Draft Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan 2026-2031

Please note - This is a consultation draft for the purposes of public comment. This consultation process seeks opinions on planning for better feral pig management in Queensland.

Contents

Acknowledgements

The Department of Primary Industries proudly acknowledges Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of Country. We recognise their continuing connection to land, sea, waters and sky. We pay our respects to them, their cultures and their Elders past and present, and commit to ongoing reconciliation.

The development of this *Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan* has been made possible through the valuable contributions and collaboration of numerous individuals and organisations. We sincerely thank the representatives from local governments, agricultural and industry groups, Traditional Owner organisations, natural resource management organisations, community groups, Queensland Government departments and research institutions who generously shared their expertise, knowledge and perspectives.

Special appreciation is extended to the Indigenous ranger groups and Traditional Owners whose cultural insights and land management leadership have been integral to shaping effective and respectful approaches within this plan.

We also acknowledge the guidance of the National Feral Pig Management Coordinator and the alignment provided by the National Feral Pig Action Plan which have informed the strategic direction of this Plan.

Together, these partnerships and collective efforts underpin Queensland's commitment to collaborative, integrated and sustainable management of feral pigs for the benefit of our environment, economy, and communities.

Executive summary

Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are a widespread invasive species across most of Queensland, causing substantial damage to the environment, agriculture and cultural values. Their adaptability, high reproductive capacity, and wide-ranging behaviour enable populations to thrive in diverse ecosystems—from tropical wetlands and rainforests to rangelands and agricultural landscapes.

Key impacts of feral pigs include:

- loss of biodiversity
- crop and pasture destruction
- predation on livestock
- risks of exotic and endemic disease transmission
- soil erosion and waterway degradation
- infrastructure damage
- harm to culturally significant sites.

The costs associated with managing pest animals and weeds in Australian agriculture are significant, estimated to be at least $5.3 billion annually, with feral pigs contributing to these costs. In Queensland alone, feral pigs caused $95 million in production losses and direct control costs. These figures highlight the substantial economic impact of feral pigs on agriculture in Australia (ABARES 2023).

Feral pigs are one of the world's most successful invasive species, due to their intelligence, omnivorous diet, sense of smell and, particularly, their ability to reproduce rapidly. Their reproductive rate means greater than 70% of a pig population needs to be culled annually to have meaningful control, as once-off control events are rapidly countered by breeding.

Successful feral pig management in Queensland is achieved only where land managers persist and collaborate over many contiguous holdings (i.e., nil-tenure) in a coordinated manner, integrating multiple control tools (baiting, trapping, shooting, fencing) matched to prevailing seasonal conditions.

The Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan aims to address the growing challenges posed by feral pigs in Queensland through a collaborative, coordinated approach. **Best practice management must be achieved to actively suppress Queensland feral pig populations to reduce their negative impacts on environmental, agricultural, cultural and social values.** This will be achieved through the following goals—

- Reduce feral pig populations through effective, humane and sustained feral pig management methods.
- Protect agriculture, native wildlife, and ecosystems from further damage.
- Foster collaborative best practice management efforts at local, regional, and state levels.
- Increase community engagement and awareness about the issue.

This Plan is consistent with the National Feral Pig Action Plan, Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy and Conserving Nature—A Biodiversity Strategy for Queensland. It also supports the development of regional feral pig action plans, local government biosecurity plans and landholder action plans ensuring consistency across national, regional and local priorities.

Regional feral pig action plans will be developed and tailored to Queensland's diverse bioregions, recognising varying challenges and opportunities from Cape York Peninsula to the Darling Downs and Channel Country.

By working collaboratively across government, industry, Indigenous groups, land managers and communities, Queenslanders aim to manage feral pigs, safeguarding the environment, economy, health and cultural values for current and future generations.

About the Plan

The Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan provides a coordinated framework for taking actions to manage feral pig populations and reduce their impacts across the state.

This Plan recognises the diverse environments, land uses, and cultural values across Queensland, tailoring strategies and actions to regional conditions and priorities. It highlights the importance of collaborative partnerships involving land managers, state and local government agencies, industry groups, regional natural resource management organisations, Traditional Owners, community organisations and researchers.

The Plan outlines clear goals, objectives, and actions supported by implementation guidance, including roles, timeframes, and performance indicators. It emphasises adaptive management informed by ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure effectiveness over time.

It is designed to align with the National Feral Pig Action Plan and the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy, and Conserving Nature—A Biodiversity Strategy for Queensland. It also supports the development of regional action plans, local government biosecurity plans and landholder action plans ensuring consistency across national, regional and local priorities.

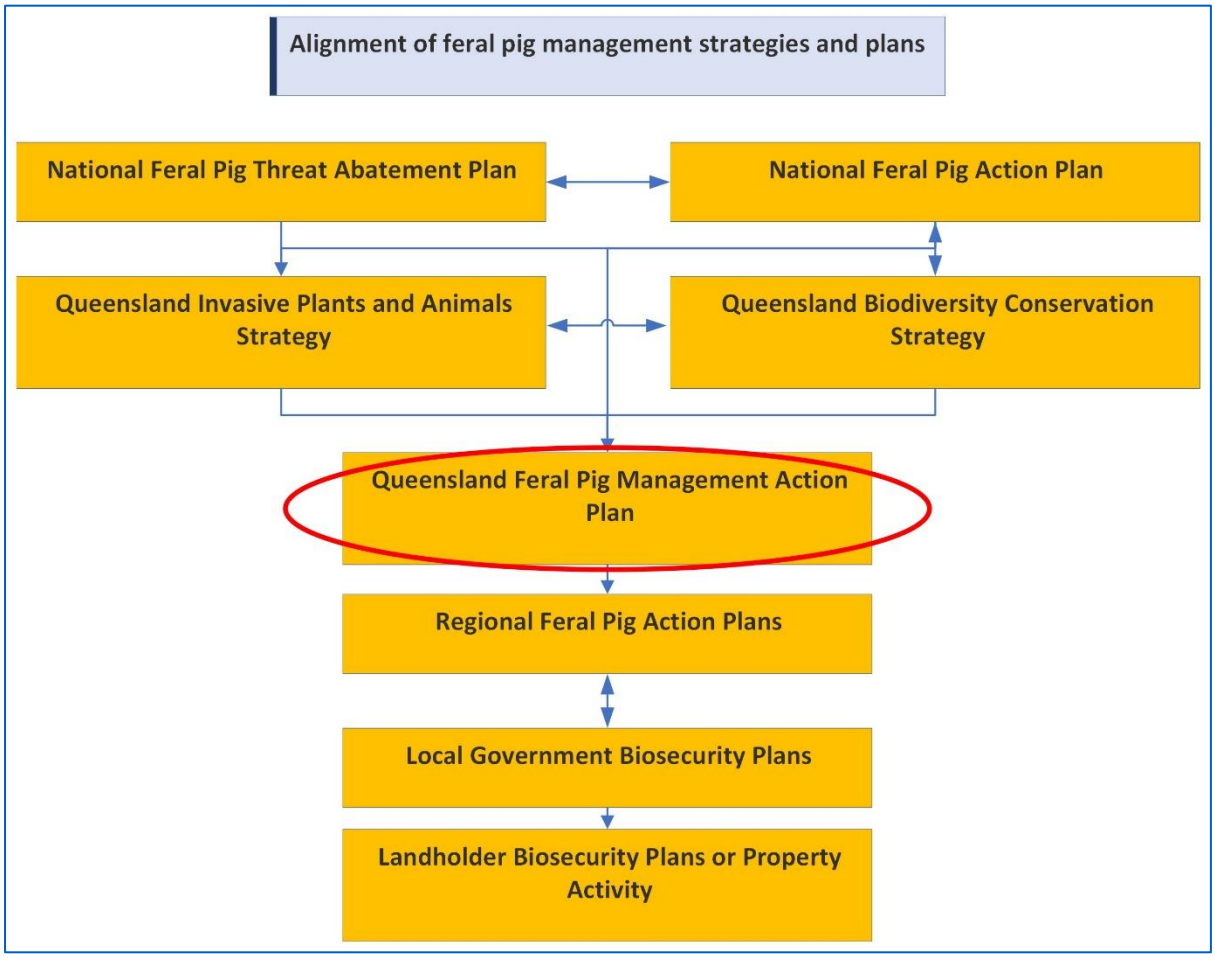

Figure 1 - Alignment of National, State and Regional plans

Ultimately, this Plan serves as a guiding document to support sustained, effective feral pig management that protects Queensland's environmental health, agricultural productivity, cultural values, and biosecurity.

