



**COOPERATIVE PROJECT ON
FERAL PIG CONTROL IN THE LAKE MUIR AND
DENBARKER AREAS OF THE SOUTH COAST OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2002



Photo courtesy Jodie Thomsom, Albany Advertiser

by

**Dr Tony Higgs
Senior Veterinary Officer
Department of Agriculture
Albany, Western Australia**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND	3
2. PROJECT AIM	4
3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES	4
4. PROJECT STRUCTURE	5
4.1 MANAGEMENT.....	5
4.2 FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS	6
5. FERAL PIG CONTROL METHODS	6
6. RESULTS	8
6.1 FERAL PIG CONTROL BEFORE 2002	8
6.2 FERAL PIG CONTROL DURING 2002	8
6.3 COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS	9
6.4 ADDITIONAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES.....	10
6.4.1 <i>Legislation pertaining to pigs</i>	10
6.4.2 <i>CALM flora damage project</i>	11
6.4.3 <i>Dept of Agriculture project on control strategies for feral pigs</i>	11
6.4.4 <i>Submission on feral animal control in Wilderness areas</i>	11
6.5 ASSESSMENT OF THE SUCCESS IN MEETING THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES	11
7. PROJECT PLANS FOR 2003	13
8. PROJECT PLANS BEYOND 2003	14
9. CONCLUSION	15
APPENDIX 1 – PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT FOR 2002	16
APPENDIX 2 – LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PROJECT	17
APPENDIX 3 – GENERAL CONDITIONS APPLIED DURING TRAPPING ACTIVITY	18
APPENDIX 4A – MAP OF FERAL PIG TRAP SITES FOR 2001	20
APPENDIX 4B – NUMBER AND SEX OF FERAL PIGS DESTROYED AT TRAP SITES IN 2001	21
APPENDIX 5A – MAP OF FERAL PIG TRAP SITES FOR 2002	22
APPENDIX 5B – NUMBER AND SEX OF FERAL PIGS DESTROYED AT TRAP SITES IN 2002	23

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Background

Ten years ago, feral pigs were difficult to find along the south coast of Western Australia. Significant change to this situation occurred during the 1990s with increased reports of feral pig damage to farmland and increased sightings of feral pigs. The latter period also heralded a significant change in land use along the south coast with the establishment of tree plantations across large areas of what was grazing land. Tree plantations provide shelter, cover from detection, a food source, and water in dams that are maintained for fire control. This change in the landscape has enhanced the opportunity for feral pigs to spread.

Concerns that feral pigs were increasing in number and distribution prompted action from two local farmers to improve existing control efforts. Mr Darrel Drage and Mr Tony Fox met with the then Minister for Agriculture, The Hon. Monty House MLA, and a Department of Agriculture representative Dr Tony Higgs. At that meeting it was agreed that a pilot project should be established to evaluate a trapping program in the late summer or early autumn of 2001. It was also agreed that the project should follow the general approach of shared responsibility as it was recognised that feral pigs cross many artificial boundaries of land ownership and a coordinated approach was far more likely to be successful.

During the latter part of 2000, the major landowners and managers in the project area were approached for their possible contributions. Support in the form of funds, equipment and/or staff availability were provided by:

- Department of Conservation and Land Management
- Water and Rivers Commission
- Department of Agriculture, and
- Great Southern Plantations Limited (a local blue-gum company).

Funds available for employing contract trappers in 2001 totalled \$17,000.

The pilot trapping project was conducted in 2001 under the guidance of a Steering Committee that was created in December 2000. Results of the pilot project were made available to the community via a public meeting held in Mt Barker in May 2001. At that meeting there was wide ranging discussion about alternative options for controlling pigs including bounties, volunteer hunters and pressuring government (in particular CALM) but the final recommendation was for a continuation of the current project. Pledges of financial support were given at that meeting.

In July 2001, members of the committee and the President of the Plantagenet Shire, Mr Kevin Forbes, met with the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, The Hon. Kim Chance MLC who was also representing the Minister for the Environment and

Heritage, The Hon. Judy Edwards MLA. At that meeting Mr Chance indicated support for the project from both portfolios of government.

In view of the support from both the public meeting, and from Mr Chance, funding was sought throughout the community in the latter part of 2001 for the trapping season commencing in the autumn of 2002. A total of \$27,781.82 (excluding GST) was raised in 2001/2002. Trapping was conducted in the autumn and spring of 2002, the results of which are provided in this report.

From a national perspective, the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK and Europe in 2001 helped focus the attention of Australians on risks to our livestock industries. The Australian Veterinary Association and the Cattle Council of Australia, among others, identified feral pigs as an issue needing closer attention. The national focus on feral pigs has probably assisted the project with collaborative activities and these are described in a special section of this report.

Other elements to the feral pig issue are the desire by some members of the community to maintain a feral pig population for hunting and the associated illegal use of firearms on government and private land. Action by the Committee in this area is reported in a section addressing the specific project objectives.

