

THE LAKE MUIR AND DENBARKER COMMUNITY FERAL PIG ERADICATION GROUP; A COOPERATIVE PROJECT ON FERAL PIG CONTROL ON THE SOUTH COAST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



BI-ANNUAL REPORT
2005 and 2006

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

BI-ANNUAL REPORT

2005 and 2006

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Department of Agriculture and Food
Government of Western Australia



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PROJECT DETAILS

Background

The Community Feral Pig Eradication Group (CFPEG) started as a pilot project in early 2001 after local landholders raised concerns regarding the spread of feral pigs and the damage they were causing. Increased reports of sightings prompted the establishment of a cooperative venture between landholders, businesses and government departments who assisted the development of a large scale trapping program through funding and operational support. The success of the trapping efforts within the first 5 months proved the worth of the project and led to the formation of the not-for-profit **Lake Muir / Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group**.

Over the past 6 years the group has significantly halted the advance of pig populations, reduced densities and continues to aim for total eradication within the project area. The success of the group is ensured by the continued support from a wide range of project partners.

This report provides a summary of the activities that were conducted during 2005 and 2006.

The three previous reports are available on the internet¹ and provide statistics and project results.

1. Project Aim

The primary aim of the project is:

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

Enquiries over the past two years from other regions facing feral pig impact has highlighted the need for the group to advise and assist outside of the initial Lake Muir / Denbarker target area.

2. Project Objectives

Over the past three years the group has followed nine core objectives. With the increased interest from parties outside the region a tenth objective has been added.

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.

Objective 2.

To share the cost and effort for feral pig control.

Objective 3.

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

¹Copies of the 2002, 2003 and 2004 annual reports are available from the Department of Agriculture and Food's website (<http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/> Search for 'feral pig control' from the home page) as well as the Community Feral Pig Eradication Group website <http://feralpig.host.wa.com.au/about.htm>

Objective 4.

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

Objective 5.

Encourage a flexible trapping program that is not restricted to business hours or weekdays.

Objective 6.

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

Objective 7.

Augment current Department of Environment and Conservation trapping and poisoning programs.

Objective 8.

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

Objective 9.

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

Objective 10.

(New) To advise and assist the establishment of similar working groups in other areas of the state.

3. Project Management

The Lake Muir / Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group continues to meet on a regular basis in Rocky Gully. The group has been chaired by Mark Muir since 2003. Secretarial assistance has been provided by Jo Wills since July 2006. Administrative assistance has also been provided by the Shire of Plantagenet.

All project funds are held in trust at the Shire of Plantagenet and staff at the

Shire process all financial transactions on behalf of the group. The group is grateful for the Shire's ongoing support.

The committee manages all operational aspects of the project objectives as listed above. The names of the group's committee members are provided in Appendix 1.

Allotted members of the committee maintain regular contact with trappers to enable the sharing of siting information, trap distribution, trapping statistics and to manage issues in relation to trappers fulfilling the objectives of their job. Details in relation to contracts and public liability insurance for the trappers are managed by the Shire of Plantagenet on behalf of the group.

Membership of the group has increased in recent years to include more landholder representatives. The group actively seeks members with a broad range of positions in the community to assist the achievement of the project's objectives. The group has an open and inclusive membership and participation policy and welcomes general attendance to meetings.

The group is grateful for the financial contributions from the various organisations, groups and individuals who have made the project possible. A list of committee members and contributors to the project during 2005 and 2006 are listed in Appendices 1 and 2.

4. Project Results for 2005 and 2006

Feral pig control

Two experienced and accredited trappers, Peter Cochrane and Kevin Machen, continue to conduct surveillance and trapping activity throughout the project area. Peter has been a trapper for the group since the project began operations in 2001. Kevin commenced as a trapper in 2003.

Contact continues to be maintained with the Albany Branch of the Sporting Shooters Association. They have been invaluable to the group through their rapid response to requests for assistance with sightings when trappers have been unavailable in the Denbarker area. The group would like to acknowledge Mark Foster, the current President of the branch, for his support in arranging surveillance teams.

2005

Trapping commenced in February 2005. Trapping during the month of April was twice weekly due to low pig numbers and activity. There was a total of 21 weeks trapping time in 2005 compared with 32 weeks in 2004, 20 weeks in each of 2003 and 2002, and 16 weeks in 2001.

