

NATIONAL FERAL PIG ACTION PLAN

PROGRESS UPDATE JANUARY 2025 — JUNE 2026

Photo credit: Vertebrate Pest Management Australia



NATIONAL
FERAL PIG
ACTION PLAN

Message from the Chair

The National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) continues to demonstrate what can be achieved when communities, industry, governments, Indigenous Ranger groups and land managers work together towards a shared goal. Across Australia, partnerships have driven coordinated action to reduce feral pig impacts, protect agricultural productivity, safeguard environmental and cultural values, and strengthen local biosecurity outcomes.

Over the past 18 months, we have continued to make headway by promoting the benefits of coordinated, landscape-scale management and helping land managers work together through trusted partnerships, practical planning, adoption of monitoring tools and clear communication.

A major milestone in 2025 was the Australian Government's two-year funding extension, ensuring continued national coordination of feral pig management through to October 2027. This commitment provides a strong platform to build on recent successes and advance key priorities, including coordinated delivery of Plan actions, on-ground collaboration, research and innovation, and the improvement of national monitoring and evaluation systems.

The findings from our Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry-funded project on reducing residual agricultural losses from feral pigs have helped clarify where effort can have the greatest impact. They point to the need for better local planning, stronger engagement between public and private land managers, improved monitoring, integrated control, clear communication and long-term commitment. These are areas where the NFPAP is already helping to drive positive change.

Despite the achievements of the program and land managers more broadly, feral pigs remain a serious and complex challenge in Australia. Favourable conditions across much of Australia have supported increases in feral pig abundance and continue to place pressure on many

land managers. This reinforces the importance of the work now underway. Effective feral pig management depends not only on control tools, but also on people, local leadership, shared information, sustained investment and coordinated action across property and tenure boundaries.

While feral pigs continue to pose significant threats to agriculture, the environment, cultural values and biosecurity, there are strong reasons for optimism. Across the country, locally coordinated, community-led, landscape-scale programs are achieving measurable results. Programs are adopting monitoring tools and techniques to track impacts, measure population reductions and guide smarter control. Areas under coordinated and collaborative management are increasing, and land managers are sharing knowledge and adapting local programs based on what is working. These examples show that progress is possible when land managers, communities, industry and governments align around shared goals, use the best available information and commit to sustained action.

This Progress Update celebrates the progress, partnerships and innovation that continue to strengthen feral pig management across Australia. The case studies showcased throughout this report highlight the dedication of those involved and provide compelling evidence that meaningful progress is being made. Together, these achievements offer confidence that continued collaboration and commitment will deliver even stronger outcomes in the years ahead.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Margo Andrae, former Chief Executive Officer at Australian Pork Limited, for her support, guidance, advocacy and encouragement over the past six years of this program. Her leadership and belief in the value of national coordination to reduce impacts from feral pigs has been instrumental in enabling the National Feral Pig Action Plan to build strong partnerships, maintain momentum and deliver meaningful progress.

John Gavin

*Independent Chair
National Feral Pig Action Plan Implementation Committee*



Photo credit: Seymour Out Bush

Message from Dr Heather Channon, National Feral Pig Management Coordinator

I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved over the past 18 months and over the life of the National Feral Pig Action Plan to date.

This year has highlighted the strength of partnership, persistence and shared commitment across Australia to tackle one of our most challenging invasive species.

Kangaroo Island's eradication of feral pigs is a standout achievement for Australia. It followed years of patient, coordinated effort by governments, communities and land managers working side by side, and it shows that even the most ambitious goals are within reach when we align around a shared purpose.

The Australian Government's two-year funding extension gives us a strong platform to build on this progress,

but it will take more than additional funding to solve the problem. Lasting reductions depend on everyone – land managers, industry, researchers, governments and communities – working together, sharing learnings and strengthening our capacity to monitor impacts and manage feral pig populations.

While there is a long road still ahead, I am confident that by continuing to work together we will make significant headway towards suppressing feral pig impacts across Australia.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this effort. Your commitment is making a real difference for Australia's agriculture, environment, cultural values and communities.