While there are many community organisations and individuals that are interested in controlling feral pigs, most do not consider this activity a high priority except when significant damage occurs on their property. By the time such damage occurs it is likely that the pig population is already well established in the area and ongoing 'fire-brigade' responses will continue to be required throughout the district. The purpose of this project is to enable a cooperative approach to feral pig control where relatively small contributions can be pooled to enable a larger scale effort to initially halt the advance of the pig population, reduce densities and, if possible, to eradicate them from the project area.

2. Project Aim

- To facilitate the involvement of all landholders in the Lake Muir and Denbarker areas to contribute to the initial reduction of the feral pig population and the subsequent maintenance of low pig densities.

3. Project Objectives

The project was developed with multiple objectives that reflected the broad cross-section of community groups who have an interest in controlling feral pigs. A summary of these objectives follows:

- To minimise the effects feral pigs have on:

- The likelihood of spreading exotic diseases
 - The quality of the natural environment
 - The quality of water in catchment areas
 - Private property adjoining forest areas.
- To share the cost and effort for feral pig control.
 - To enable an immediate response to complaints from landholders who have pigs emanating from neighbouring land.
 - Reduce illegal pig hunting and release of pigs into forest areas.
 - Encourage the presence of participants in the forest “after hours”.
 - Improve the community image of government agencies, plantation owners and farmers as responsible managers of feral animals on their lands.
 - Augment current CALM trapping and poisoning programs.
 - Collect relevant statistics on the distribution and number of feral pigs.
 - Monitor the effectiveness of hunting with dogs as a means of feral pig control.

4. Project Structure

4.1 Management

Since its inception, the Department of Agriculture has assumed the lead role in brokering agreements in support of the project. However, all operational activities of the project are overseen by a Steering Committee that has representation from a broad cross-section of interested groups (see Appendix 1). The Committee is open at all times to offers from people wishing to become members. Meetings are held on a seasonal basis and generally start before trapping commences and then at approximately monthly intervals until the field activity is completed.

One significant challenge for the Steering Committee is to identify people suitable for engaging as contractors. Members of the public who considered that the project involved shooting pigs, rather than trapping them, showed considerable initial interest in being involved. Unfortunately, few were interested in trapping as the primary means of control. However, on the basis of their successful conduct during the season, the 2 contractors selected in 2001 (Peter Cochrane and Kevin Drage) were accredited by the Steering Committee as competent trappers.

Another significant issue for the project is insurance cover for the trappers, which, under the current contract arrangements must be obtained and paid for by the contractors.

Premiums for personal accident and public liability insurance for 12 months cover were around \$1,200 or about 9 days of income from trapping at the current daily rate (\$136 per day). Alternative options are being investigated.

As the project is only able to offer seasonal work, the project needs access to several trappers to enable timely responses to reports from the community of feral pig activity. For this reason the Steering Committee is actively seeking new contractors for the project and one has been offered a trial period of employment in the autumn of 2003.

4.2 Funding Arrangements

Decisions about the use of funds in the project are made exclusively by the Steering Committee. For all operations conducted in 2001 and 2002 the funds were held in a Department of Agriculture account and as such the current policies of the Department were followed in terms of receiving quotes, engaging contractors and the keeping of documentation.

For trapping activities in 2003, funds will be held within the Shire of Plantagenet and, as such, will be subject to their administrative policies. The primary reason for the transfer is the opportunity to obtain up to \$15,000 per year for 2 years from the Agriculture Protection Board. The latter funds are available on the condition that the project is community based and all funds are held outside of the Department of Agriculture. Another benefit is that the contractors and Steering Committee members will have improved access to the administrators of the funds as the town of Mt Barker is closer to the operational area than the Albany office of the Department of Agriculture.

The activities of the project are limited by the financial contributions from the community (see Appendix 2 for the list of contributors to the project). Without these contributions, no contract trapping would be possible. As such, the life of the project is determined by the ongoing support of the community and feedback to them is vital so that they are aware of the progress that has been made. This report forms part of that feedback. Occasional radio (ABC Country Hour, Rural and Afternoon Programs) and newspaper reports (Albany Advertiser) have also provided public information on progress by the project.

5. Feral Pig Control Methods

At an operational level, the contractors' primary objective is eradication of feral pigs from local areas. The capacity of pigs to reproduce rapidly requires that at least 70% of the pigs be removed from a locality in a year to have a significant impact on the population in that area. Maintaining such high rates of population reduction will ensure that eradication is achieved in an area within a few years.

With the eradication objective in mind, the most appropriate method of control is trapping. This method has the advantage that whole groups of pigs can be captured, rather than the alternative methods of shooting or hunting with dogs which both risk scattering pigs and training them to avoid people and vehicles. Consistent with this strategy is the shooting of single animals where there is a high probability that the lone animal will be destroyed with a single shot.