1.Introduction

1.1. Definition of a feral pig in Queensland

A feral pig is a pig that lives in a wild state and is not being farmed or kept for another purpose. A pig is considered to be farmed or kept for another purpose only if it is in an escape-proof enclosure. Feral pigs are classified as a restricted invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act).

1.2. Legal classification and obligations

The Act provides for the regulation of the management of feral pigs in Queensland.

Some key concepts that need to be understood in relation to the Act are outlined below:

General biosecurity obligation (GBO): All Queenslanders (including landholders and land managers) must take reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks posed by feral pigs on land under their control—such as damage to agriculture, environment, cultural sites, or disease transmission.

Restricted matter category: Feral pigs are classified as Category 3, 4, and 6 restricted matter under the Act. This classification imposes strict legal controls:

- Category 3: must not be distributed (e.g., sold or given as a gift) or released into the environment without permit
- Category 4: must not be moved
- Category 6: must not be fed.

Permits and restrictions: Under the Act, a restricted matter permit may be granted for limited purposes, such as scientific research. Otherwise, certain dealings with feral pigs are not allowed without authorisation.

Distributing and disposal: Distributing Category 3 matter—such as feral pigs—is only allowed under the Act if the animal is being transferred to someone who will destroy it promptly, or for tracking and destroying.

Feeding prohibition: Feral pigs must not be fed except if the feeding is carried out in preparation for, or in the course of, lawfully baiting, trapping or shooting the feral pig.

2. Distribution and abundance of feral pigs in Queensland

Feral pig populations in Queensland are influenced by environmental conditions, habitat availability, food resources, and control efforts. Research indicates the following key patterns:

Seasonal fluctuations: Populations tend to increase following wet seasons when food and water are abundant, allowing for higher reproductive success. Conversely, during dry seasons, pigs concentrate around permanent water sources and refuges, which can increase their vulnerability to control measures (Choquenot et al., 1996; McIlroy, 1994).

High reproductive capacity: Female feral pigs reach sexual maturity at around 6-8 months and can produce two litters over 12–15 months under favourable conditions, with 4–10 piglets per litter (Channon et al. 2022). This reproductive potential enables rapid population recovery.

Movement and dispersal: Feral pigs have home ranges varying from a few square kilometres to over 50 km^2 depending on habitat quality and resource distribution (Wilson et al., 2023). Dispersal, especially by juvenile males, facilitates recolonisation of areas after control and complicates control efforts.

Population density: Densities in suitable habitats can range from less than 1 to more than 10 pigs per square kilometre (Choquenot et al., 1996; McIlroy, 1994). Studies in northern Queensland have recorded densities as high as 12 pigs/km^2 in productive wetland areas (Choquenot et al., 1996).

Impact of control measures: Sustained, coordinated control is essential as populations can quickly rebound due to their reproductive capacity and immigration from untreated areas. Research highlights the need for integrated landscape-scale management to effectively suppress populations (Choquenot et al., 2012; McIlroy, 2000).

Environmental influences: Habitat features such as availability of cover, water, and food resources strongly influence population distribution and dynamics. Floodplains, riparian zones, and areas with agricultural crops support higher densities (Cork & Parkes, 1991).

2.1. Mapping and data resources

Utilising the following mapping tools and data enables targeted, regionally tailored feral pig management, optimising control efforts and resource allocation:

- National Feral Pig Current Distribution Map (ABARES, 2024): Provides broad-scale estimates of feral pig presence and relative abundance across Queensland in a 5 km grid format. More information: https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/invasive-species/national-feral-pig-current-distribution-australia
- Queensland Feral Pig Distribution Map (DPI, 2008): Categorises regions by feral pig sighting frequency to identify high-density areas. More information: https://www.DPI.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/790353/Feral-pig_2008.pdf

- FeralScan Community Mapping Tool: A citizen science platform for real-time reporting of feral pig sightings and control activities across Queensland. More information: https://feralscan.org.au/feralpigscan/map.aspx
- Queensland Pest Distribution Maps: PDF maps illustrating pest animal distribution and density by region to inform control strategies. More information: https://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/pest-mapping/pdf-maps

Please note these distribution maps are indicative only.

3. Defining the problem - What issues are caused by feral pigs in Queensland

3.1. Issues and challenges

Descended from domestic pigs introduced by early European settlers, feral pigs are now established across the state, thriving in tropical, subtropical, and temperate environments, from coastal wetlands and river floodplains to forested ranges and rangelands. Feral pigs are a widespread and destructive invasive pest in Queensland, causing significant environmental, economic and cultural impacts.

Feral pigs have a high reproductive capacity. Their omnivorous diet and adaptability to diverse habitats make them difficult to control and allow populations to rapidly recover after management efforts.

Given their high reproductive capacity, an annual knockdown rate of at least 70 per cent is needed to suppress population growth and prevent rapid population recovery (National Feral Pig Action Plan). Once-off control events are rapidly countered by feral pigs' ability to reproduce, demonstrating the importance of maintaining sustained control measures over time.

Figure 2 demonstrates the different recovery rates of feral pig populations that have been reduced by 50% and 90%. In good seasons, a population experiencing a 50% kill will recover to the original levels within one breeding cycle, whereas a population experiencing a 90% kill will take five breeding cycles to recover.

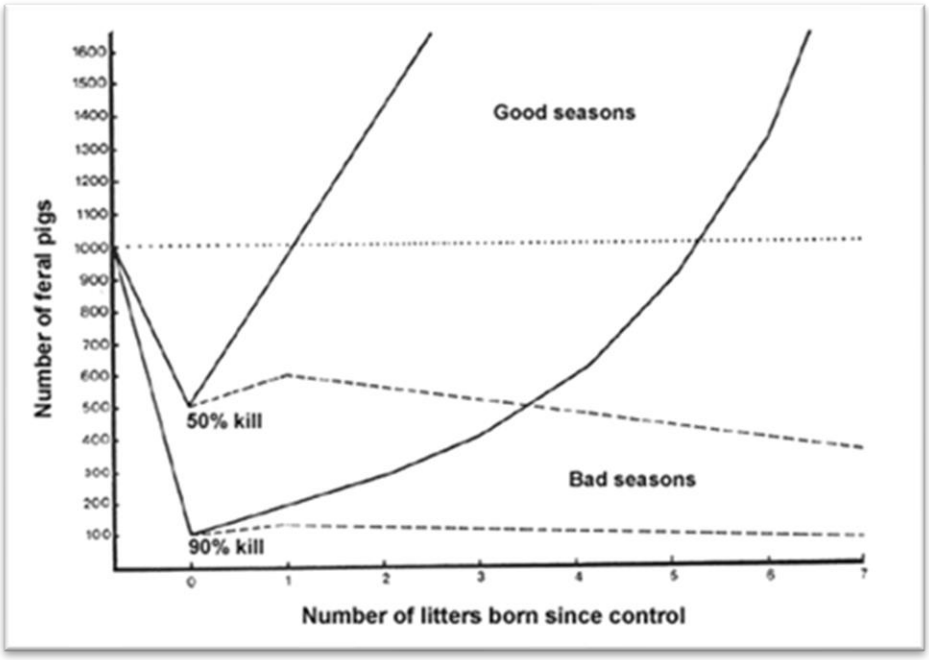

Figure 2: Hone, O'Grady & Pederson 1980, Decisions in the control of feral pig damage, Ag Bulletin, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries

Pigs are highly mobile and able to move widely across the landscape. When land managers do not collaborate with neighbours in a nil tenure approach (landscape scale control activities undertaken over adjoining properties irrespective of ownership) a higher pig population will remain to reproduce and reinfest.

Some land managers may not fulfill their legislated general biosecurity obligation to take reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks posed by feral pigs under their control. There are also challenges for landholders in monitoring accurate population estimates or densities, and therefore it is difficult for landholders to achieve the knockdown rate with certainty.

Seasonal challenges, vast and remote landscapes, and inconsistent control effort coordination have reduced the effectiveness of feral pig control across Queensland.

3.2. Current situation

Feral pigs occur across Queensland, with highest densities in Cape York Peninsula, Gulf Country, Wet Tropics, coastal and sub-coastal regions, and fertile agricultural zones such as the Darling Downs and Burnett regions. Remote, rugged, and wetland areas provide refuge, making sustained control challenging. While precise numbers fluctuate, Queensland is estimated to hold

a substantial proportion of Australia's feral pig population. Their adaptable nature, high reproductive rates, and ability to exploit diverse habitats make population control challenging.