The committee found that it was best to concentrate on the Denbarker area in the late winter - early spring as trapping seemed to be more effective at this time of year. The trappers worked on establishing where the pig activity was and then started free feeding to assist with the placement of traps.

Traps were set at various sites within Lake Muir, Rocky Gully and Denbarker areas during the year and a total of 46 pigs were caught in 2005 (see Appendices 3 and 5).



The weights of pigs trapped in 2005 ranged from 10 kg to 70 kg for sows and from 10 kg to 120 kg for boars. The annual maximum weight for individual boars has declined each year from the start of the project and a declining trend is now becoming apparent with the sows (see Appendix 6).

2006

Trapping commenced in early 2006 with a total trapping time of 55 weeks. Traps were again set within the Lake Muir, Rocky Gully and Denbarker areas and a total of 110 pigs were caught (see Appendices 4 and 5).

The work effort required to catch pigs in the project area was assessed by calculating the number of pigs trapped per week of trapper time. The average number of pigs trapped per trapper week is declining (see Appendix 4). General feedback from the trappers is that pig numbers are low and those that remain are more difficult to find. There was a steady decline in the number of pigs trapped for the first four years but the rate per week of trapper time appears to have stabilised over the last three years.

The weights of pigs trapped in 2006 ranged from 10 kg to 80 kg for sows and from 10 kg to 118.5 kg for boars (see Appendix 6).

5. Projects which have assisted group objectives

1. Two awareness raising workshops regarding feral pig activity in the region

were held in June and September 2006. Participants in the workshops were - Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC), Green Skills, WA Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Environment and Conservation (previously CALM), and the Lake Muir / Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group Committee.

Lotterywest gave major financial support for the workshops. Other supporters of the workshops included SCRIPT (now known as South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc), the Shires of Denmark, Plantagenet, Manjimup and Cranbrook.

The aim of the workshops was to increase local community awareness of feral and native fauna management and to encourage feral animal sighting to be reported to the WICC Natural Resource Management Coordinator.

The first workshop was held in Forest Hill on the 7th of June 2006 and the second workshop was held in Denmark on the 2nd of September 2006.

Both workshops were well attended with an average of 30 people. Attendees were from a cross section of the community including farmers, sporting shooters, industry representatives from forestry, agriculture and waters, as well as local community members from urban and semi rural locations.

Attendee's feedback was positive with suggestions to continue tri-annual follow-up education campaigns. Attendees also welcomed the variety of speakers who gave differing perspectives on feral animal problems on rural properties and within nature reserves.

Community understanding of the problems associated with feral animals in the region

was increased with a renewed interest in reporting feral animal sightings. To date 20 sightings forms have been returned with verbal sightings also forwarded to various project partners.

Media coverage of the two workshops included local newspapers and radio. Feral animal siting forms were delivered to landholders by Australia Post, and fliers were developed, produced and distributed through community bulletin boards in the region as well via email networks of all partners involved. Melinda Lyons (Green Skills) was the project coordinator for the workshops.

2. Dr Laurie Twigg (Department of Agriculture and Food) has recently completed research trials into bait preferences and 1080- efficacy of preferred baits by feral pigs. The group can now incorporate the key findings of the study into trapping and control strategies. Outcomes of Laurie's work can be found at: <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pls/portal30/docs/FOLDER/IKMP/PW/VP/FER/FPIGTEXT.PDF>

3. The Department of Environment and Conservation, under its 'Save our Species'

project, has employed a Biodiversity Conservation Initiative Feral Pig Control (BCIFPC) Coordinator to coordinate feral pig control on all land on the south coast below the Blackwood River from Denmark to Augusta. The initiative aims to assist the protection of sensitive environmental sites such as rare or endangered flora and fauna ecosystems as well as address impacts of feral pigs on private lands.

The Lake Muir / Denbarker project was a significant factor in the formation of the position with a desire to replicate and expand on its successes. The BCIFPC Coordinator will be providing funding and advice to landcare groups, non-government and government organisations, and community based initiatives that are assisting in feral pig control. The project plans to run over a 12 month period to 30 June 07. Lake Muir / Denbarker committee member Mark Barley has taken on the coordinator's position. Mark was previously the DEC Regional Wildlife Officer based in Manjimup.

Groups currently being assisted by the 'Save our Species' project include:



Nannup Feral Pig Action Group * - The group was formed after a public interest meeting. From this meeting an executive committee was formed and pig trappers were subsequently appointed. The DEC "Save Our Species" project provided start up funds.