Trapping is most efficiently conducted at the time of year when water supplies are scarce and feed supplies are low. In an average season in the Lake Muir and Denbarker areas this is in late summer and early autumn. However, opportunistic trapping was conducted successfully in the spring of 2001 and again in 2002 where the location of feral pigs was known and accessibility was not an issue.

The project was established to enable the employment of contractors to conduct the trapping operations. The choice of contractors rather than volunteers provides control over the method of operation, where the activity is conducted, compliance with conditions of access to property and the provision of reports. However, it should be noted that other members of the community, such as the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, who may wish to assist with feral pig control are encouraged to complement activities of the project.

Additional points regarding the method of operation are as follows:

- All activities of the project are overseen by a Steering Committee with representation from a range of stakeholders (see Appendix 1 for the names of Steering Committee members).
- Trapping activity is conducted within the financial resources of the project.
- Local advice is sought from landholders on recent pig damage to help target trapping activity.
- Grain used for pre-feeding and trapping is obtained from seed cleaners to ensure freedom from weed seeds.
- Details of all pig control activity are recorded and reported to the Steering Committee as required by the Chairman of the Committee.
- Contractors are paid for their time (\$136 plus GST per 8 hour day) and for travel costs (60c per km) during operations.
- Trap materials are supplied by CALM and grain is purchased using project funds.
- General project conditions are provided in Appendix 3.

6. Results

6.1 Feral pig control before 2002

The main trapping activity was conducted for 7 consecutive weeks, with 2 trappers, during February and March of 2001. One trapper was employed for 10 working days during July and August in response to reports of activity in the Denbarker area. Surveillance to determine the best sites for trapping was conducted by the contract trappers (as part of their contract), Steering Committee members (at no cost to the project) and reports from local farmers.

Traps were set at 26 sites (see Appendices 4a and 4b) across the Shires of Manjimup (12 sites), Cranbrook (1 site), Plantagenet (9 sites) and Denmark (4 sites). A total of 94 feral pigs (64 juveniles and 30 adults) were destroyed of which 4 were pregnant sows with a total of 24 unborn piglets *in utero*.

The locations of the traps were identified using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and all dead pigs were photographed and their weights estimated. The photographs and weight data are not presented in this report but are available from the author.

A public meeting to review progress with the project was held at the Plantagenet Shire Chambers on 24th May 2001. The meeting was well attended with good representation from the range of landholders (both government and private). There was wide ranging discussion about alternative options for controlling pigs including bounties, volunteer hunters and pressuring government (in particular CALM) but the final recommendation was for a continuation of the current project with pledges of support for further funding.

During 2001 there was a marked change in the community attitude towards the feral pig issue. Complaints to the Department of Agriculture were not uncommon previously but now landowners phone Steering Committee members to report activity as surveillance information for use by the trappers.

6.2 Feral pig control during 2002

Similar to 2001, the main trapping activity was conducted over an 8 week period, using 2 trappers, in March and April 2002. However, unlike in 2001, the trappers worked separately after setting their traps which increased the overall efficiency of their effort. Trappers were employed for an additional 20 working days in August and September in response to reports of feral pig activity principally in the Denbarker area but also around Lake Muir.

Traps were set at a total of 35 sites for the year in an area from the Hay River to Nornalup to Unicup (see Appendices 5a and 5b). A total of 95 feral pigs (53 juveniles and 42

adults) were destroyed of which 3 were pregnant sows with a total of 9 unborn piglets *in utero*.

There was a considerable increase in effective trapping effort in 2002. More traps were worked (35% more than in 2001) for a longer period by separate and more experienced trappers. However, despite the increased effort the number of pigs caught was similar to that for 2001 with 78 pigs caught in the autumn plus an additional 17 pigs in the spring for a total of 95 pigs for the year (94 in 2001). The project total now stands at 189 feral pigs destroyed.

It should be noted that, apart from the project activities, other members of the community are controlling feral pigs. Their activities complement the project but are not reported here. However, of particular note is that in addition to their existing feral pig control activities, CALM provided extra support in 2002, over and above their commitment to the project. The extra support was in the form of staff being made available on an 'as needs' basis to assist with feral pig control in forest areas. Another CALM staff member is currently being trained in feral pig control and will be deployed in 2003.

One of the key elements of this project is locating feral pigs in what are relatively remote areas. The project has enabled a coordinated approach to this problem. A network of land owners, managers and occupiers report feral pig sightings or activity to Steering Committee members for further action by the project trappers or community members. Current surveillance information suggests that there are 4 sows, 1 boar and 2 piglets in the Denbarker area, 1 pig in the East Denbarker area, 1 sow with a litter in the Harewood area, 2 pigs in the Tone Bridge area, 3 or 4 pigs south of Lake Muir, 1 boar north of Lake Muir and some evidence of pigs on the Mitchell River (but no sightings reported). On the basis of the increased trapping effort expended in 2002, and the low number of recent sightings, the Steering Committee is of the view that very real progress has been made in reducing the feral pig population in the project area. Any reduction in the population serves to protect neighbouring areas from invasion by feral pigs. Also, the Steering Committee considers that there is now an opportunity to, in effect, force the population away from the project area.