Dr Heather Channon

National Feral Pig Management Coordinator



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

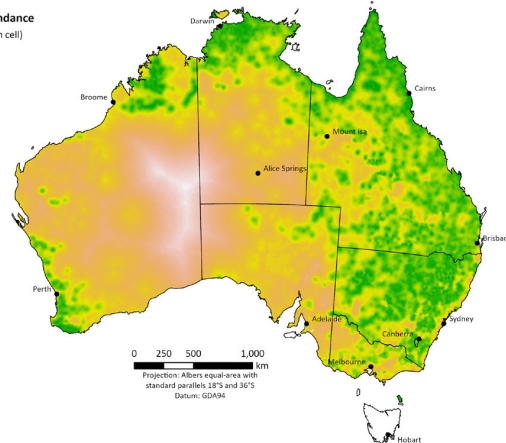
The National Feral Pig Action Plan provides coordinated national leadership, facilitates partnerships, community engagement and education, and promotes effective methods and systems to support land managers by:

- Providing national leadership, governance, and co-ordination.
- Advocating benefits of collaborative, coordinated, and informed approaches to feral pig management.
- Developing tools and measures to objectively monitor, evaluate and improve the Plan.
- Building community and land manager awareness of feral pig impacts and humane best practice feral pig management.
- Strengthening land manager capacity and capability to effectively apply humane feral pig best practice management and promoting adoption of best practice in management plans.
- Driving collaborative, strategic and scientific approaches to humane best practice feral pig management to suppress, or eradicate, feral pig populations.



Relative abundance
(per 5 km x 5 km cell)

≥ 100
10
1
0.1
0.01
≤ 0.001



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Reference: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences &
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Bureau of Animal
Quarantine and Biosecurity, National Feral Pig Management Strategy, 2014. 12 p. 4.5

Photo credit: Primary Industries and Regions South Australia

Our impact

Over the past 18 months, the NFPAP has:



2025 - 2026

Obtained funding from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to continue to deliver the National Feral Pig Management Coordinator program from November 2025 to October 2027.

Delivered the DAFF-funded study to understand from stakeholders what is needed to reduce residual agricultural losses from feral pigs.

Attracted 23 proposals for co-investment through an Expressions of Interest process in February 2026, with six new projects commissioned for completion by September 2027.

Released group management planning templates for land managers to easily create their own local feral pig management plans.

Promoted systems, tools and knowledge to encourage on-ground efficiency and best-practice.

Continued to collaborate internationally – from overseas programs and sharing learnings locally.

Strengthened collaborations across Australia through our activities, including among Indigenous Ranger groups managing Country.

Contributed to the 2025 North Australian Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Forum held in Burketown, QLD from 2–4 September 2025. The vital leadership, expertise and on-ground capacity and capability of Indigenous Rangers in managing feral pigs was emphasised together with the importance of coordinated feral pig management to protect cultural sites, cultural values, environmental assets and northern Australian landscapes.

Visited US feral pig technical and management specialists in April 2026 to strengthen connections, explore future collaborative opportunities and share knowledge.

Communicated developments, events and published work on feral pig management monthly to a community of 1,400 people.

Attended and presented at the 2026 International Wild Pig Conference, Montgomery, Alabama USA on 20–22 April 2026.

Held eight African swine fever webinars in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, involving feral and domestic pig technical specialists in Australia and the US.

Key activities

Some examples of projects delivered from January 2025 to June 2026 through the National Feral Pig Action Plan

Reducing residual agricultural losses from feral pigs

This Australian Government-funded project examined opportunities to reduce ongoing agricultural losses caused by feral pigs and identify priorities for action under the National Feral Pig Action Plan. **Input from 74 stakeholders across industry, government and biosecurity sectors highlighted that feral pigs continue to cause significant impacts across a wide range of agricultural industries, despite existing control efforts.**

The study found that persistent losses are driven by fragmented, short-term management, limited coordination across land tenures, inadequate resourcing, data gaps and inconsistent participation in control programs. It identified coordinated landscape-scale management, supported by local leadership, improved monitoring and data, sustained investment, and greater adoption of best-practice management, as the most effective strategies for reducing impacts. Long-term success will require stronger collaboration and sustained effort between industry, government and local communities.