Existing feral pig management involves a mix of private landholder actions, local government efforts, agricultural industry coordinated activities, Indigenous ranger programs, and state agency initiatives. Control methods commonly used include aerial shooting, trapping, exclusion fencing, ground shooting and baiting with toxins such as 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) and sodium nitrite.

Land managers have a general biosecurity obligation which requires them to take reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise biosecurity risk from invasive species, such as feral pigs, on their property.

The main function under the Act of each local government is to ensure that invasive biosecurity matter, which includes feral pigs, are managed within the local government's area in compliance with the Act. Local government is empowered to educate, coordinate activities across their local government area or use compliance tools, such as issuing biosecurity orders to landholders who fail to take reasonable and practical measures to manage invasive biosecurity matter. Local government's responsibilities in compliance relate to both private and public lands.

Several regional pest management groups and natural resource management (NRM) organisations also coordinate efforts to varying degrees.

Despite these activities, feral pigs are still negatively impacting many areas, and the overall impact on ecosystems, agriculture, and biosecurity continues to escalate.

3.3. Impacts

In 2023, the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences revealed feral pigs caused $156 million of production losses and direct control costs in Australia annually with $95 million of those losses and costs being borne by Queensland.

Feral pigs are one of the most destructive invasive species in Queensland, causing widespread and multifaceted impacts across environmental, economic, cultural and social domains. Their presence poses significant challenges to biodiversity, agricultural productivity, public health, and cultural values. As opportunistic omnivores and prolific breeders, feral pigs thrive in diverse

ecosystems, from tropical rainforests and wetlands to arid grasslands, amplifying their reach and influence across the state.

This section explores the various impacts of feral pigs in Queensland, highlighting the severity of their damage to native ecosystems, agricultural industries, and community well-being. By examining these impacts in detail, we aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the scale of the problem and the urgent need for actions.

3.3.1 Environmental impacts

Feral pigs are recognised as both a nationally listed Key Threatening Process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth) and a major invasive species threat under Conserving Nature – A Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Queensland. Their impacts undermine state and national biodiversity goals by degrading habitats, threatening native species, competing for resources, and spreading disease.

Habitat degradation and ecosystem disruption

Rooting, wallowing and trampling disturb soils, vegetation, and hydrology, particularly in wetlands, riparian zones, and rainforest margins.

These activities lead to erosion, sedimentation, turbidity, and altered water quality, negatively impacting aquatic ecosystems and species dependent on them.

The *Threat Abatement Plan for predation, habitat degradation, competition and disease transmission by feral pigs (Sus scrofa) (2017*) (TAP) identifies wetland and riparian habitats as particularly vulnerable, and the Conserving Nature – A Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Queensland notes these impacts directly undermine Goal 1: Protect and Goal 2: Restore and Recover by preventing regeneration and promoting weed invasion.

Impacts on native species and ecological communities

Predation on ground-nesting birds, reptiles, amphibians, turtle nests, and small mammals reduces reproductive success and long-term viability of vulnerable species.

Competition with native fauna such as cassowaries and brolgas for food resources disrupts ecological relationships.

The TAP lists more than 40 nationally threatened species and multiple threatened ecological communities impacted by feral pigs, many occurring in Queensland, including Ramsar wetlands, littoral rainforest, tropical wetlands, and Brigalow ecological community.

Disease transmission

Feral pigs are reservoirs for leptospirosis, brucellosis, tuberculosis, and known to spread plant pathogens like *Phytophthora cinnamomi.*

The TAP identifies disease spread as a threat to wildlife and agriculture, while the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy's Adapt goal is compromised by reduced ecosystem resilience to other pressures.

Landscape fragmentation and connectivity loss

Vegetation loss, soil disturbance, and altered hydrology fragment habitats, reducing connectivity and hindering species movement.

Feral pig control is a critical biodiversity action for Queensland that meets both state and national commitments. Aligning actions with the TAP and Queensland Biodiversity Conservation Strategy ensures stronger conservation outcomes and more effective coordination across stakeholders.

3.3.2 Agricultural impacts

Feral pigs are a major agricultural pest in Queensland, causing substantial and varied damage across the state's farming industries. Their impacts are both direct and indirect, affecting crop yields, livestock health, farm infrastructure, and biosecurity.

The agricultural impacts of feral pigs in Queensland include:

- **Crop and pasture damage:** Feral pigs are highly destructive to a wide range of crops. They damage crops from sowing to harvest by eating seeds, grain, fruits, and vegetables, as well as trampling plants (Business Queensland, 2023). A study in the Whitsunday Regional Council area estimated that feral pigs caused approximately $837,000 in annual costs to the sugarcane sector (Synergies Economic Consulting, 2020). Feral pigs also damage pastures through grazing and rooting for food, which can reduce the amount of feed available for livestock (Business Queensland, 2023).
- **Livestock predation and competition:** Feral pigs are known to prey on newborn lambs and other young livestock. Research in Australia's semi-arid

rangelands found that lamb loss due to feral pig predation ranged from ~21% to 32% depending on feral pig density and other factors. (Choquenot et al 1997, Plant et al 1978). They also compete with livestock for feed and can impact cattle sale weights and calving rates through disease transmission (Synergies Economic Consulting, 2020).

- **Damage to farm infrastructure:** Feral pigs cause considerable damage to on-farm infrastructure. They can destroy fences, which allows other pests to enter and can lead to livestock escaping. They also damage irrigation systems and dam walls through their rooting and wallowing activities (Rockhampton Regional Council, 2019). The cost of repairing and maintaining this infrastructure adds to the financial burden on producers (Synergies Economic Consulting, 2020).
- **Biosecurity and disease risk:** Feral pigs are a significant biosecurity threat and can act as carriers of several diseases and parasites that can be transmitted to livestock and even humans. These include brucellosis and leptospirosis. They are also considered a high-risk vector for exotic diseases like foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and African swine fever (ASF) (Gentle et al., 2022). An FMD outbreak in Australia could result in staggering losses of up to $50 billion over 10 years for the cattle industry (Invasive Species Council, 2023).
- **Spread of weeds:** Feral pigs are effective at spreading invasive weeds. As they move through agricultural lands, their digging and defecation can help to disperse weed seeds, which can further degrade pastures and cropping areas (Rockhampton Regional Council, 2019).

3.3.3 Biosecurity – disease threats

Feral pigs are a significant biosecurity threat in Queensland, acting as vectors for both endemic and exotic diseases that can harm livestock, wildlife, and even humans. Their widespread population and mobility make them particularly effective at transmitting pathogens across different environments.

Exotic disease threats

Feral pigs pose a critical risk for the spread of highly contagious exotic diseases that could devastate Australia's agricultural industries.

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD): Feral pigs are considered a major risk for FMD, a highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals like cattle, sheep, and goats (Business Queensland, 2024). An FMD outbreak in Australia could have severe economic consequences, with a large, multi-state incident estimated to cost over $80 billion in lost revenue over 10 years (Business Queensland, 2024). Feral pigs can become infected by consuming

contaminated swill and then spread the virus through their movements and significant viral shedding (Wildlife Health Australia, 2023).

African swine fever (ASF): This is another highly infectious and deadly viral disease that affects domestic and feral pigs (Business Queensland, 2023). There is currently no vaccine or treatment for ASF. An outbreak would have a catastrophic impact on Australia's pork industry, leading to significant economic losses and a potential loss of access to international markets (Animal Health Australia, 2022). Feral pigs are a key concern because they could spread the disease between infected and uninfected populations, making a containment effort extremely difficult.

Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV): Feral pigs act as an amplifying host for JEV, a mosquito-borne virus that can cause serious illness in humans and horses (National Feral Pig Action Plan, 2025). The virus, which has been detected in feral pig populations in Queensland's Cape York Peninsula, can cause reproductive failure in sows and has been responsible for human fatalities (National Feral Pig Action Plan, 2025).

Endemic diseases

Beyond the threat of exotic diseases, feral pigs in Queensland already carry and transmit several endemic diseases and parasites that impact livestock and humans.

Brucellosis: Feral pigs in eastern Queensland are a known reservoir for swine brucellosis (*Brucella suis*). This bacterial disease can be transmitted to humans and dogs through direct contact with infected pigs or their products, causing severe, long-term illness (Wildlife Health Australia, 2025).