6.3 Collaborative arrangements

The Steering Committee has been open to collaborative opportunities with others working on feral pigs to help derive additional benefits from the project's activities. To date, collaborative arrangements have been established with two other projects:

1. *Distribution and abundance of pest animals in the agricultural region of Western Australia* – funded by the Wildlife and Exotic Diseases Preparedness Program – Principal Investigator, Dr Andrew Woolnough.

This project will capitalise on the knowledge of field staff on the location and

abundance of feral animals, including pigs, and then use that information to identify exotic disease risk areas. Data collected by the contract trappers will provide important objective information about feral pigs in the southern areas of Western Australia.

2. *Genetic structure and management of feral pig populations* - Murdoch University – Principal Investigator Dr Peter Spencer.

This project will use DNA fingerprinting technology to investigate the genetic structure and relatedness within and among feral pig populations. The aims of the study are to:

- compare the levels of genetic variation among populations;
- determine the mating system;
- determine the effective population sizes;
- estimate the magnitude of gene flow/movement among populations;
- compare genetic data to the demographic data collected from the field;
- help to determine the most appropriate control strategy.

Liver, kidney and faecal samples were collected by the trappers in 2002 for DNA testing within this project.

The test results may also provide the opportunity to identify people who illegally release pigs into forest areas by providing a direct genetic link between captured feral pigs and pigs held on private properties.

6.4 Additional project activities

6.4.1 Legislation pertaining to pigs

In a broad sense, the keeping and breeding of feral pigs and the releasing of feral or domestic pigs into forest areas is illegal. However, the specific legislative details and the operational policies that can and should be applied are not clear to staff within the Departments of Agriculture or CALM.

Key issues of concern to the Steering Committee are:

- Domestic pigs that are released into forest areas,
- Feral pigs that are caught and released into other forest areas,
- Feral pigs that are caught, transported to a private property, and fattened for home butchering or private sale.

To assist staff to deal with any illegal activities, a document is being drafted to identify the relevant Acts and Regulations, and the parts that may be of particular use in bringing

about successful prosecutions. This document will provide the basis for the development of work instructions for use by field staff.

6.4.2 CALM flora damage project

A \$30,000 grant has been approved for investigation of the type and amount of damage caused by feral pigs, and any other associated factors. CALM officer Peter Mawson will be leading the project.

6.4.3 Dept of Agriculture project on control strategies for feral pigs

A new project has been approved to design and conduct food preference trials to examine the seasonality of bait acceptance by feral pigs. The suitability of the fermented grain index of pig abundance will be tested during these trials.

A key objective is to provide improved information on which baits are acceptable to feral pigs, including any regional or seasonal differences in preferences. The project will be lead by Department of Agriculture officer Dr Laurie Twigg.

6.4.4 Submission on feral animal control in Wilderness areas

The Steering Committee is expecting to receive an invitation to comment on feral animal control issues in Wilderness areas. The principal concern of the Committee is that active management of feral animals, in particular feral pigs, will be essential to avoid damage within and adjacent to proposed Wilderness areas.

6.5 Assessment of the success in meeting the project objectives

The specific project objectives are listed on pages 4 and 5. In this section, each project objective is identified and then followed by some brief comments on relevant project activities plus an overall assessment of the success in meeting that objective.

- Objective 1 - To minimise the effects feral pigs have on:
 - The likelihood of spreading exotic diseases
 - The quality of the natural environment
 - The quality of water in catchment areas
 - Private property adjoining forest areas.

The key project activity that will impact on this objective is a sustained reduction in feral pig numbers. Trapping results indicate that progress is being made in reducing the numbers with some early evidence that the population has been reduced significantly. In addition, the project has provided an opportunity to respond to reports of damage to private property thereby enabling action to limit any damage to agricultural enterprises.

Assessment – Significant progress made.

- Objective 2 - To share the cost and effort for feral pig control.

The number and social distribution of financial contributors to the project is one measure of success for this objective. With contributions from State and Local government, private companies, community groups and individuals there is good reason to say that this aspect of the project has been successful. Similarly, the broad membership of the Steering Committee, and the ready contribution from other community members in such activities as surveillance and funding drives, indicates a sharing of the effort.

Assessment – Achieved.

- Objective 3 - To enable an immediate response to complaints from landholders who have pigs emanating from neighbouring land.

While the main control activities occur in autumn, there was additional effort in the spring of 2001 and 2002. The activity in spring has been in response to reports of feral pig activity. Also, community reports received at any time of the year are investigated, either by the contract trappers during their period of employment, or by Steering Committee members. Further action is taken if there is a strong likelihood of successful control being implemented. Responses may not always be immediate because of the limited availability of trappers, and the need for them to have current insurance cover, but the project does enable follow-up to occur at some time during the year.