Darkan Group * - Rare fauna and flora of land locked reserves within the area west of Collie are under threat due to feral pig activity. Local landcare officer John Bird is coordinating efforts of two local trappers who are being employed by the West Arthur Shire.

Northcliffe Group - The Southern Forest Landcare Group have contracted a trapper to work within important quokka habitats around the Northcliffe area and to liaise with local landholders. The DEC "Save Our Species" project is providing complementary funds.

*CFPEG and the DEC are providing experienced trappers as mentors for trappers in these regions.

4. The committee now has a website that is linked to the SCRIPT site (now known as South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc). The group wishes to give thanks to Lynn Heppell and the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee for assistance in commissioning the design and publication of the site. The site address is <http://feralpig.hostwa.com.au/index.htm>

5. An 8 page booklet documenting the history and objectives of the Lake Muir / Denbarker CFPEG has been published with

the design and compilation assistance of Green Skills project officer Melinda Lyons. The publication also includes steps to consider for those thinking of forming a similar committee in the region.

6. Reports of feral pig sightings in the Dongolocking Reserve area began to filter in to the Department of Agriculture about 3 years ago. Farmers in the area reported several cases of damage to crops and pasture paddocks caused by the rooting and trampling behaviour of feral pigs. The pigs tend to harbour within the reserve then move into paddocks to feed and gain access to water. A community meeting and feral pig trapping training day were held for farmers in the Shires of Dumbleyung and Wagin during late 2005. Attempts to trap or poison the pigs by Department of Agriculture and CALM staff were unsuccessful and a new approach to the problem was sought.

An application for funding to kick-start a feral pig control program, under the Department of Agriculture and Food's 'Regional Weed and Feral Control Project' was successful. Dana Price, a Biosecurity Officer based at the Department's Katanning Office approached Tony Higgs (member of the CFPEG) to seek assistance



to address the feral pig problem in the Dongolocking area.

The CFPEG, trappers Peter Cochrane and Kevin Machen were keen to provide assistance and agreed to spending one month (two fortnightly stints) trapping pigs in the Dongolocking reserve area. The first fortnight was from January 8th to 19th 2007. During this period trappers destroyed a total of nine pigs. A local farmer managed to shoot a group of 8 pigs on Xmas Eve 2006 - a total of 17 pigs in a 4 week period! All the pigs trapped or shot were captured on private farm land. The Group is currently in the process of arranging the second fortnight long stint, to be carried out in autumn or early winter.

Follow-up funding from the 'Regional weed and Feral Control Project' has been promised for the 2007-2008 season.

Dana Price Biosecurity Officer,
Department of Agriculture and Food

(Note - Trappers estimated approximately 100 pigs in the area. DEC supplied the traps for the project. These traps however were too low and pigs appeared to have jumped out as well as dig under them. The committee notes that if these same traps were to be utilised they would need to be roofed and have a barrier to digging. Also wheat bait was unsuccessful due to the number of dead sheep carcasses available to pigs in the area.)

7. The Department of Water manages 7500ha of freehold land in the Kent

River Water Reserve and Denmark River Catchment Area. Ongoing support for the CFPEG is part of this management.

6. Assessment of the success in meeting the project objectives

As previously noted the project now has ten priority objectives.

The progress of the project in relation to these objectives follows below: Appendix 7 contains comments from project partners and community members regarding their observations of the project.

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.

Landholders in the project area have expressed great satisfaction in the achievements of the group now that pig numbers are low.



There have been increased efforts by the group to provide a reactive service following reports of sightings of pigs or damage by pigs. This has been well received by landholders. Previous trapping activity was focussed on the late summer and early autumn when water is limited.

The group is still aware that damage continues to occur in localised areas and that the eradication effort will need to continue over the long term.

Assessment - Further progress made.

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

In the years previous to this bi-annual report active financial contribution from landholders was sought. Thanks to the significant corporate support for the project the group has not required local landholder funding over the past two years.

The general public's in-kind contributions, assistance with identifying trapping sites on private property and reporting feral animal activity is invaluable to the group. Ongoing committee involvement from a wide cross section of departments, organisations and farmers has also contributed to the success of the project.

