeholders to promote benefits of collaboration and coordination to land managers and help them achieve better outcomes from their control programs.

Key examples of collaborations and projects are highlighted below.

## Stakeholder collaboration

- Revision of *National Feral Pig Code of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures for the Humane Control of Feral Pigs* with States, Territories and industry partners.
- Jointly ran the 2024 National Aerial Shooting Workshop with the National Feral Deer Action Plan, February 2024.
- WCTTAA nomination leading them to win the inaugural First Nations Award for Excellence in Biosecurity at the 2024 Australian Biosecurity Awards - raising awareness of an Indigenous-led program, leadership and recognition of invaluable work being done by Indigenous Rangers.
- Four research and development projects commissioned through the National Feral Pig Management Coordinator program to explore improvements in feral pig management in the Wet Tropics, rangelands and northern Australia, and measure agricultural impacts.
- Coordinated the National Vertebrate Pest Metrics questionnaire to understand key outcomes from state, territory and local government-led feral pig programs.
- Partnered with a range of organisations across Australia to support 23 workshops for land managers.

## International collaboration

- Organised a study tour for Samoan government and industry representatives to Australia - September 2024.
- Held five African swine fever seminars in collaboration with the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (United States Department of Agriculture), involving feral and domestic pig technical specialists - July 2024-present.



Photo credit: Cape York Natural Resource Management

## Case study examples

**These programs highlight how coordinated and collaborative best practice management are being delivered.**

- In the Southern Riverina area, Murray Local Land Services supports and coordinates land managers to work together to control feral pigs. In 2018, a coordinated control group was established, with six land managers involved. Following the introduction of new on-ground feral pig management innovations – including fixed and portable bait stations, new trap designs and field cameras – the group expanded to 18 land managers, increasing the area covered from 15,000 to 120,000 hectares. In 2023, aerial control was added to complement on-ground baiting and trapping programs. In 2024, 105 land managers participated in this coordinated broadscale program, covering 650,000 hectares and removing 1,968 feral pigs. This involved the collaboration of Local Land Services staff and New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The program has expanded in 2025 to include a practical and easy to implement impact monitoring program at 12 sites experiencing significant feral pig damage.
- The Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA), established in 2013, is a partnership of six Indigenous ranger groups from the Northern Peninsula Area, Mapoon, Napranum, Pormpuraaw, Aurukun and Kowanyama,

who work together to protect threatened species of marine turtles along the west coast of the Cape York Peninsula from feral pig activity. By implementing a combination of protection efforts, long-term control strategies and consistent monitoring, together with support from Traditional Owners and local communities, the WCTTAA program demonstrates that egg and hatchling loss can be reduced to sustainable levels, supporting the conservation of marine turtles. The customised Nestor app was first adopted in 2023 by all six ranger groups to consistently and easily collect, record, map and report nest predation and survival rates of turtle hatchlings on targeted beaches along the west coast. This essential tool enables Indigenous rangers to make accurate assessments and informed decisions for their conservation efforts, clearly demonstrate outcomes and attract ongoing support from their funding partners, stakeholders and governments, while also justifying continued investment. WCTTAA, with support from the National Feral Pig Action Plan, was awarded the inaugural First Nations Award for Excellence in Biosecurity at the 2024 Australian Biosecurity Awards in recognition of their leadership in best practice management of feral pigs.







# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION IN 2024

In 2024 we have continued to raise public awareness of the detrimental effects feral pigs have on our land and assets.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Grew our newsletter subscriber base to **1,230 subscribers** (^8 per cent in 2024).



Grew our LinkedIn following to **555 followers** (^22 per cent in 2024).



Hosted two stakeholder forums, which received **173 attendees** and **297 views** on YouTube.



Hosted both **in-person** and **online** stakeholder meetings.

## STAKEHOLDER EVALUATION SURVEY

Stakeholder feedback reinforced our critical role in driving strategic, sustainable feral pig management for land managers and stakeholders.



**404**

Stakeholder evaluation survey respondents.



**60 PER CENT**

Of respondents had heard of the NFPAP.



**70 PER CENT**

Of the NFPAP's activities and resources were very useful in feral pig management.

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“The NFPAP team are a great central point to connect across jurisdictions, share learnings and continual improvements in program delivery.”

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“The NFPAP has done amazing work given the resources. Wonderful collaborative approach resulting in impacts nationally. Well done to all involved.”

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# WHAT'S NEXT

## BY 2026

- Conduct strategic and effective best practice management programs.
- Develop mechanisms that incentivise land managers to actively manage feral pig impacts.
- Deliver methods, tools and systems for land managers to report and analyse monitoring data, identify local populations in the landscape and improve decision making of best practice management actions to inform strategic, humane feral pig management decisions.
- Increase area covered by coordinated feral pig management programs.

## BY 2031

- Actively suppress impacts of feral pigs to environmental, agricultural, cultural and social assets through maintenance of low populations.
- Functional investment models are in place that incentivise land managers to routinely undertake coordinated and collaborative feral pig control programs.
- Established expansive and connected networks of coordinated community-led management groups.
- Strengthened social licence for feral pig management actions by land managers.
- Sustained employment to actively suppress feral pig impacts.



## A NOTE FROM DR HEATHER CHANNON, NATIONAL FERAL PIG MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Since the NFPAP was implemented in 2021, we've made great progress in addressing Australia's feral pig problem, but we still have a long road ahead.

The past five years has been about laying the groundwork – developing a solid strategy and building relationships and connections to allow us to tackle feral pig populations at a national level.

Feral pigs don't respect fences, borders, or property lines. If only some land managers in a region participate in coordinated and

collaborative programs, feral pigs will become established in areas that are not being actively controlled. The problem, and the damage that they cause, will therefore never go away. That's why a coordinated effort is the only way to drive real, lasting reductions in feral pig impacts.

Success depends on everyone – landholders, industry, researchers, governments and communities – working together.

Dr Heather Channon  
National Feral Pig Management Coordinator



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