Assessment – Partly achieved.

- Objective 4 - Reduce illegal pig hunting and release of pigs into forest areas.

Assessment of this objective is very difficult, as no consistent and accurate information is available on the level of illegal hunting or release of pigs. However, the Steering Committee is of the view that if the project successfully captures feral pigs then those community members who release pigs will be less inclined to do so in the project area – simply because the released pigs will soon be caught. Another activity that is part of the project is clarification of the laws and departmental policies in relation to dealing with illegal releases of pigs. Publicising the range of penalties may act as a deterrent to some.

Assessment – Partly achieved?

- Objective 5 - Encourage the presence of participants in the forest “after hours”.

The contract trappers and Steering Committee members are active in the forest areas principally during daylight hours. However, they may be active on any day of the week and frequently outside normal working hours.

Assessment – Achieved.

- Objective 6 - Improve the community image of government agencies, plantation owners and farmers as responsible managers of feral animals on their lands.

Complaints about feral pig damage on agricultural land have ceased since the project commenced in the autumn of 2001. Any reports about activity are now provided as intelligence for use by the project. The wide source of funding for the project is a demonstration of a greater acceptance of the need to have a community approach to feral pig control rather than the antagonistic approach of blaming particular land managers.

Assessment – Achieved.

- Objective 7 - Augment current CALM trapping and poisoning programs.

CALM has permanent representation on the Steering Committee which enables direct input into operational decisions about where the project trappers will work. This includes complementing the existing work of CALM in the Lake Muir area and elsewhere as is occasionally required.

Assessment – Achieved.

- Objective 8 - Collect relevant statistics on the distribution and number of feral pigs.

A standard requirement for trapping operations is recording the location of all traps using a GPS unit, and recording basic details (sex, approximate age and weight) of all pigs caught or shot. It is also a requirement that captured pigs are photographed to avoid any claims that the numbers have been fabricated.

Assessment – Achieved.

- Objective 9 - Monitor the effectiveness of hunting with dogs as a means of feral pig control.

Dogs were used in the Lake Muir area in 2001 and 2002 to identify the presence of feral pigs in forest areas and to catch smaller pigs. While there was some success with this method, the Steering Committee is of the view that the best method of control is achieved with the use of traps that are managed to capture entire groups or families of feral pigs.

Assessment – Achieved.

7. Project plans for 2003

Preparations for trapping in 2003 have commenced with pledges of support from previous and new contributors already confirmed. Administration of the project funds was handed over to the Plantagenet Shire at the end of 2002 in order to comply with the

conditions for obtaining funding support from the Agriculture Protection Board (see section on Funding Arrangements – page 6).

At this stage, the area of operation for 2003 is likely to be similar to previous years. However, on the basis of current surveillance information, the number of feral pigs in the project area should be lower than in previous years. Subject to review by the Steering Committee, a greater effort may be focussed on the margins of the current project area in an effort to push the boundary of the feral pig population further west.

One of the key challenges for the Steering Committee is to ensure the availability of suitably skilled trappers when they are required. As the project only employs trappers on a short-term and seasonal basis it is not always possible to obtain the services of those who are accredited by the Committee (2 trappers) or have some experience (1 trapper). Consequently the Steering Committee is keen to ensure that prospective trappers should be given the opportunity to demonstrate their skills thereby expanding the pool of potential trappers. On that basis, a new trapper will be employed for a trial period of 4 weeks in autumn of 2003, and subject to performance, may be engaged for a longer period subsequently.

The Steering Committee has a broad view of the need to control feral pigs in Western Australia. While the focus in the last 2 years has primarily centred on the local project area, opportunities to support efforts elsewhere have been taken. Three areas where support has been provided, at no direct cost to the project, are West Arthur, Gingin and Boddington/Wandering. The Steering Committee considers that the experience gained from this project can be used to assist others wanting to control feral pigs. Offers of support include both the operational and administrative needs of such projects.

8. Project plans beyond 2003

Feral pig control requires a long-term approach if real progress is to be achieved and sustained. The Steering Committee recognises this and has embarked on a practical approach to making an impact by focussing on the local area first. Indications are that progress has been made, certainly in terms of halting the advance of the feral pig population to the east of the project area, but also in reducing the population within it. The principle behind future operational effort is to eradicate feral pigs from the Lake Muir and Denbarker areas and then move west to force the population away from the agricultural areas. It is recognised that some reactive trapping capacity is likely to be required in the project area for some years.

The Steering Committee is keen to support efforts beyond the original project area and members have not limited their focus to the local areas. Opportunities to build on the present success have been and will continue to be taken as they arise.

9. Conclusion

The community in general is supportive of the need to rid the region's forests and farms of feral pigs. Whilst there is general support for this need, the priority for individual land owners and managers is usually not high enough to justify significant expense to control feral pigs. However, when small contributions are pooled, and a coordinated strategy is implemented, real progress can be made for whole districts.

