



FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION

Our country, Our future.

Coordinated control

Tackling feral pigs together increases effectiveness

In 2013, a group of Theodore landholders were experiencing crop damage, grazing land damage and a spreading weed problem—all caused by feral pigs.

The landholders realised that trying to tackle the problem individually would not be effective so they united their efforts against the problem they had in common: feral pigs.

With the support of Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) and Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association (DCCA) through funding from the Queensland Government's Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program, the group began the Theodore Feral Pig Control Pilot Program. They identified the need to communicate pig sightings more effectively between neighbours. They also realised they needed to coordinate their control methods to obtain maximum effectiveness in reducing pig numbers.

From humble beginnings, the group has since doubled in size, increasing from eight participating land managers to 15. Anglo American's Dawson Mine also participates in the coordinated control efforts. The group now coordinates pig control over more than 60,000 hectares in the Theodore region, leading to a reduction in the region's feral pig population, and aims to cover 150,000 hectares in the near future.

The group further enhanced their pig control skills and knowledge at a workshop in June 2015. Professional pig trapper Tony Townsend, together with Damian Byrne from Outdoor Cameras, presented a workshop that taught attendees about using camera monitoring and control methods so their pig control efforts would be even more effective.

Eleven landholders from 10 properties attended the workshop, where they learned about:

- different types of remote cameras that are available
- how to correctly set up monitoring cameras
- pig behaviour and breeding, and how it relates to deciding the best place to set up cameras
- where to place traps and baits for increased baiting success
- signs of feral pig activity.

All of the workshop participants said they would like to improve their feral pig monitoring efforts by purchasing and setting up cameras. They believed their new skills and knowledge would help them better understand feral pig activity on their properties, leading to more effective pig control efforts.

The group continues to meet regularly to share their knowledge of pig activity and monitoring methods. Participating landholders believe their integrated approach is working well and that coordinating neighbours to work together to control pigs is effective. They also believe that aerial culling is an effective and quick solution for when pig numbers appear to be increasing.

Over time, the group has noticed that feral pig numbers have decreased and damage to crops and grazing land has decreased as a result.



Feral pigs damage crops, causing significant financial losses to grain growers around the Theodore region.



Monitoring pig activity and locations help ensure coordinated control methods are effective and that traps are set in the best place for success.

Fitzroy Basin Association Incorporated

PO Box 139, Rockhampton QLD 4700

Phone: (07) 4999 2800

Fax: (07) 4921 2860

www.fba.org.au



Queensland Government



FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION

Our country, Our future.



Dawson
Catchment
Coordinating
Association Inc.