Leptospirosis and Q fever: Feral pigs are carriers of these bacterial diseases, which can be transmitted to other animals and humans. Contact with infected blood, urine, or meat can lead to serious health issues in humans, including fever and kidney problems (Reef Catchments, 2013).

3.3.4 Cultural impacts

Feral pigs have a complex and multifaceted cultural impact in Queensland, particularly affecting Indigenous communities and recreational activities. Their destructive nature creates significant tension between their status as a pest and their value as a food source and cultural resource.

Impact on Indigenous communities

For many Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland, particularly in remote areas like Cape York Peninsula, feral pigs are viewed as both a problem and a resource.

Damage to cultural sites: The rooting and digging behaviour of feral pigs can cause significant damage to ecologically and culturally important areas. This includes disturbing and destroying sensitive wetlands and landscapes that hold deep cultural significance and are home to traditional food sources and medicines (Reef Catchments, 2013).

Food and cultural practice: Despite their destructive nature, feral pigs have become a source of bush tucker for some Indigenous communities. The hunting of pigs provides a low-cost food source and is also a way to maintain traditional skills, reinforce kinship systems, and connect with Country (Rainforest CRC, 1999; National Feral Pig Action Plan, 2020).

Conflict over management: The dual role of feral pigs as both a pest and a resource creates a challenge for management. A study on Aboriginal rangers' perspectives in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area of North Queensland found that different communities have varying views on how to handle feral pigs, depending on their socio-economic context (Charles Darwin University, 2023). This can lead to conflicts over management strategies, as some communities may oppose control programs that threaten a valuable food source.

Impact on recreational activities and wider community

Recreational shooting: In the broader community, recreational shooting of feral pigs is a popular activity. It has social and economic value for people and can be a source of income in some rural areas. However, it can undermine official control efforts when counter to best practice management, as hunters may modify pig behaviour making pigs harder to manage.

Social tensions: The presence of feral pigs can create social tension between different community groups, such as landholders who suffer economic damage and recreational shooters who value the animals for hunting. Many recreational shooters believe they are doing a service by reducing the impact of pigs, however, would probably be unhappy to see pigs disappear entirely.

Social tensions can also exist when pigs occupy both protected areas and neighbouring agricultural properties (Rainforest CRC, 1999).

4. Current management of feral pigs in Queensland

Best practice management for feral pigs in Queensland is an integrated and collaborative approach that combines multiple control methods across different land tenures. The goal is to mitigate their significant impacts on agriculture, cultural values and the environment.

4.1. Integrated pest management (IPM)

The state and national vertebrate pest management guides advocate for a comprehensive, integrated approach to feral pig control. This includes a combination of science-based, coordinated methods such as:

Baiting: Poisoning is an efficient and cost-effective method for large-scale population reduction and is probably the most heavily relied on control method. Baits containing 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) or sodium nitrite are used. A review of research indicates ground baiting with grain baits resulted in an average population reduction of 49% (ranging from 0% to 98.9%) (Wilson & Gentle 2022). To increase effectiveness and minimise risk to non-target animals, pre-feeding pigs with non-toxic bait is a crucial step.

Aerial shooting: Professional aerial shooting from helicopters is a humane and highly effective way to cull large numbers of pigs in open, remote areas within a short period of time. A review of research studying Australian aerial shooting has shown an average population reduction of 79% (ranging from 43% to 96%) (Wilson & Gentle 2022). Over large areas aerial operations can be cost effective and the least labour-intensive option.

Trapping: Trapping is a key method for controlling pigs in more populated areas, on smaller properties, and to remove survivors after baiting programs. This method can be used anywhere and creates low disturbance to the population but can be labour intensive. Traps can be made pig-specific to reduce the risk to native animals. Research indicates trapping results in an average population reduction of 63%, but instances have been recorded as removing up to 100% of pigs (Wilson & Gentle 2022). To achieve good results, pre-feeding pigs with non-toxic lure is a crucial step.

Exclusion fencing: Exclusion fencing is highly effective for protecting high-value areas like crops or conservation sites from pig damage. Fencing must be maintained regularly to remain effective.

Ground shooting: Ground shooting is less effective for large-scale control but can be useful for managing small, isolated populations. It should not be conducted immediately before or during baiting or trapping, as it can disrupt pig behaviour and make them wary of other control methods.

As the use of single control tools rarely produce adequate effective management, land managers will need to integrate multiple control tools. This integrated approach, which is often implemented through regional pest management committees and biosecurity plans, is recognised as the most effective way to achieve a sustained reduction in feral pig numbers and their impacts.

4.2. Best practice timing

Best practice for feral pig management in relation to seasonal conditions involves timing control efforts to coincide with seasonal behaviours of pigs, environmental conditions, and land management activities.

1. Seasonal pig behaviour and management implications

Feral pigs change their movements and habitat preferences with the seasons:

Season	Behaviour & conditions	Management implication
Dry season (winter in QLD)	Water and food are scarce. Pigs congregate around reliable water sources.	**Best time for coordinated control** (trapping, baiting, aerial shooting) due to predictability of pig locations.
Wet season (summer in QLD)	Abundant food (e.g. crops, native fruits), widespread water availability, pigs disperse. Breeding increases.	**Less effective for control** – pigs are harder to locate. Focus on **monitoring surveillance and damage assessment**.
Transitional periods (early dry or post-wet)	Shifting resources and pig movements. Juveniles emerging.	Prepare for or wind down major campaigns. Good time to assess **population changes** and start proactive control before breeding escalates. Review data and evaluate previous programs.

2. Align management to land use and seasonal activities

Activity	Season	Strategy
Cropping	Wet and post-wet	Collaborative aerial shooting; exclusion fencing for high value crops; dispose of crop bi-product and spoilage to limit access.
Grazing	Year-round; impacts worse during dry	Target pigs around water points and riparian zones in dry months.
Conservation land	Year-round	Dry season: focus control near wetlands, rainforest edges, turtle/nesting sites. Wet season: assess damage and track movements. Overall control efforts focus on priority ecosystems— threatened species habitat and culturally significant landscapes.

3. Seasonally adaptive techniques

Technique	Seasonally effective when	Notes
Baiting (e.g., 1080)	End of dry / start of wet (food scarcity increases bait uptake)	Ensure non-target safety; follow local regulations. Use pre-feeding to condition pigs to bait.
Trapping	Dry season (pigs concentrated)	Use pre-feeding to condition pigs before setting traps.
Aerial shooting	Late dry season (open canopy, pigs easier to spot)	Best in open terrain and coordinated across large properties.
Monitoring/surveying	Year-round	Use cameras, tracks, drones, and local intelligence to adapt plans.
Ground shooting	Opportunistic; dry season preferred	Use where access and visibility allow. Often follows other control methods.

4.3. Regional action plans

Regional action plans are essential to ensuring feral pig management in Queensland is coordinated, cost-effective, and sustainable across diverse landscapes. Because feral pigs are generally not restricted in their movements to property or jurisdictional boundaries, effective management must occur at a regional scale, underpinned by shared priorities, consistent methods, and collaboration among all landholders and agencies.

Key benefits of regional planning

- **Nil-tenure coordination:** Regional planning enables local governments, state agencies, Traditional Owners, and private landholders to work together on shared priorities. Coordinated planning ensures that control actions on one property or tenure are reinforced by actions on adjoining lands, preventing re-infestation and wasted effort.

- **Specific asset protection**: Identification of important assets for protection (for example an agricultural area, an environmentally significant wetland, a culturally significant site).
- **Efficient resource allocation:** Regional planning identifies high-risk zones (e.g., high-value crops, biodiversity areas, or disease-prone regions) and directs funding and effort where impacts are greatest. This improves the cost-effectiveness of control operations, especially when resources are limited.
- **Consistent compliance and accountability:** Aligning compliance expectations and control standards across a region ensures fair and transparent enforcement of the general biosecurity obligation. Regional plans can provide clear benchmarks for what constitutes 'reasonable and practical' action in that local context.
- **Integration with other biosecurity and natural resource management priorities:** Regional pest management planning allows feral pig control to be integrated with broader natural resource management and biosecurity objectives—such as protecting threatened species, water quality, and soil health—creating multiple environmental and economic benefits.
- **Community ownership and local leadership:** By developing and implementing regional plans through participatory processes, landholders and community groups gain a sense of ownership. This increases voluntary compliance, strengthens trust in local government, and encourages ongoing participation in coordinated control programs.
- **Leveraging partnerships and funding:** Regional planning provides a framework for councils and natural resource management groups to secure state, federal, and industry funding, by demonstrating alignment with broader biosecurity and agricultural policies such as the Queensland Feral Pig Action Plan and the National Feral Pig Action Plan.
- **Monitoring, evaluation, and continuous improvement:** Regional plans establish consistent monitoring and reporting systems, allowing partners to track progress, measure outcomes, and adapt strategies over time. This data-driven approach ensures accountability and continuous improvement in management effectiveness.