The Lake Muir/Denbarker project has made significant progress in acting on the community desire to control feral pigs in the 2 years since it started. The benefits of the project include:

- Reduced risk of spreading any exotic diseases by feral pigs;
- Better knowledge of the distribution of feral pigs in the south coast area;
- Improved understanding of effective control methods for feral pigs; and
- A positive approach by the community to dealing with an otherwise difficult problem.

The Steering Committee anticipates that 2003 will be an important year in the life of the project as it is potentially the turning point for eradication of feral pigs from at least part of the project area.

Appendix 1 – Parties involved in the project for 2002

Steering Committee

Darrel Drage (Chairman)
Tony Fox (Farmer, Lake Muir)
Ted Knight (Department of Agriculture)
Ashley Muir (Farmer, Lake Muir)
David Townsend (WA Plantation Resources Ltd)
Brian Whittred (CALM)

New committee members joining in 2002

Wayne Burton (Great Southern Plantations Ltd)
Neil Heffernan (Farmer, Woogenilup)
Simon Jenkins (Farmer, Denbarker)
Mark Muir (Farmer, Unicup)
Rod Simmonds (CALM)

Contract Manager

Dr Tony Higgs (Department of Agriculture, Ph: 98928444; Fax: 98928496)

Contractors

Accredited	Peter Cochrane Kevin Drage
Experienced	Warren Drage
Starting in 2003	Kevin Machen

Appendix 2 – List of Contributors to the Project

State Government

Department of Conservation and Land Management
Water and Rivers Commission
Department of Agriculture

Local Government

Plantagenet Shire
Cranbrook Shire
Denmark Shire
Albany City

Timber Industry

Great Southern Plantations Ltd
WA Plantation Resources
Timbercorp

Community Groups

West Mt Barker LCDC
Walpole Nornalup National Parks Association
Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee

Private Land-holders

E, E & S Irwin
G & J Parker
J & E Carpenter
AH Hall & Co
L & H Handasyde
J & C Lindsay
K Anderson
J Belfield
H, A & N Lindberg
M White
J & M Rodgers
Wood Nominees
J & D Fisher
M & G Cuss
Summers Brothers

Appendix 3 – General conditions applied during trapping activity

Dogs

- Dogs may be required in special circumstances such as to find pigs in remote locations or to assist capture of pigs that are reluctant to enter traps.
- Maximum of two dogs to be taken on any trip.
- Dogs must show they only pursue pigs and not native fauna.
- The dogs are used to detect the pig's scent while driving along road/tracks.
- When pigs are detected, they must only bail the pig up.

Firearms

- All firearms are to be licensed and a permit is to be issued for the carrying and use on land managed by CALM or Water and Rivers Commission.

Carcass Disposal

- Immediately after capture, the pigs are to be killed humanely.
- Carcasses are to be disposed of appropriately and must not be within 100m of a watercourse or within sight of any road.

Horses

- For the purposes of locating pig groups, horses are permitted. Every care is to be taken to ensure the use of horses does not result in the introduction and/or spread of weeds.

Access

- Access will be permitted along all forest tracks and roads during dry soil conditions.
- A permit to be issued for entry in Disease Risk Areas.

Hygiene for *P. cinnamoni* (Jarrah Dieback)

- Unrestricted access is limited to periods of dry soil.
- Vehicles to be maintained free of mud, soil and plant material.

Records

- The following information will be recorded after each trip:
 - Location and nature of activity undertaken on the trip (e.g. free feeding, trapping, surveillance).

- Number, type (sex, approximate weight, state of maturity) and location of pigs seen and not killed.
- Number, type and location of pigs seen and killed.
- Photographs of killed pigs.
- Global Positioning System (GPS) record of pig locations (GPS unit to be provided by CALM).
- Approximate route taken.
- Number of kilometres travelled.
- Number of hours spent hunting and trapping.

Public and Animal Health Issues

- Transportation of live pigs is not permitted.
- Dead feral pigs must not be used for human consumption.

Personal Accident and Public Liability Insurance

Contractors must arrange and maintain Personal Accident and Public Liability Insurance (for a minimum of \$5 million) for the duration of any employment on the project.

Public Information about the Project

- Messages intended for the media must be approved by the Contract Manager before release.
- The project is a genuine effort to ensure a cooperative approach to a problem that crosses landholder boundaries. Key messages for the public are:
 1. The project is a bona fide management tactic for pig control
 2. The project should not be seen as condoning a “blood sport”
 3. The project is a demonstration of responsible of land ownership.

Operating Area

The operating area for this trial will be in the general area between Lake Muir and Denbarker with representatives of the Steering Committee, in consultation with the contractors, identifying ‘hotspots’ of pig activity within which trapping will occur.