Photo credit: Burdekin Shire Council



Group Management Planning Templates

Management planning is essential to clearly define objectives, decide on integrated management approaches and assess what resources will be required to achieve desired outcomes.

Two feral pig Management Planning Templates for population reduction and asset protection, were released by the NFPAP in April 2026. These templates aim to support groups of land managers to develop a joint plan to manage feral pigs across their properties. Both templates are available as fillable PDF forms, enabling them to be saved locally by users and be available as a local resource upon completion.

Agricultural impacts of feral pigs in Australia

An assessment by Landcare Research NZ, in partnership with WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Queensland Department of Primary Industries and NSW DPIRD, found that feral pigs continue to impose significant costs on Australian agriculture, estimated at \$190.8 million in 2022 through management expenditure and residual production losses. While control spending increased between 2016 and 2022, residual losses declined, indicating that management efforts are helping to reduce impacts.

Queensland and New South Wales experienced the highest costs due to large feral pig populations and impacts on industries such as grain, cotton and sugarcane. Although most affected landholders invested in feral pig control, many continued to experience substantial residual losses, with impacts varying widely between commodities and farms. The study highlighted a need for better density–damage estimates, particularly for high-value agricultural industries.

The assessment also emphasised the significant biosecurity risks posed by feral pigs as carriers and spreaders of endemic and emerging diseases, proving that continued investment in surveillance, biosecurity and coordinated feral pig management is essential.

Pilot work using UAV imagery showed promise for improving how crop damage is measured, particularly in canola, but further validation is needed. Ground truthing, higher-resolution imagery and methods that better estimate lost plant biomass will be important for developing reliable, scalable approaches to quantify feral pig impacts and demonstrate the benefits of management.



Photo credit: Conservation Ecology Centre

Case studies

The case studies below highlight the dedication of all those involved in feral pig management across Australia. They provide evidence of meaningful progress and demonstrate the tangible benefits of coordinated action. Together these achievements provide confidence that continued commitment and collaboration will deliver even greater outcomes in the years ahead.

Eradication of feral pigs from Kangaroo Island

Kangaroo Island, Australia's third largest island, was officially declared free of feral pigs in June 2026.

At 4,400 square kilometers, Kangaroo Island is now the largest island anywhere in the world from which an established population of feral pigs has been eradicated, with the next largest islands being Stewart Island (NZ) at 1680 square kilometers and Santiago Island (Galapagos) at 575 square kilometers (Source: Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications).

The Kangaroo Island Feral Pig Eradication Program commenced in October 2020, in the wake of the devastating 2019/20 bushfires which also destroyed 90 per cent of the island's feral pigs.

Led by Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA), this \$7.5 million program was delivered in partnership with the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board, National Parks and Wildlife Service, AgKI, Livestock SA, Kangaroo Island farmers, landholders and other stakeholders. The NFPAP is proud to have contributed to the strategic direction of this project as a member of the Kangaroo Island Feral Pig Eradication Committee.

Advanced technology and strategic population monitoring were used to identify and remove all remaining pigs, including large scale aerial culling, a custom built PigApp to identify hotspot locations, installation of the largest artificially intelligent 4G camera monitoring network in the world, comprising of more than 300 field cameras, environmental DNA monitoring of water samples,

community reporting and on-ground surveillance by operational staff to detect physical signs of feral pig presence.

The program demonstrated the power of coordinated, landscape-scale pest management. Strong collaboration between local landholders, community members, delivery partners and government agencies enabled island-wide action and achieved significant outcomes, despite challenging terrain and dense vegetation.

As a National Feral Pig Action Plan demonstration site, the project showcased how partnerships, strategic planning, community engagement, persistence and innovative technologies can deliver effective feral pig management. The lessons and insights gained will help inform and strengthen coordinated feral pig control efforts across Australia.

We have much to learn from the collaboration, leadership and dedication by everyone involved that made eradication of feral pigs on Kangaroo Island possible.

The NFPAP congratulates Matt Korcz (former Kangaroo Island Feral Pig Eradication Coordinator, PIRSA), who's dedicated coordination of the first four years of the program set the program on track for its success, and Dr. Brad Page (Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals, PIRSA) for his visionary leadership, influence and foresight to make this happen.