Regional action plans are the grass roots approach for effective feral pig management in Queensland. It connects local action with statewide and national priorities, fosters collaboration, and ensures that every dollar spent contributes to lasting reductions in populations and impacts. Without robust

regional coordination, individual control efforts remain fragmented, short-term, and less effective in achieving Queensland's biosecurity goals.

5. Aim, goals, objectives and actions

5.1. Aim

The Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan aims to address the growing challenges posed by feral pigs in Queensland through a collaborative, coordinated approach. **Best practice management must be achieved to actively suppress Queensland feral pig populations to reduce their negative impacts on environmental, agricultural, cultural and social values.** This will be achieved through the following goals—

5.2. Goals

The goals align with the National Feral Pig Action Plan and the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy, ensuring that actions are evidence-based, collaborative, and adaptable to regional conditions.

Goal 1: Reduce feral pig populations through effective, humane and sustained feral pig management methods.

Goal 2: Protect agriculture, native wildlife, and ecosystems from further damage.

Goal 3: Foster collaborative best practice management efforts at local, regional, and state levels.

Goal 4: Increase community engagement and awareness about the issue.

5.3. Objectives and actions

This plan adopts a coordinated, cross-tenure approach to reduce feral pig impacts through a mix of direct control, prevention, monitoring, and community engagement.

5.3.1 Action framework

Objective	Actions	Lead	Supported	Priority & Timeframe	Performance measures	Context	Alignment with National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) Action (Objective & Action) and Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2025-2030 (QIPAS) (Strategic actions)
Goal 1: Reduce feral pig populations through effective, humane and sustained feral pig management methods							
Objective 1 **On ground action - Support collaborative, nil tenure, integrated, sustainable and coordinated feral pig management actions**	a. Coordinate multi-stakeholder suppression campaigns/programs with monitoring and adaptive tactics. b. Expand existing successful programs (e.g., coordinated baiting/shooting/trapping) and new collaborative projects focused on asset protection.	**Land managers, LG, Ag industry, NRM**	All stakeholders	Medium - high priority a. Ongoing b. Ongoing	• Publish information on successful programs. • Area and assets protected; reductions in pig activity and damage; monitoring reports showing impact.	Local governments/NRM/industry leading coordinated baiting, shooting and trapping programs across the landscape. Landholders delivering in timely manner. Prioritising assets ensures efficient allocation of limited resources to where impact reduction is greatest. Directed suppression in locations where pig impacts threaten high-value assets; measurable impact reduction.	NFPAP Objective 3.2 – Action 3.2.1 Support existing and implement new collaborative and coordinated feral pig management actions. Objective 3.2 - Action 3.2.3 Develop strategic approaches to protect prioritised assets through active suppression, or eradication, of feral pig populations. QIPAS 2.3 Adopt best practice approaches. 2.4 Develop control programs that include input from land managers and are consistent with sustainable management practices.
Objective 2 **Animal welfare - Ensure adoption of humane practice consistent with national standards**	a. Ensure the adoption of nationally agreed Codes of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures in Queensland programs through readily accessible material. b. Adopt humane best practice standards. c. Ensure Queensland Biosecurity guidance material is consistent with national welfare and best practice standards.	**a, b - All stakeholders** **c - DPI**		Medium priority a. Ongoing b. Ongoing c. Ongoing	• Programs are consistent with current standards.	Ensures compliance with national animal welfare expectations and reduces regional variation in practice.	NFPAP Objective 1.1 - Action 1.1.2 Ensure consistency with humane, best practice feral pig management QIPAS 2.3 Adopt best practice approaches.
Objective 3 **Research and development - Undertake research and development to support effective feral pig management**	a. Undertake research and development priorities. b. Create co-investment and collaborative partnerships with universities, industry and national agents.	**a - DPI** **b – All stakeholders**	Research providers, Ag industry	Medium priority a. Ongoing b. Ongoing	• Resources published and accessible.	Targeted research and development addresses Queensland-specific ecological and operational challenges. New evidence and technologies adapted to Queensland environments that improve effectiveness and humaneness. Optimise best practice management strategies.	NFPAP Objective 3.1 - Action 3.1.3 Develop research, development and extension (RD&E) opportunities to underpin the Plan's implementation. Objective 3.2 - Action 3.2.2 Drive adoption of new feral pig management and monitoring technologies by land managers. QIPAS 2.5 Strengthen research capacity, including leveraging partnerships and increasing resources. 2.6 Enhance control techniques through continued research, development and extension that informs best practice management.

Objective	Actions	Lead	Supported	Priority & Timeframe	Performance measures	Context	Alignment with National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) Action (Objective & Action) and Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2025-2030 (QIPAS) (Strategic actions)
Objective 4 **Monitoring and evaluation- Improve monitoring and evaluation measures to ensure consistent, standardised and comparative information data is collected**	a. Investigate appropriate monitoring information for landholders (camera protocols, transects, bait-take monitoring, population densities, damage/impact assessment—crop/ agriculture, turtle nests, waterhole, wetlands etc.). b. Investigate best methods to integrate Queensland data systems with national systems. c. Promote the adoption of shared data monitoring standards and templates.	**DPI, LG, NRM**	All stakeholders	Medium priority a. Data monitoring standards within 2 years b. Ongoing c. Ongoing	• Number of groups submitting data through national pest surveys.	Centralised, compatible data enabling state-to-national aggregation and evidence-based planning. Evidence based information to support outcomes and visual trends. Actionable monitoring data enables targeted, cost-effective interventions. Improved decision-making through consistent data collection and visualisation.	NFPAP Objective 1.2 - Action 1.2.3 Utilise trusted systems, structures and networks, in partnership with other vertebrate pest management programs, enable and support coordinated regional-scale planning, land manager engagement and actions. QIPAS 6.1 Develop and promote standardised protocols for data collection to integrate invasive plants and animals monitoring systems from multiple sources and jurisdictions, including citizen science. 6.2 Use standardised protocols to ensure collected parameters are consistent and useful for data sharing. 6.3 Develop and establish monitoring and reporting programs for priority invasive plant and animal. 6.4 Quantify and understand the impacts of significant invasive plants and animals through research programs to determine acceptable levels of risk and develop strategies to mitigate impact.
Objective 5 **Investment - Encourage investment that supports best practice management**	a. Grant criteria should encourage land managers to utilise effective best practice management and support monitoring and evaluation. b. Encourage co-investment amongst all stakeholders.	**a - DPI, NRM, LG** **b - DPI, NRM, LG, Ag Industry**	All stakeholders	Low-medium priority a. Ongoing. b. Ongoing.	• Periodic review by oversight group of funding criteria/guidelines to support best practice management.	Sustainable funding streams to maintain long-term management and capability. Funding should target optimal seasons/timing for maximum effectiveness e.g. dry times and drought seasons. Long-term finance is essential for sustained suppression and program continuity.	NFPAP Objective 3.1 - Action 3.1.4 Ensure long term investment through new innovative approaches. QIPAS 2.2 Extend (promote) best practice approaches. 5.3 Seek alternative investment opportunities (private, industry etc.) for projects addressing management of invasive plants and animals. 5.4 Promote the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of managing invasive plants and animals to encourage co-investment.