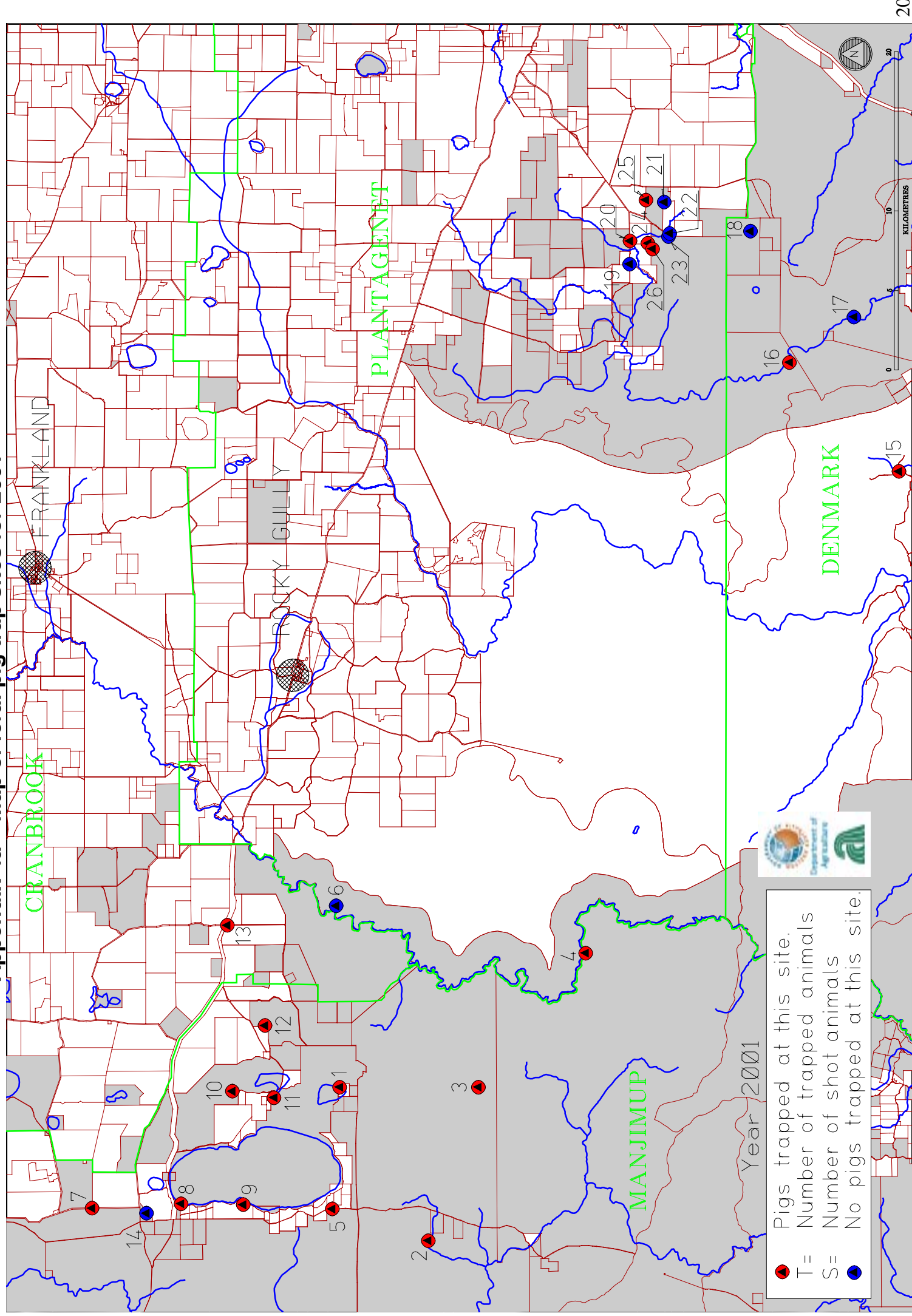
Feral Animal Species other than Pigs

The proposal was developed for feral pigs, however if feral deer or goats are identified they may be shot after consultation with the Contract Manager.

Other Vehicles Sighted in Forest Areas

To help reduce the illegal access to forests details of vehicles and occupants will be recorded and passed on to the relevant land owner.