Assessment - Achieved

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

Elected committee representatives and trappers are on standby to react to sightings of pigs. Others who are able to assist in this rapid response include the local Walpole and Manjimup offices of the Department of Environment and Conservation and the local Sporting Shooters Association.

Assessment - Achieved

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

Illegal hunting and release of pigs for sport is a major issue. Illegal release is the major cause of feral pig movement across the state. DNA testing has shown that feral pigs have been introduced to lower south west from more than 150kms away. DNA testing and tracking devices to understand their potential migratory range has revealed that feral pigs will normally travel only about 20kms.

Methods of controlling such activity include:

- * Fines and charges in relation to illegal release of feral (or domestic) pigs into conservation areas.
- * Fines and charges in relation to illegal use of firearms and dogs on government and private lands.
- * On farm inspections for illegally kept feral pigs (a declared animal).

The Departments of Environment and Conservation, Agriculture and Food and WA Police are working together with other authorities to enforce relevant acts and regulations.

These include:

- * CALM Act
- * Wildlife Conservation Act
- * Firearms Act
- * Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
- * Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act
- * Stock Identification and Movement Act
- * Land Administration Act
- * Animal Welfare Act

Assessment - Partly Achieved

Objective 5. Encourage a flexible trapping program that is not restricted to business hours or weekdays.

The group has identified that trapping work may need to occur on weekends and out of normal business hours. The trappers provide flexibility in regard to the days that they will work as do the committee members with their voluntary contributions out of normal 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.

There has been a lot of community effort to initiate and maintain the energy of the group by key members of departments, organisations and the general public. Such effort has been acknowledged both through awareness raising workshops about feral pigs, the development of the CFPEG website and also through the recent publication of an information flier.

Assessment - Achieved

Objective 7. Augment current Department of Conservation and Environment (DEC) trapping and poisoning programs.

DEC staff are active participants on the CFPEG committee. The committee works in partnership with trapping and monitoring programs conducted by the DEC with ongoing efforts to minimise duplication and maximize the effective area of feral pig control.

Assessment - Achieved

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

As the attached appendices highlight, the group is particularly careful to record all trapping statistics. These figures are not only useful for achieving the groups local objectives but contribute to a wider understanding of feral pig activity and control.

Assessment - Achieved

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

The use of dogs to identify feral pigs in forest areas was assessed at the beginning of the project. At that time the committee was of the view that dogs had some role to play but trapping without the use of dogs was preferred because the likelihood of catching whole family groups of pigs was

greater when the level of disturbance in forest areas was minimised.

More recently the issue of the legality of hunting feral pigs using dogs has arisen because of changes in community attitudes to animal welfare and the introduction of the new *Animal Welfare Act 2002*. In a legal sense, it appears that the use of trained dogs is acceptable when they are used to flush feral pigs out of forest areas if they are used as part of a legitimate control program. It is unequivocal that using dogs to attack and bring down feral pigs is unacceptable because of the potential for injury to the pig and/or the dog. Penalties for offences under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* are significant. The maximum penalty is a \$50,000 fine and imprisonment for 5 years.

Assessment - Achieved

Objective 10 (New). To advise and assist the establishment of similar working groups in other areas of the state.

External assistance has been given to the Darkan, Northcliffe, Nannup and Katanning regions in the form of support for the establishment of community groups to combat feral pigs, advice on ways to obtain funding and provision of experienced trappers for local operations and training of land holders and new trappers. The committee is committed to offering support to others who wish to combat a feral pig problem.

Assessment - Achieved

7. Financial Summary

The group is in a strong financial position at the 31st December 2006 and is pleased with the ongoing support shown by project partners.

The South Coast Regional Planning Team (SCRIPT - now South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc) became a major contributor to the project in 2006, pledging funding for operational activities of \$63,000 (exc GST) over a three year period, a development that has been welcomed by the group. This funding will allow aggressive trapping campaigns to be continued. In late 2006 the group was successful in an application for a National Heritage Trust funded Envirofund grant which provides \$20,641.70 (exc GST) specifically for the protection of the biodiversity at Lake Muir from feral pig disturbance.

8. Project Plans for 2007

The group continues to explore opportunities to reduce the impact of illegal releases of feral pigs into forest areas. An effective surveillance and trapping program is one way of dealing with the issue as released pigs are soon caught. In addition, there is an active reporting process for sightings of suspicious vehicles that will help with the prosecution of offenders. A reward system for reporting offenders who are ultimately prosecuted is also being explored.