A total of 878 feral pigs were removed, with the last known sows removed in 2024.



Photo credit: Primary Industries and Regions South Australia

Monitoring and collaboration enabling effective control of feral pigs in the Otways

The landscape-scale feral pig program, delivered by the Conservation Ecology Centre, continues to achieve significant results across the Otways. With 23 camera grids and more than 600 cameras deployed across the project area, intensive monitoring and management has driven a feral pig population reduction of approximately 98 per cent. Six years of GPS tracking collar and camera trap data are now being used to develop an Otways-specific habitat suitability model to help land managers prioritise resources and establish long-term monitoring sites.

The program has also opportunistically removed more than 25 feral goats from areas where they are not yet established as a pest. Over the past 12 months, 11 cross-agency feral pig management meetings have been held alongside a knowledge-sharing workshop with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and community engagement workshops at Carlisle River and Kawarren. Five case study videos covering best practice management, pig sign identification, and farm, plantation and multiagency collaboration have been published across multiple platforms, while the program's social science component is now developing recommendations around communication strategies and behaviour change initiatives.

Stronger partnerships for feral pig management and coastal emu conservation

Through the Local Land Services' Good Neighbours Program (GNP), agencies, contractors, and landholders worked together across land tenure boundaries to deliver coordinated pest control projects in NSW. A GNP project conducted in the North Coast region strengthened collaboration between public and private land managers, improving the timing, scale and effectiveness of control and monitoring activities while supporting coastal emu conservation.

A key outcome of the program was the development of stronger partnerships, increased landholder engagement, improved local capability through training, and enhanced resources for ongoing management. Monitoring now informs future control efforts, providing a foundation for continued collaboration and long-term invasive species management across the region.

Projects like these aren't easy to execute and often require flexibility to accommodate unpredictable events, proximity to residential and high traffic areas, and extreme weather. The added complexities of navigating different policies and priorities between agencies and seasonal farming activities also proved to be a challenge.

A local contractor commented "All of our labels have all been taken off, and we've been able to operate collectively, it's been a great collaborative effort."

With feral pig populations reduced and monitoring now guiding future control efforts, the results have lifted team morale and strengthened the motivation for agencies and local landholders to keep working together, confident they are making a real difference.



Photo credit: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Building knowledge to protect ecological and cultural values of the Bunya Mountains

Western Downs Regional Council, with support from the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative, delivered a project to better understand and manage the impacts of feral pigs and *Phytophthora multivora* in and around the culturally significant Bunya Mountains. The project combined research, monitoring and community engagement to address threats to Bunya Pines, native ecosystems and cultural values.

Using multispectral imaging, soil analysis, feral pig tracking and community education, the project improved understanding of disease prevalence, feral pig behaviour and biosecurity risks. Workshops and field training strengthened local knowledge and capability, while tracking data from 19 collared pigs provided valuable insights into habitat use and movement patterns.

On-ground control activities targeted feral pig hotspots and contributed to the removal of 90 feral pigs from Russell Park in the Bunya Mountains since 2024, reducing track maintenance pressures and ecosystem damage. Importantly, signs of recovery were observed where disturbance and pig activity were reduced, reinforcing the value of sustained, data-driven control programs.

The project has strengthened cross-tenure collaboration, improved local capacity and provided a strong evidence base to guide future feral pig management and protect the ecological and cultural values of the Bunya Mountains. These findings are being used to guide future work in the region to manage feral pig impacts and support healthier, more resilient landscapes.

Turning lessons into action in Midwest WA

The Midwest feral pig demonstration site in Western Australia, comprising the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association, Midlands Biosecurity Group and Northern Biosecurity Group, has demonstrated how shared learning and adaptive management can improve feral pig control outcomes.

Inspired by lessons from the Kangaroo Island Feral Pig Eradication Program, the Central Wheatbelt and Midlands groups adopted a zonal management approach that targets control efforts according to pig density and seasonal conditions. This initiative was instigated in response to increasing concerns by land managers that feral pig numbers were not declining despite ongoing aerial and on-ground control. Control activities occur across four periods each year to disrupt breeding cycles of the pig. Combined targeted aerial and ground-based control has helped focus resources to where they are most needed, contributing to reduced feral pig numbers and progress towards local eradication.