Objective	Actions	Lead	Supported	Priority & Timeframe	Performance measures	Context	Alignment with National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) Action (Objective & Action) and Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2025-2030 (QIPAS) (Strategic actions)
Objective 6 **Regulation - Ensure effective legislation to support the regulation, compliance and management of feral pigs**	a. Ensure effective regulation. b. Implement compliance and enforce legislative provisions.	**DPI, LG (excluding Regional Organisations of Councils regional feral pig coordinators)**		High priority a. Ongoing b. Ongoing	• Periodic reviews of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*. • Processing biosecurity permits or with dealing feral pigs as required. • Ensuring compliance with *Biosecurity Act 2014* and *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.	Clear, enforceable laws under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* are essential to ensure all landholders, industries, and government agencies meet their general biosecurity obligation. Effective legislation provides consistency across jurisdictions, supports compliance actions, and facilitates coordinated control efforts.	QIPAS 1.2 Enforce legislative provisions and implement compliance strategies for high-priority potentially invasive plants and animals.
Goal 2: Protect agriculture, native wildlife, and ecosystems from further damage							
Objective 7 **Asset protection – Develop and implement asset protection strategies**	a. Encourage land managers to identify and prioritise valuable assets (agricultural crops, wetlands, threatened habitat or species, community assets) and develop strategic/tactical suppression plans. b. Deliver effective asset protection measures.	**a, b - All stakeholders**		Medium - high priority a. Ongoing b. Ongoing	• Regional Action Plans and local government biosecurity plans consider measures for asset protection.	Controls efforts are target the most important assets for protection.	NFPAP Objective 3.2 - Action 3.2.3 Develop strategic approaches to protect prioritised assets through active suppression, or eradication, of feral pig populations. QIPAS 2.3 Adopt best practice approaches.
Goal 3: Foster collaborative best practice management efforts at local, regional, and state levels							
Objective 8 **Governance and leadership - Establish an oversight group for the QFPMAP to guide implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the Plan's effectiveness**	a. Clear governance, purpose and structure established. b. Regular meetings to discuss progress, share information and collaborate. c. Annual-biennial reporting to provide updates and document progress.	**DPI**	Oversight group members. Includes: • LG • NRM • Ag industry • DAFF	High priority a. Membership nominations; Terms of reference developed <12 months b. Ongoing c. Ongoing	• Plan oversight group established • Number of meetings held • KPIs established • Baselines recorded • Trend analyses.	Provides the state-level governance mechanism that feeds into national coordination; ensures local representation and ownership. Consistent measurement of plan effectiveness. Robust monitoring and evaluation supports adaptive management and demonstrates impact to investors and stakeholders. State reporting provides the Queensland contribution to national	NFPAP Objective 1.3 - Action 1.3.1 Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Plan. Objective 1.3 - Action 1.3.2 Provide annual performance report to NFPAP stakeholder groups. Objective 1.3 - Action 1.3.3 Conduct a half-term (2.5 year) and full-term (5th year) review to measure performance and identify adaptations and improvements required. QIPAS 3.2 Determine priorities and develop statewide and regional strategic plans for invasive plants and animals and specific practices.

Objective	Actions	Lead	Supported	Priority & Timeframe	Performance measures	Context	Alignment with National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) Action (Objective & Action) and Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2025-2030 (QIPAS) (Strategic actions)
						oversight and informs future planning. Transparent reporting builds stakeholder confidence.	3.5 Foster a long-term focus for resources and research, development and extension activities. 5.2 Encourage all land managers, including government, to use a collaborative landscape approach to the management of invasive plants and animals.
Objective 9 **Strategic planning - Ensure collaborative and strategic approaches to adaptive feral pig management at a local, regional and state level**	a. Develop templates and guidance material for regional feral pig action plans. b. Publish regional feral pig action plans. c. Local government biosecurity plans have measures to address feral pigs. d. Regional biosecurity plans (multiple local governments) have measures to address feral pigs.	**DPI, LG, NRM**	All stakeholders	High priority a. <12 months b. <2 years c. Ongoing d. Ongoing	• Regional feral pig action plans developed across Queensland. • Local government biosecurity plans or regional biosecurity plans have measures aimed at managing feral pigs.	Improved local collaboration, adaptive management uptake, and larger scale coordinated control efforts. Community ownership increases long-term sustainability of control activities and demonstrates local benefits. Consistent planning tools across Queensland that meets national minimums while being locally relevant. Templates balance national consistency with local practicality and encourage plan adoption. Ensure linkages with other regulatory agendas/priorities e.g. human health, *Nature Conservation Act 1992*; Conserving Nature – Biodiversity Strategy for Queensland.	NFPAP Objective 1.2 - Action 1.2.1 Ensure collaborative and strategic approaches to adaptive feral pest management at a community, regional and state level. Objective 3.2 - Action 3.2.1 Support existing and implement new collaborative and coordinated feral pig management actions. Objective 3.3 - Action 3.3.1 Develop nationally minimum guidelines for feral pig management plans and templates to promote consistency at local, regional and state/territory levels. QIPAS 1.8 Develop and implement risk-based eradication, mitigation and control plans for specific invasive plants and animals. 3.1 Develop local government area biosecurity plans in collaboration with the community, state land managers and regional natural resource management organisations (including input from regional natural resource management plans). 3.2 Determine priorities and develop statewide and regional strategic plans for invasive plants and animals and specific practices.
Objective 10 **Pest coordinators - Enhance existing and establish new pest coordinator networks to support management groups**	a. Enhance established local government and NRM networks. b. Support knowledge sharing and a community of practice through coordinator networks. c. Investigate ongoing sustainable funding for regional pest coordinators across Queensland.	**a, b - LG, DPI, NRM** **c - DPI**	Ag industry	Medium priority a. Ongoing b. Ongoing c. Ongoing	• Number of pest coordinators appointed. • Evidence of coordinated actions enabled by coordinators.	Local support for management groups, improved uptake of best practice and coordinated operations across landscapes. Regional coordinators are pivotal to translating policy into local action and sustaining programs.	NFPAP Objective 1.2 - Action 1.2.4 Establish a coordinator network to support management groups with effective adaptive management approaches QIPAS 2.4 Develop control programs that include input from land managers and are consistent with sustainable management practices. 3.4 Promote sharing of resources, expertise and knowledge to foster effective detection and management. 4.3 Improve communication networks at all levels to encourage best practice and discourage actions that contribute to or maintain invasive plant and animal impacts.

Objective	Actions	Lead	Supported	Priority & Timeframe	Performance measures	Context	Alignment with National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) Action (Objective & Action) and Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2025-2030 (QIPAS) (Strategic actions)
Objective 11 Collaborate - Collaborate with partners to improve coordination, decision making, and reporting of adaptive approaches, actions, and outcomes	a. Encourage coordination through partnerships and communication. b. Encourage participation in coordinated programs such as local government-initiated events or NRM programs. c. Collaborate with DETSI good neighbour policy. d. Utilise Plan oversight group to support collaboration.	**DPI, LG, NRM, Ag industry**	All stakeholders	Medium-high priority a. Ongoing b. Ongoing c. Ongoing d. Ongoing	• Frequency of forums. • Proportion of partners using shared templates and reporting.	Better coordinated decision-making, clearer data flows, and joint accountability. Formal partnerships reduce duplication and accelerate joint action on shared landscapes.	NFPAP Objective 1.2 - Action 1.2.2 Collaborate with partners to improve coordination, decision making, and reporting of adaptive approaches, actions, and outcomes. QIPAS 3.4 Promote sharing of resources, expertise and knowledge to foster effective detection and management. 4.3 Improve communication networks at all levels to encourage best practice and discourage actions that contribute to or maintain invasive plant and animal impacts.
Goal 4: Increase community engagement and awareness about the issue							
Objective 12 Communication, education and engagement - Increase communication and engagement on feral pig impacts and best practice management	a. Increase and promote regional field days, training events, targeted media and fact sheets.	**All stakeholders**		Medium priority a. Ongoing	• Reach metrics (events, downloads, media. impressions). • Number of training sessions delivered. • Skill assessments pre/post training.	Tailored messaging increases relevance and acceptance across diverse Queensland landscapes. Improved awareness of feral pig impacts and effective control activities. Practical training supported by local mentoring increases sustained adoption of techniques. Standardised, accredited training across QLD improving consistency and capability. Land managers equipped with up-to-date, locally relevant skills and resources to implement best practice. Demonstrations reduce barriers to adoption and provide local evidence of benefit. Uptake of cost-effective technologies and practices by land managers.	NFPAP Objective 2.1 - Action 2.1.1 Implement a communication and engagement strategy on feral pig impacts and best practice management. Objective 2.2 - Action 2.2.2 Develop and implement nationally recognised and accredited training programs for feral pig best practice management. Objective 3.2 - Action 3.2.2 Drive adoption of new feral pig management and monitoring technologies by land managers. QIPAS 4.1 Publicise and provide information on invasive plants and animals and the general biosecurity obligation to all relevant stakeholders and the wider community. 4.3 Improve communication networks at all levels to encourage best practice and discourage actions that contribute to or maintain invasive plant and animal impacts. 4.4 Promote and facilitate high-quality training in the management of invasive plants and animals. 5.1Develop the knowledge, capacity and commitment of key stakeholders so that they can play an active and constructive role in the management of invasive plants and animals. 5.2 Encourage all land managers, including government, to use a collaborative landscape approach to the management of invasive plants and animals. 5.4 Promote the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of managing invasive plants and animals to encourage co-investment.