To date, investigations by the group have identified three styles of trap design worth utilising. These are the "Figure 6", the "Drop Gate" and the "Swing Gate".

Funds are currently being used to design and build new traps which will be operational by mid 2007.

The group will continue to further refine processes and protocols related to trapping and working with the community members.

However, there is still more to be done. The approach that has been used in this project could be replicated elsewhere and the group is keen to foster any such opportunities. Continued community support will ensure that the project continues its good work.

9. Conclusion

The group is pleased with the progress that has been made in controlling feral pigs in the Lake Muir and Denbarker areas.



Appendix 1 - Parties involved in the project for 2005 and 2006

Committee Members

Mark Muir	<i>(Farmer, Unicup and current Chairman)</i>
Mark Barley	<i>(Dept. Environment and Conservation)</i>
Darrel Drage	<i>(Farmer, Denbarker and foundation Chairman)</i>
Tony Fox	<i>(Farmer, Lake Muir)</i>
Murray Gangell	<i>(Dept of Water)</i>
Tony Higgs	<i>(Dept of Agriculture and Food)</i>
Ted Knight	<i>(Dept of Agriculture and Food)</i>
Ashley Muir	<i>(Farmer, Lake Muir)</i>
Joeri Mak	<i>(Integrated Tree Cropping Forestry Pty Ltd)</i>
Bob Edwards	<i>(Great Southern Plantations Ltd)</i>
David Townsend	<i>(WA Plantation Resources Ltd)</i>
Ian Wilson	<i>(Dept. Environment and Conservation)</i>
David Squire	<i>(Farmer, Tenterden)</i>
John Rodgers	<i>(Farmer, Denbarker)</i>

Contractors employed in 2005 and 2006

Peter Cochrane	<i>(Accredited)</i>
Kevin Machen	<i>(Accredited)</i>

Appendix 2 - List of Contributors to the Project in 2005 and 2006

State Government

Department of Agriculture and Food

Department of Environment and Conservation
(Formerly Dept. Conservation and Land Management)

Department of Water
(Formerly Department of Environment)