Following these positive results, the Northern Biosecurity Group adopted the approach in 2025, establishing 21 management zones and expanding control efforts across its region. Reduced pig pressure is already delivering benefits for landholders, including improved crop production and growing confidence that local eradication in some areas may be achievable. Additional aerial surveillance is also being conducted to monitor population change across the regions covered by these two regional biosecurity groups.

Successful feral pig management depends as much on people as it does on tools. This program is a strong example of how shared learning, local commitment and practical adaptation can lead to better on-ground outcomes.

Indigenous leadership in action across northern Australia

The Protecting Country Against Invasive Species (PCAIS) Program, delivered by the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) in partnership with the Australian Government, is an Indigenous-led initiative dedicated to managing vertebrate pests and weeds across northern Australia.

In its first two years, the program supported 51 Indigenous Ranger Groups, resulting in the removal of more than 8,450 feral pigs, over 13,250 invasive animals in total, and extensive surveillance and control activities across millions of hectares. Investment in training, equipment, regional coordination and knowledge sharing has strengthened

local capability, governance and collaborative biosecurity management.

The program has also improved understanding of feral pig populations through monitoring and tracking initiatives, while supporting more than 2,300 participants in biosecurity and land management activities. Extended to June 2027, PCAIS continues to demonstrate the value of Indigenous-led approaches in building long-term land resilience, protecting cultural and environmental values, and strengthening invasive species management across northern Australia.

Stakeholder engagement and education

- The 2025 National Feral Pig Conference in March 2025 that attracted 193 in-person and 30 virtual delegates was a huge success. A total of 43 delegates, from 17 Indigenous-led organisations, attended the Conference, which provided a fabulous opportunity to present outcomes of their work to protect Country from feral pigs, management and monitoring approaches being used and biosecurity surveillance activities in remote northern Australia.
- A workshop held after the Conference, organised by NAILSMA, enabled 43 Indigenous land managers, representing 20 different ranger groups and organisations, to connect and collaborate with other Indigenous land managers and partner organisations working in feral pig management.
- Four meetings of state and regional coordinators from across Australia were hosted.
- We met with many stakeholders, both online and in person, to promote benefits from coordinated action and provide updates on the NFPAP's implementation.
- The NFPAP participated in reference group meetings for collaborative feral pig management programs being undertaken in Tasmania, QLD, WA and SA.
- We worked closely with other national coordinators to collect and aggregate invasive species metrics data from state, territory and local governments and their agencies. This data was used to prepare the 2024/25 Feral Pig Report Card.

LinkedIn
followers:

740



an increase of
25% from 2024.

As at June 2026, our
newsletter subscriber
base grew to more than:

1400

an increase of
12% from 2024.



Photo credit: North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance

What's next?

By 2031

Ongoing, long term funding for the National Feral Pig Management Coordination Program is secured and includes dedicated resourcing for local coordinators and the champions who lead collaborative, cross-tenure management groups.

Local coordinators are supported and empowered to work with private and public land managers in an area to increase land areas under coordinated management and close gaps that allow feral pig populations to rebound.

Impacts of feral pigs to environmental, agricultural and social assets are low due to low feral pig populations being actively maintained.

A comprehensive national analysis to quantify feral pig impacts on agriculture, the environment and cultural assets has been delivered.

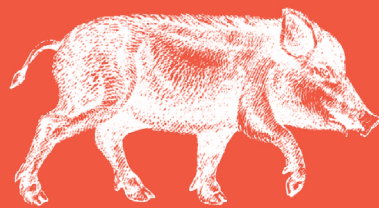
Models are in place to assist land managers to actively participate in feral pig programs in their local area.

Expansive and connected networks of coordinated community-led management groups are in place.

Land managers are well skilled to use tools that make it easier to effectively undertake the necessary actions to manage feral pigs on their land, as required under State and Territory legislation.

Biosecurity and regulatory policy is strengthened so that obligations of all land managers to control feral pigs, including public, absentee and peri-urban landholders, are clearly defined, consistently applied and backed by enforcement.

Photo credit: Seymour Out Bush



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