Appendix 4a – Map of feral pig trap sites for 2001



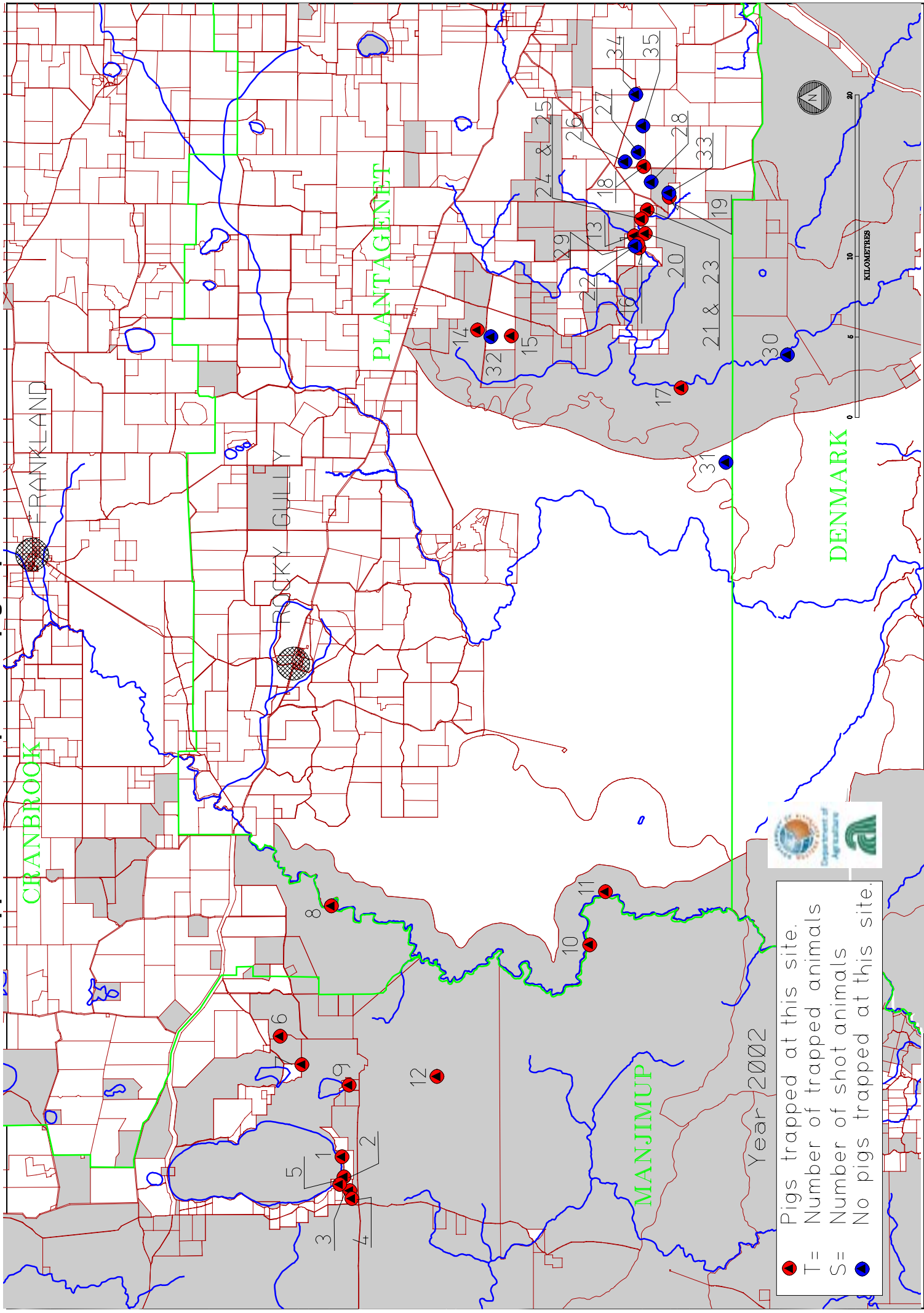
Year 2001

- ▲ T= Pigs trapped at this site.
- S= Number of trapped animals
- ▲ Number of shot animals
- No pigs trapped at this site.

Appendix 4b – Number and sex of feral pigs destroyed at trap sites in 2001

Site	Male	Female	Total
1	5	5	10
2	3	3	6
3	1	1	2
4	3	11	14
5	1	0	1
6	0	0	0
7	4	1	5
8	4	2	6
9	2	3	5
10	6	10	16
11	0	1	1
12	1	0	1
13	3	0	3
14	0	0	0
15	1	2	3
16	1	1	2
17	0	0	0
18	0	0	0
19	0	0	0
20	2	1	3
21	0	0	0
22	0	0	0
23	0	0	0
24	6	8	14
25	1	0	1
26	1	0	1
Total	45	49	94

Appendix 5a – Map of feral pig trap sites for 2002



▲ Pigs trapped at this site.
 T= Number of trapped animals
 S= Number of shot animals
● No pigs trapped at this site.



Appendix 5b – Number and sex of feral pigs destroyed at trap sites in 2002

Site	Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	5
2	1	0	1
3	1	4	5
4	2	1	3
5	1	1	2
6	6	6	12
7	2	5	7
8	0	2	2
9	0	3	3
10	2	0	2
11	6	1	7
12	1	1	2
13	1	2	3
14	3	1	4
15	5	5	10
16	1	0	1
17	0	1	1
18	3	1	4
19	1	3	4
20	1	0	1
21	0	1	1
22	0	1	1
23	5	5	10
24	2	1	3
25	1	0	1
26	0	0	0
27	0	0	0
28	0	0	0
29	0	0	0
30	0	0	0
31	0	0	0
32	0	0	0
33	0	0	0
34	0	0	0
35	0	0	0
Total	47	48	95