Local Government

Shire of Plantagenet

Shire of Cranbrook

Shire of Denmark

Shire of Manjimup

Timber Industry

Great Southern Plantations Ltd

Timbercorp

Integrated Tree Cropping

Community Groups

Walpole Nornalup National Parks Association

Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee

Green Skills

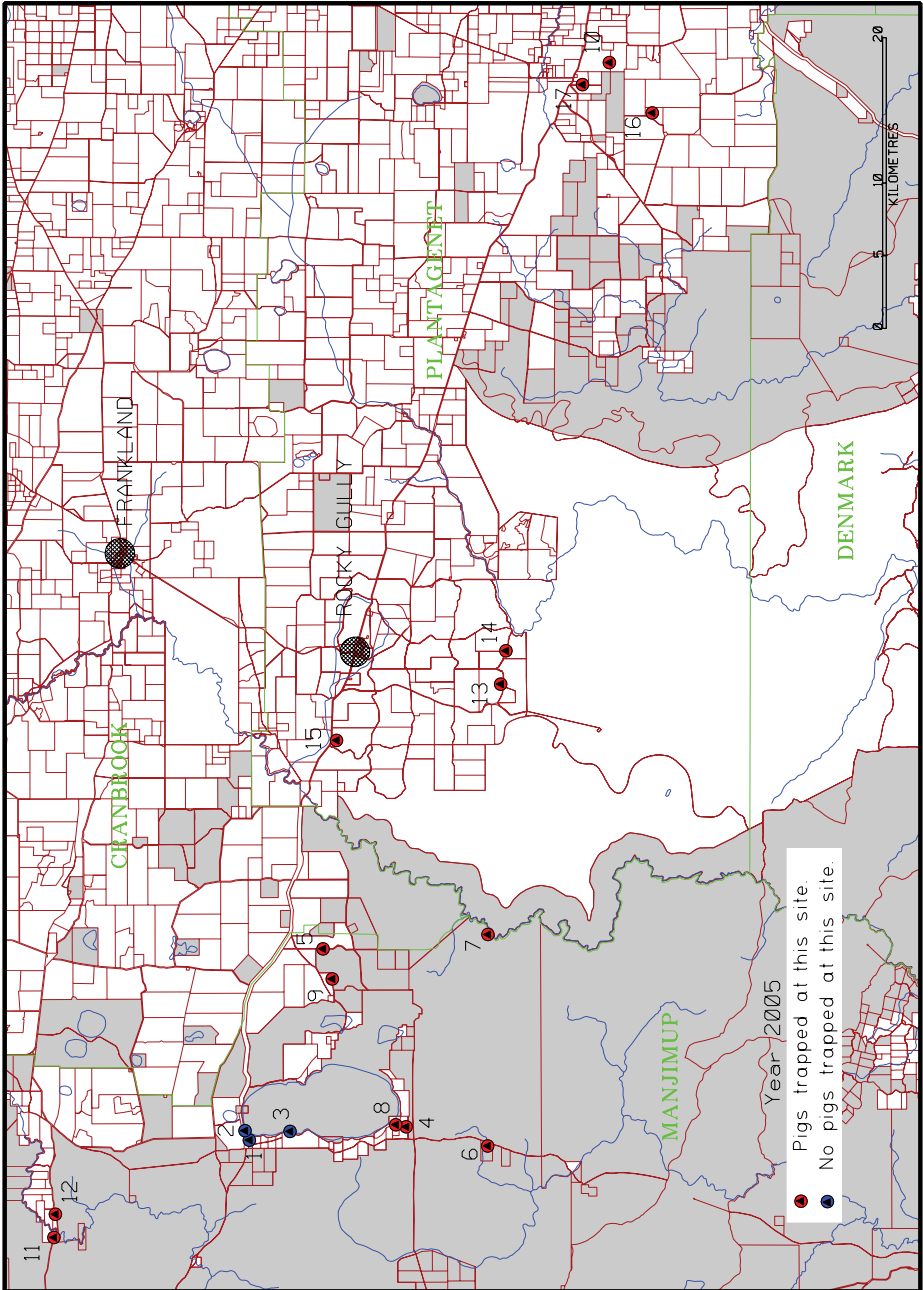
South Coast NRM

Other Contributions

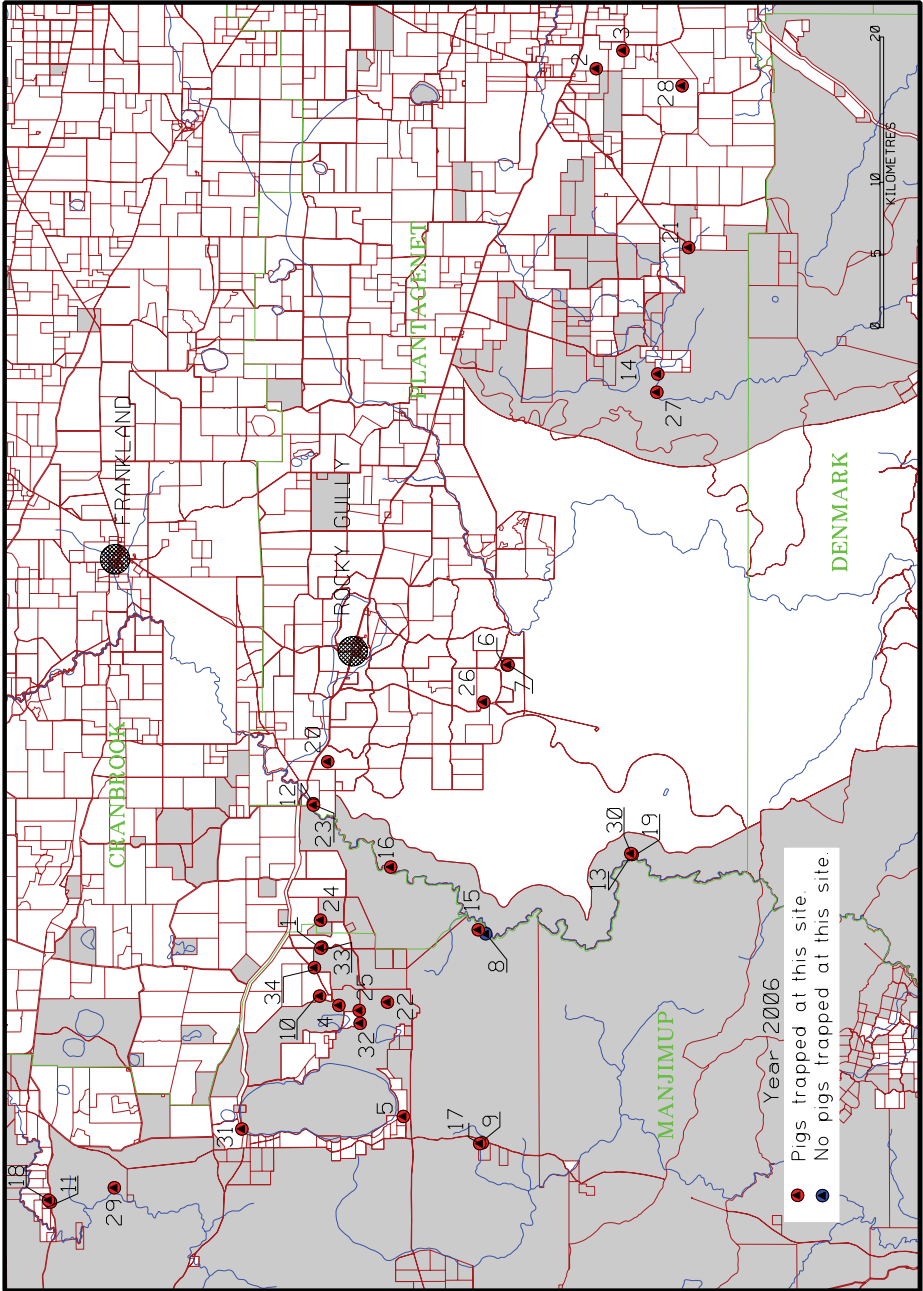
Envirofund Grant

Private Land-holders and Committee Members

Appendix 3 - Maps of feral pig trap sites for 2005



Appendix 4 - Maps of feral pig trap sites for 2006



Appendix 5 -Trap Statistics from 2001 to 2006

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
a. Lake Muir	70	51	51	42	32	68
Rocky Gully	0	0	0	3	4	18
Denbarker	24	44	26	7	10	24
b. Total pigs	94	95	77	52	46	110
c. Total weeks of trapper time	16	20	20	32	21	55
d. Pigs per trapper week	5.9	4.8	3.9	1.6	2.2	2.0

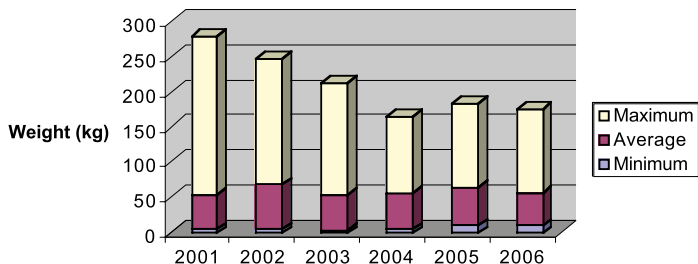
- a. The total number of feral pigs trapped by locality and year
