

Feral Pig Program 2023-2024

Progress update (3) | July 2024



Achievements to date: October 2023 to June 2024



7,375

properties participating



112,888

feral pigs controlled



14.87 million

hectares protected

When the NSW Government's \$13 million Feral Pig Program began, a target was set to control 87,000 feral pigs across the state. In just over 8 months, this target has been successfully exceeded having controlled 112,888 pigs.

The program delivered by Local Land Services (LLS) has seen the damaging impacts of feral pigs reduced, benefiting landholders and protecting agricultural assets and the environment.

Key achievements of the statewide Feral Pig Program October 2023 – June 2024:

- controlled 112,888 pigs, 25,888 above the original target of 87,000
- conducted 49 aerial control programs, 3 more than the target of 46
- boosted ground control programs across all regions
- supported 7,375 participating landholders in control programs and provided 10,325 one-on-one consultations by our local biosecurity officers

- held 117 capacity building events, 18 over our target of 99 sessions, to equip landholders with information and training
- boosted support to farmers through the Feral Fighters initiative including:
 - 21 free Vertebrate Pesticide Induction Training (VPIT) courses and
 - issuing 199,886 kg of free 1080 baited grain, further reducing populations and impacts
- worked across 3 priority landscape scale control zones to reduce numbers in feral pig hotspots across North West, Central West, Riverina and Western NSW
- captured impacts and population estimations through monitoring initiatives
- appointed NSW's first dedicated Feral Pig Coordinator to lead the program.



Engagement

- **10,325** consultations with land managers for feral pig management
- **96** awareness events across the state with **1,746** participants
- **335** landholders surveyed as part of impacts monitoring.

Success over feral pigs:

Hear from a grower, sheep grazier and cattle producer on how they have controlled feral pigs with the support of Local Land Services.



Scan the QR code or visit lls.nsw.gov.au/success-stories to watch their full stories.



Feral Fighters

- **223** participants at **21** free Vertebrate Pesticide Induction Training (VPIT) courses held in person
- **199,886** kg free bait issued
- **231,870** kg free feed grain provided to **1,392** landholders, protecting **4,193,471** hectares through the Feral Fighters initiative.



“It’s got to be an integrated approach where we’re monitoring and then we’re utilising all control methods. LLS is a great vehicle to support that.”

-Chris, grower and agronomist, Moree



Ground control

- **13,546** feral pigs culled through coordinated trapping programs
- **1,326** properties participating
- **1,679,270** hectares protected through ground control.



“Without all of the support and everybody’s input, we wouldn’t be in the situation we’re in now with less pigs.”

-Kym, grazier, Inverell



Aerial control

- **99,342** feral pigs controlled during **49** FAAST aerial control programs
- **4,657** properties participating
- **8,994,776** hectares protected through aerial control.

These statistics for October 2023 to June 2024 relate to activities funded by the 2023-2024 Feral Pig Program. Local Land Services has further feral pig management activities underway that are not reported as part of this funding which have removed an additional 20,755 feral pigs.

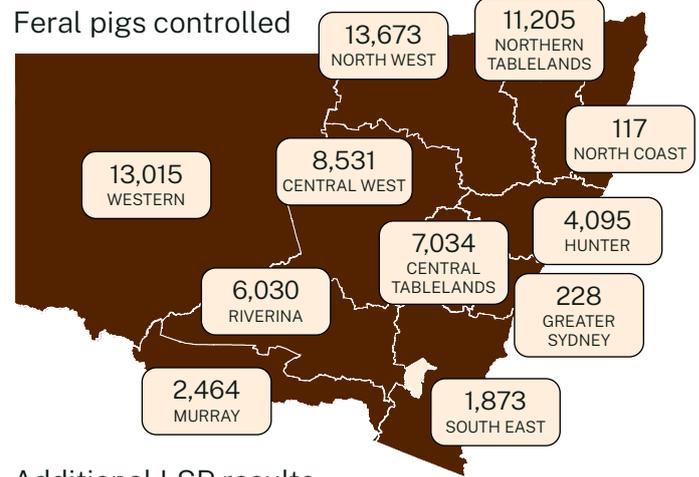
Across all regions

Every Local Land Services region was involved, with targeted feral pig programs to focus on hotspots and high density populations.

40 per cent of the feral pigs culled under this program were within known hotspots across 3 priority landscape scale control zones in the North West, Central West, Riverina and Western NSW.

A successful example of coordinating control effort across a broadscale area is the Coonabarabran and Coolah Landscape Scale Project (LSP2), located within the Central West region.

Over 8 months, 13,456 pigs were removed from the half million hectare area, helping knock down numbers and complementing local baiting and trapping efforts.



Additional LSP results

Landscape Scale Project Zones	Feral pigs
1. Riverina, Western & Central West	15,075
2. Central West	13,456
3. North West	16,092



Protecting Country and culture into the future

First Nations' rangers on the North Coast undertook training in response to the damage feral pigs have caused in this culturally important area near Iluka and the biodiverse rainforest within Bundjalung National Park.

Nine rangers from the Yaegl Wadyarr Gargle Land and Sea Contractors completed Vertebrate Pest Induction Training, were taught trapping and baiting equipment use and visited a control site on Birrigan Gargle Local Aboriginal Land Council's Land.

Protecting environment and agriculture

The Gwydir Wetlands are listed as a RAMSAR site, recognised as an internationally significant wetland system.

By working with NSW National Parks Wildlife Service as part of a landscape scale control program (LSP), we were able to target the removal of feral pigs and help protect this area's unique biodiversity and surrounding high value cropping and grazing operations.

In the broader Lower Gwydir LSP area covering 354,000 hectares, over 16,000 feral pigs were controlled through aerial and ground control, involving 155 landholders.



Image: Joanne Ocock



Building capacity

Empowering landholders with the skills, knowledge and tools for effective feral pig control has been a priority.

Across the state landholders attended 117 capacity building events delivered by professionals including vertebrate pest induction training, feral pig information sessions and practical trapping and baiting workshops.

In addition, 10,325 one-on-one consultations with local biosecurity officers provided landholders with tailored advice to utilise the most effective combination of control methods, while helping coordinate efforts across neighbouring boundaries to maximise success in the longer term.

Work continuing:

- The NSW Government remains committed to tackling feral pig numbers and other pest animals, committing \$13.1 million in 2024-2025 to build on the Feral Pig Program's success.
- A concerted campaign over the next year will help reduce pest populations, minimise biosecurity risks and environmental damage.
- Farmers will continue to benefit from the support of Local Land Services for ongoing feral pig and pest animal control, thereby helping landholders fulfill their general biosecurity duty.
- Landholders are encouraged to take advantage of the advice offered by their local biosecurity officer by calling 1300 795 299.



Learn more

Scan the QR code below or visit lls.nsw.gov.au/feral-pigs to learn more about how to manage feral pigs with the support of Local Land Services.



Scan the QR code below or visit lls.nsw.gov.au/fpp to find out more about the Feral Pig Program