Objective	Actions	Lead	Supported	Priority & Timeframe	Performance measures	Context	Alignment with National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) Action (Objective & Action) and Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2025-2030 (QIPAS) (Strategic actions)
Objective 13 Resources - Ensure feral pig management resources are consistent, updated and incorporate new approaches and technologies	a. Maintain information on feral pigs relevant to Queensland.	**DPI**	Research providers, LG, NRM	Medium priority a. Annual updates through the technical highlights published on DPI website	• Resources published and accessible.	Centralised access reduces confusion and promotes adoption of latest practices. Up-to-date resources support evidence-based and humane control methods. Uptake of proven technologies.	NFPAP Objective 3.1 - Action 3.1.1 Ensure feral pig management resources are consistent, updated and incorporate new approaches and technologies. Objective 3.2 - Action 3.2.2 Drive adoption of new feral pig management and monitoring technologies by land managers QIPAS 2.6 Enhance control techniques through continued research, development and extension that informs best practice management. 4.1 Publicise and provide information on invasive plants and animals and the general biosecurity obligation to all relevant stakeholders and the wider community.

6.Stakeholder roles and responsibilities

Stakeholder	Responsibility
Land managers – includes private and public managed lands	• Ensure feral pig management is undertaken in accordance with local government biosecurity management plans. • Adhere to legislative requirements for feral pig management. • Conduct population and damage assessments for their lands. • Conduct control programs when required using the most appropriate and effective methods available. • Monitor the effectiveness of control techniques. • Seek assistance, if required, from other stakeholders to manage feral pigs. • Observe and report any significant changes in feral pig behaviour and distribution to relevant authority.
Local government (LG) (including regional pest subcommittee groups operating under Regional Organisations of Councils)	• Contribute to the development of Regional Feral Pig Action Plans. • Incorporate management of feral pigs into local government biosecurity plans and implement on ground actions including: – undertaking feral pig extension activities that include advice on control techniques – contributing to the coordination of feral pig management – assisting with the formation of land manager groups and organise coordinated campaigns. • Provide awareness information and education on feral pigs. • Ensure compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and undertake enforcement activities within the local government area (excluding Regional Organisations of Councils regional feral pig coordinators). • Seek funding and support for local and regional feral pig management activities and strategies. • Partner with and support research activities which improve on ground management outcomes.
Agricultural industry groups (Ag Industry)	• Promote collaborative feral pig management.
Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI)	• Undertake policy development and state planning for feral pig management. • Undertake research and development to improve feral pig management. • Foster links and communication between all stakeholders. • Support implementation of this plan. • Lead emergency response (e.g., where feral pig may be a vector for livestock or zoonotic disease).
Regional NRM organisations, Landcare, conservation groups.	• Contribute to the development of Regional Feral Pig Action Plans. • Review and participate in education, information, conservation and planning processes. • Contribute to the coordination of feral pig management. • Contribute to monitoring, sentinel sites and citizen science activities to support feral pig management. • Seek funding and support for local and regional feral pig management activities and strategies. • Assist with the formation of land manager groups and organise coordinated campaigns.
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)	• Funding of the National Feral Pig Coordinator (NFPC). • NFPC to support the implementation of the Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan to ensure alignment with the National Feral Pig Action Plan.
Research providers	• Undertake research to support feral pig management as funding is available. • Collaborate with all stakeholders. • Work in partnership with end users and on-ground managers to develop and disseminate best practice management and research outcomes.
All other stakeholders (commercial operators, recreational shooters etc.)	• Provide support when requested by land managers.

7.Governance and implementation

Governance and implementation

The successful implementation of this Plan hinges on a collaborative governance model that empowers stakeholders at the state, regional, and local levels. The framework is designed to be adaptive, evidence-based, and inclusive, ensuring actions are coordinated, efficient, and effective.

Guiding principles

Implementation will be guided by the following core principles:

1. **Collaboration:** Partnerships between government, industry, Traditional Owners, researchers, and the community are fundamental to success.
2. **Shared responsibility:** All land managers, under the general biosecurity obligation, have a role to play in managing feral pig impacts.
3. **Evidence-based:** Management decisions will be informed by consistent monitoring, data, and the best available science to ensure effectiveness.
4. **Adaptive management:** The plan will be regularly reviewed and updated to respond to new information, changing priorities, and the results of monitoring efforts.
5. **Culturally respectful:** The knowledge, priorities, and cultural authority of Traditional Owners will be integrated into all levels of planning and implementation.

Managing feral pigs in Queensland requires a collaborative effort with clear roles and responsibilities for all key stakeholders. The following table outlines how these duties are distributed.

7.1. Implementation pathway

Queensland's feral pig management is implemented through a tiered structure that translates overarching national and state-level goals into specific, on-the-ground actions. This ensures a consistent and coordinated effort across the entire state.

Tier	Role	Description
National Feral Pig Action Plan	**Strategic framework**	This top-level document provides the overarching strategic framework, goals, and objectives for all of Australia. It sets the national direction for feral pig management.
Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan	**Strategic framework**	This top-level document provides the overarching strategic framework, goals, and objectives for all of Queensland. It sets the statewide direction for feral pig management. The Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan is overseen by the oversight group.
Regional action plans	**Operational planning**	Guided by the state Plan, regional pest management committees develop and implement detailed operational plans. These plans identify local priorities, set realistic targets, and coordinate control efforts across different land tenures based on specific regional conditions.
Local government biosecurity plans	**Operational planning**	Local government biosecurity plans bring together all sectors of the local community to manage invasive plants and animals. They ensure resources are targeted at the highest priority pest management activities and those most likely to succeed.
Landholder biosecurity plan or property activity	**On-ground control**	This is where the physical work happens. On-ground control activities such as baiting, trapping, shooting, and fencing are delivered at the property and landscape scale by landholders, Indigenous rangers, local governments, and pest management contractors in line with the regional plans.

7.2. Review and adaptation

To ensure the plan remains effective and responsive, a formal review process is established:

Annual review: Progress against the performance measures will be reported annually. This review, led by the oversight group in collaboration with regional committees, will assess achievements and identify areas for improvement.

Comprehensive review: The entire Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan will be comprehensively reviewed every five years (2031). This major review will incorporate new research, evaluate the overall effectiveness of the strategy, and reset priorities to ensure long-term success in mitigating the impacts of feral pigs. A review in 2031 will also coincide with the National Feral Pig Management Action Plan review.

8. Appendices

8.1. Key stakeholders invited to participate

Key stakeholders invited to Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan development workshop, held at Department of Primary Industries Conference Centre, Rockhampton, 28th August 2025.

- AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited
- Australian Banana Growers Council
- Australian Lot Feeders Association
- Australian Macadamia Society
- Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers Limited
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Canegrowers Australia
- Cape York Natural Resource Management
- Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
- Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
- Desert Channels Queensland
- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
- Gulf Savannah Natural Resource Management
- Healthy Land and Water
- Invasive Species Council
- Local Government Association of Queensland
- Local Land Services New South Wales
- Longreach Regional Council
- National Feral Pig Action Plan
- North Australia Land & Sea Management Alliance
- North Queensland Dry Tropics
- NRM Regions Queensland
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries
- Queensland Farmers' Federation
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- South East Queensland Water
- South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
- Southern Gulf Natural Resource Management
- Western Downs Regional Council
  Whitsunday Regional Council

8.2. Feral pig management resources

National Feral Pig Action Plan – https://feralpigs.cpom.au/the-plan/

PestSmart Glovebox guides

Koichi K and Halliday D, Harris C (ed) (2020). Glovebox Guide for Managing Feral Pigs v2.0. PestSmart Toolkit publication. The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, Canberra, ACT

Wishart J (2015). A field guide to poison baiting: Feral Pigs. PestSmart Toolkit publication. Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, Canberra, ACT

Pest Smart resources – https://pestsmart.org.au/resources/

Feral pig management animal welfare and feral pig biology, ecology and behaviour

Terrestrial Vertebrate Working Group (2024) National Code of Practice for the Humane Control of Feral Pigs. PestSmart website. https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/code-of-practice-feral-pigs

Feral pig control methods humaneness matrix – https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/feral-pig-control-methods-humaness-matrix/

Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (2011) Feral pig biology, ecology and behaviour. Factsheet. PestSmart website. https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/feral-pig-biology-ecology-and-behaviour

National Standard Operating Procedures

Terrestrial Vertebrate Working Group (2024) NATSOP-PIG001 National Standard Operating Procedure: Trapping of Feral Pigs. PestSmart website. https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/trapping-of-feral-pigs

Terrestrial Vertebrate Working Group (2024) NATSOP-PIG002 National Standard Operating Procedure: Aerial Shooting of Feral Pigs. PestSmart website. https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/aerial-shooting-of-feral-pigs

Terrestrial Vertebrate Working Group (2024) NATSOP-PIG003 National Standard Operating Procedure: Ground Shooting of Feral Pigs. PestSmart website. https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/ground-shooting-of-feral-pigs

Terrestrial Vertebrate Working Group (2024) NATSOP-PIG004 National Standard Operating Procedure: Poisoning of Feral Pigs with Sodium monofluoroacetate (1080). PestSmart website. https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/poisoning-of-feral-pigs-with-sodium-monofluoroacetate-1080

Terrestrial Vertebrate Working Group (2024) NATSOP-PIG005 National Standard Operating Procedure: Poisoning of Feral Pigs using PIGOUT 1080 Baits. PestSmart website. https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/using-pigout-1080-baits

Terrestrial Vertebrate Working Group (2024) NATSOP-PIG006 National Standard Operating Procedure: Poisoning of Feral Pigs with HOGGONE® Sodium nitrite Baits. PestSmart website. https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/baiting-hoggone-for-feral-pigs

8.3. References

Animal Health Australia. (2022). *African swine fever*. Retrieved from https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/african-swine-fever/

Business Queensland. (2023, March 15). *African swine fever*. Queensland Government. Retrieved from https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/animals/diseases/guide/african-swine-fever

Business Queensland. (2023, March 16). *Feral pig*. Retrieved from https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/animals/invasive/restricted/feral-pig

Business Queensland. (2024, April 22). *Foot-and-mouth disease*. Queensland Government. Retrieved from https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/animals/diseases/guide/foot-mouth

Channon HA, Dybing NA, Marshall D, and Gentle MN (2022) Feral pigs. In 'Reference Module in Food Sciences'. (Elsevier)

Charles Darwin University. (2023). *Aboriginal Rangers' Perspectives on Feral Pigs: Are they a Pest or a Resource?* Retrieved from https://researchers.cdu.edu.au/en/publications/aboriginal-rangers-perspectives-on-feral-pigs-are-they-a-pest-or-

Choquenot, D. & Lukins, B. & Curran, G. (1997). Assessing lamb predation by feral pigs in Australia's semi-arid rangelands. Journal of Applied Ecology, vol34, No.6 pp. 1445-1454

Choquenot, D., McIlroy, J. C., & Korn, T. (1996). *Managing Vertebrate Pests: Feral Pigs*. Australian Government Publishing Service.

Choquenot, D., Parkes, J., & Brown, P. (2012). *Eradication of Feral Pigs from Northern Queensland*. Australian Mammalogy, 34(2), 155–166.

Cork, S. J., & Parkes, J. (1991). Home range, movements, and activity of feral pigs in a semi-arid environment. *Wildlife Research*, 18(3), 343-354.

Gentle, M., Wilson, C., & Cuskelly, J. (2022). Feral pig management in Australia: implications for disease control. *Australian Veterinary Journal, 100*(10), 492-495. Retrieved from https://era.dpi.qld.gov.au/id/eprint/8830/1/Aust%20Veterinary%20J%20-%202022%20-%20Gentle%20-%20Feral%20pig%20management%20in%20Australia%20%20implications%20for%20disease%20control%20(1).pdf

Invasive Species Council. (2023). *Environmental Threats of National Significance - Feral Pigs*. Retrieved from https://invasives.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Threats-to-Nature-Field-Guide-Feral-pigs-Rebranded.pdf

Martin, G., et al. (2017). Movement patterns of feral pigs in northern Australia. *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 81(5), 852-861.

McIlroy, J. C. (1994). Control of feral pigs in northern Australia. *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture*, 34(8), 1047-1054.

McIlroy, J. C. (2000). The present and potential distribution of feral pigs in Queensland. *Australian Mammalogy*, 22(2), 235-242.

National Feral Pig Action Plan. (2025, February 23). *Diseases*. Retrieved from https://feralpigs.com.au/diseases/

PestSmart. "Economic Evaluation of the Role of Bounties in Vertebrate Pest Management." Centre for Invasive Species Solutions.

Rainforest CRC. (1999). *Feral Pigs: Pest Status and Prospects for Control*. James Cook University. Retrieved from https://rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/publications/feral_pigs.pdf

Reef Catchments. (2013). *Feral pigs in Queensland*. Retrieved from http://reefcatchments.com.au/files/2013/02/IPA-Feral-Pigs-Qld-PA6.pdf

Rockhampton Regional Council. (2019). *Feral Pig Management Plan 2019-2023*. Retrieved from https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/files/assets/public/communities/eph/pest_feral-pig-management-plan-2019-2023-final.pdf

Synergies Economic Consulting. (2020). *Estimating the economic impact of feral pigs in the Whitsunday Regional Council*. Retrieved from https://feralpigs.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Final-Report-Economic-Impact-of-Feral-Pigs-May-2020.pdf

The Feral Pig (Sus Scrofa) - Fact Sheet. (2017). *Department of Agriculture and Water Resources*. Retrieved from https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/ag-food/nrs/animal-annual-report-2011-12/pig.pdf

The National Feral Pig Action Plan. (2020). *Australian Feral Pig Report – July 2020*. Retrieved from https://feralpigs.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/National-Feral-Pig-Management-APL-Report-July-2020.pdf

Wildlife Health Australia. (2023, November 1). *EXOTIC Foot-and-mouth disease (general information)*. Retrieved from https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Portals/0/ResourceCentre/FactSheets/Exotic/EXOTIC_Foot-and-Mouth_Disease_(General_Info).pdf

Wildlife Health Australia. (2025). *Brucella suis in feral pigs*. Retrieved from https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Portals/0/ResourceCentre/FactSheets/PublicHealth/Brucella_suis_in_feral_pigs.pdf

Wilson, C., Gentle, M., 2022. Feral pig population control techniques: a review and discussion of efficacy and efficiency for application in Queensland. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. URL: https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/ckan-publications-attachments-prod/resources/65da2abf-25e6-4464...

Wilson, C., Gentle, M., Marshall, D., 2023. Factors influencing the activity ranges of feral pigs (Sus scrofa) across four sites in eastern Australia. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. URL: https://era.dpi.qld.gov.au/id/eprint/9066/1/WR22095.pdf

8.4. Glossary of abbreviations and terms

1080	Sodium fluoroacetate, a synthetic compound used in pest control.
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics
ASF	African swine fever
Best practice	A structured and consistent approach to the management of vertebrate pests in an attempt to achieve enduring and cost-effective outcomes. 'Best practice' is defined as the best practice agreed at a particular time following consideration of scientific information and accumulated experience (Braysher, 1993).
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Commonwealth)
DETSI	Department of Environment, Science, Tourism and Innovation (Queensland)
DPI	Department of Primary Industries (Queensland)
FMD	Foot and mouth disease
GBO	General biosecurity obligation - A legal obligation requiring a person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier, or who carries out an activity, to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks associated with that biosecurity matter or activity.
JEV	Japanese encephalitis virus
Humane	When an animal is either killed instantly or rendered insensible until death ensues, without pain, suffering or distress.
Land manger	An individual, company, organisation or government that owns, leases or manages private, commercial or government land.
LG	Local government
NFPAP	National Feral Pig Action Plan
Nil-tenure	An approach in which a range of control methods are applied across all tenures by all stakeholders at a 'landscape' (rather than 'property') level in a cooperative and coordinated manner.
NRM	Natural resource management organisations - An organisation that acts as a regional delivery agent (under the regional stream of the National Landcare Program and the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program) and focuses on on-ground activities that protect, improve and restore waterways and rangelands by managing invasive plants and animals, and improving soil, vegetation and water quality at a river-catchment or other landscape level.
QFPMAP	Queensland Feral Pig Management Action Plan
QIPAS	Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2025-2030
TAP	Threat Abatement Plan for predation, habitat degradation, competition and disease transmission by feral pigs (Sus scrofa) (2017).