- b. Total number of feral pigs for the year
- c. Amount of time trappers were employed for each year of the project
- d. Average number of pigs per week of trapper time



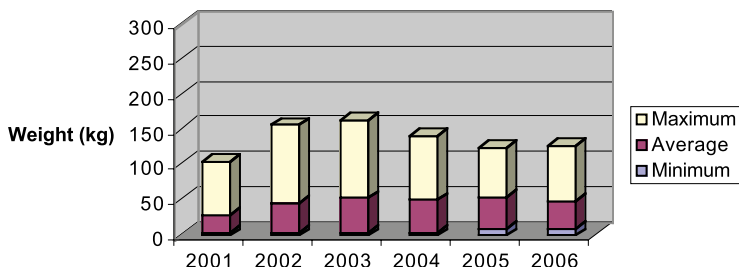
Appendix 6 - Weights of Feral Pigs Trapped from 2001 to 2006

Male	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Minimum	5	5	4	5	10	10
Average	49.8	63.9	50.5	51.6	54.4	47.5
Maximum	225	180	160	110	120	118.5
Female	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Minimum	5	5	4	5	10	10
Average	24.6	42.1	49.5	46	44.2	38.4
Maximum	75	110	110	90	70	80

Feral Pig Weight Ranges - Males



Feral Pig Weight Ranges - Females



Appendix 7 - Comments from Project Partners and Community Members

“There has been a lot of great work to reduce the numbers of feral pigs over the last 5 years. There was an estimated 500 pigs at the beginning of the project. When you understand that sows can have up to 14 piglets a year, you can appreciate that there would be significant numbers of pigs in our wetlands if the trapping hadn’t occurred.”

Ashley Muir, Local Farmer and Member of CFPEG

“The feral pig eradication program has made considerable progress since its inception. The Shire of Denmark is keen to continue support for the program.”

Pascoe Durtanovich, CEO Shire of Denmark

“The Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee appreciates the commitment to the project by the group and the financial supporters of the project. The feral pig problem requires on going dedication to control and finally eradicate the pigs. The Lake Muir Denbarker feral pig eradication group and local community work together to protect the environment and agricultural land from degradation by feral pigs.”

Lynn Heppell, WICC NRM Coordinator

“The Shire of Manjimup has financially supported the Lake Muir Denbarker Feral Pig Eradication Group on an annual basis since its inception. The program has been a successful example of cooperation between State Government agencies, Local Governments, industries, community groups and private landholders to reduce the effects of feral pigs on spreading disease, destroying natural environment and water catchments and threatening primary industries. The Shire has been pleased with this extremely worthy project, which must continue and be extended to help combat increasing feral animal problems in the south-west region.”

Vern McKay, CEO Shire of Manjimup

“ITC is proud of its involvement with the Lake Muir / Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group and its success in significantly reducing the number of feral pigs in the region. It is of great benefit to ITC that, when a feral pig problem occurs, the Group acts diligently to address the problem, limiting any damage on ITC or neighbouring properties.

There is also a noticeable increase in reports of feral pig activity from ITC staff, neighbours and contractors. This can be attributed to the Group’s presence in the area and the confidence that information provided to the Group will be acted upon.

In addition, the Group provides a valuable source of information for ITC, information which has subsequently been used to enhance the Company’s vermin control procedures.

ITC looks forward to continuing its successful relationship with Group.”

Joeri Mak, Integrated Tree Cropping Forestry Pty Ltd

“The Shire of Plantagenet commends the work being done by the Lake Muir Denbarker Feral Pig Eradication Group. Although total eradication is a vision that will be extremely difficult to achieve the commitment of this group and its contractors is having a very definite effect on the containment of this severe feral animal pest. The damage that is being prevented to broad acre farming, horticultural crops and tree plantations is significant in actual damage and economic value. Whilst this program is in place it is unlikely that feral pigs will migrate to the east of the Hay River and thus two major national parks and being protected from their invasion. We thank the Government Agencies, Companies and Individuals who have been sponsors of this program, and encourage you to continue your commitment. This group can only achieve to the level of funds that are available to it.”

Rob Stewart, CEO Shire of Plantagenet

“Over the last 2 years the feral pig eradication program has been going very well. The trappers are still trapping good numbers and getting rid of those destructive pests. They have a small number of pigs to complete eradication in the eastern area of the project. The credit goes to the trappers. They are doing a super job. Also thanks go to the general public for reporting sightings which has helped locate isolated groups of pigs. Also thanks go to contributors who make all this possible.”

Darryl Drage, Local Farmer and Foundation Member of CFPEG

“Feral pigs are very mobile pests that readily cross land ownership boundaries and can rapidly cause damage to the environment and agriculture. Their mobility presents many challenges to land managers because efforts to control them on one property must be complemented by efforts on the neighbouring land for any real impact to occur. At first glance, the on-ground action required to control feral pigs seems simple enough. However, the Lake Muir / Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group has struggled with many issues over its short life, some of them potentially significant enough to kill the project. Without a doubt it has been the dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of the committee and the trappers that has ensured that the solutions to the issues have been found and the project continues to make a difference.”

Tony Higgs, Dept of Agriculture and Food and Foundation Member of CFPEG

Project Partners



Department of
Agriculture and Food



Department of
Environment and
Conservation



Department of
Water



GREAT SOUTHERN
PLANTATIONS LIMITED



Working for a sustainable future



TIMBERCORP



australian Government
envirofund



Mikona Tadi
National Committee Inc.

WALPOLE & NORNALUP
National Parks Association

LOCAL
LANDHOLDERS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Lake Muir/Denbarker Community

Feral Pig Eradication Group Committee, PO Box 27 Rocky Gully WA 6397

Dr Tony Higgs - Senior Veterinary Officer,

Dept of Agriculture and Food WA, 444 Albany Highway Albany WA 6330 Ph: (08) 9892 8479