

## Feral pig management expenditure – Wet Tropics Local Governments

Prepared by FNQROC for Senate Environment and Communication References Committee 10/08/2020

Annual expenditure on feral pig management by local government in the Wet Tropics (based on 2019/20 financial year)				
Local government	Program type	Local government	Other stakeholders	Total expenditure
Cairns Regional Council	Council led program	\$250, 000		\$250,000
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Coordinated program in response to Panama TR4	\$128,000	\$150,000 (QGOV) \$87,000 (Landholders and banana industry) \$70,000~ (sugar industry)	\$435,000
Douglas Shire Council	Council led program	\$167,000	QPWS burial site only	\$167,000
Hinchinbrook Shire Council^	Coordinated community pig management program	\$45,000 cash \$12,500 in kind	\$89,650 (HCPSL, HQ Plantations, Terrain NRM, Greening Australia, QPWS)	\$147,150
Tablelands Regional Council#	(0.12 of an FTE - Biosecurity Officer)	\$15,000		\$15,000
Mareeba Shire Council *	Council led program	\$28,850		\$28,850
		<b>\$645,850</b>		<b>\$1,0430,000</b>

^ Pigs controlled in the last 5 years has been 550-700 annually: benefit to sugar industry, damage from pigs before program commenced \$1,200,000 – Now \$230,000 annually Saving \$970,000 on average; the program provides the community with a full-time feral pig management officer who coordinates pig control activities, loans traps out to landholders, provides a 1080 baiting service and provides a consistent bait supply.

#Historically feral pigs have not had significant economic impacts in the Tablelands region, however in recent years feral pigs have been causing significant damage in agricultural areas and a coordinated approach to management is now being developed.

\* In addition to annual expenditure the MSC area benefited from a grant (2015) through NRM group for \$25,000 for the fabrication of silo traps. Council also purchased hog hoppers and wildlife cameras for loan to landholders and provided materials to local Landcare groups to construct portable pig traps (\$18,100) over the 2015-20 period.

Estimates do not include expenditure of individual landholders or QPWS (unless stated) on control activities or impacts of feral pigs.

**Contact:** Travis Sydes

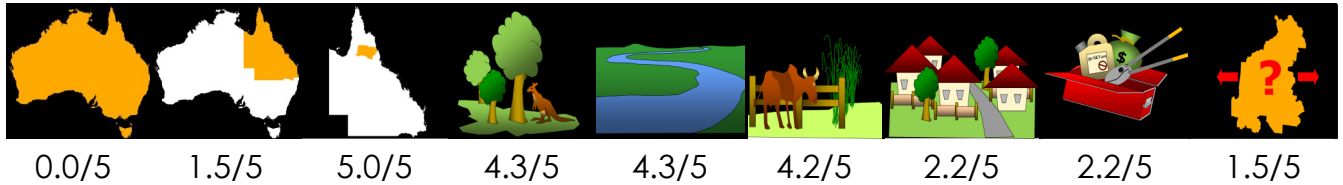
**Examples of FNQ Councils feral pig biosecurity action plans, extracts provided from the following local government biosecurity plans:**

- **Cassowary Coast Local Area Biosecurity Plan 2019-2023**
- **Cairns Biosecurity Plan 2018-20**
- **Hinchinbrook Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan**
- **Mareeba Biosecurity Plan 2020-25**

# Feral pig (*Sus scrofa*)

National priority   State priority   Previous local   Conservation   Water resources   Agriculture and industry   Community and residential   Feasibility of control   Current extent

Priority



Details

**Description:** Feral pigs are usually black, buff or spotted black or white. They are generally nocturnal, omnivorous and can range from 5 to 50 square kilometres. Feral pigs breed throughout the year often producing two weaned litters per year.

**Distribution:** Common and widespread within the Cassowary Coast Region and the Wet Tropics although DNA testing indicates there are distinct populations.

**Impacts:** Feral pigs damage crops, stock, property and the natural environment. They transmit disease and could spread exotic diseases such as foot and mouth if this was introduced to the country. They have been identified as a likely vector of Panama TR4.

**Key projects:** CC RC and QPWS ( ph 4048 3713 )both provide trap loan services and can assist with co-ordinated baiting activities. Local agricultural producers can gain assistance through their industry support officers.

Background

Effective Feral Pig control needs to be coordinated across all land uses and utilise one or a variety of approved methods ( shooting/trapping/baiting) in conjunction with neighbours. There is a practical guide available—"Trapping Feral Pigs on the Cassowary Coast " to assist landholders with developing the best approach for their situation.

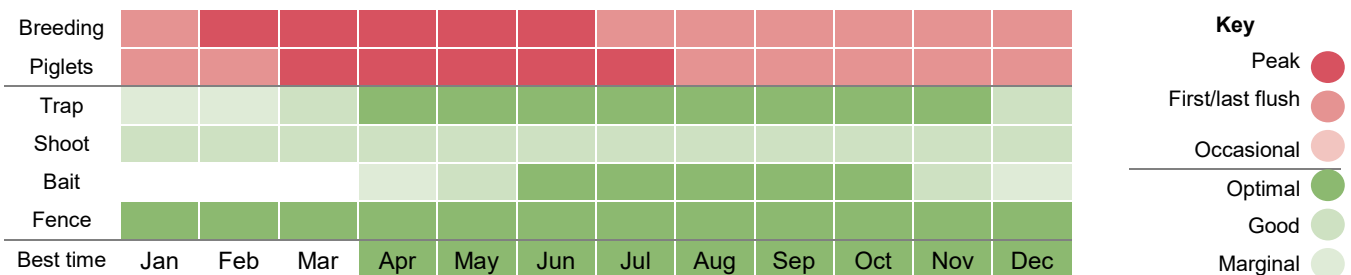
The main techniques suitable for feral pig control are not suitable for use in Urban/peri urban situations. In these areas exclusion fencing, trapping and undertaking baiting on the perimeters is the best approach.

All data for feral pig management ( sightings/damage and control activities) can be entered in "Feral Scan" GIS platform which is monitored by council. This can help target control efforts to ensure effective reduction in numbers.

Hunting with dogs is not an endorsed control method and is limited in its effectiveness. Hunting is a recreational pastime and is unlikely to reduce damage caused by feral pigs. In QLD dogs can be used for flushing or locating pigs but cannot be used to bring them down ( Animal Care and protection Act).

Feral pigs also have a negative effect on World Heritage listed natural areas, threatened species and ecosystems, CCRC reserves, urban and peri urban environments, essential infrastructure such as road shoulders, drainage systems, wetlands, farmland, private, rural and peri-urban land and other areas.

Control calendar



For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the [Cassowary Coast Local Area Biosecurity Plan](#) available at [cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au](http://cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



[www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au)  
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PO Box 887, Innisfail, QLD, 4860  
Innisfail - 70 Rankine Street  
Tully - 38-40 Bryant Street  
Cardwell - 4 Balliol Street



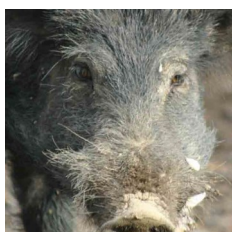
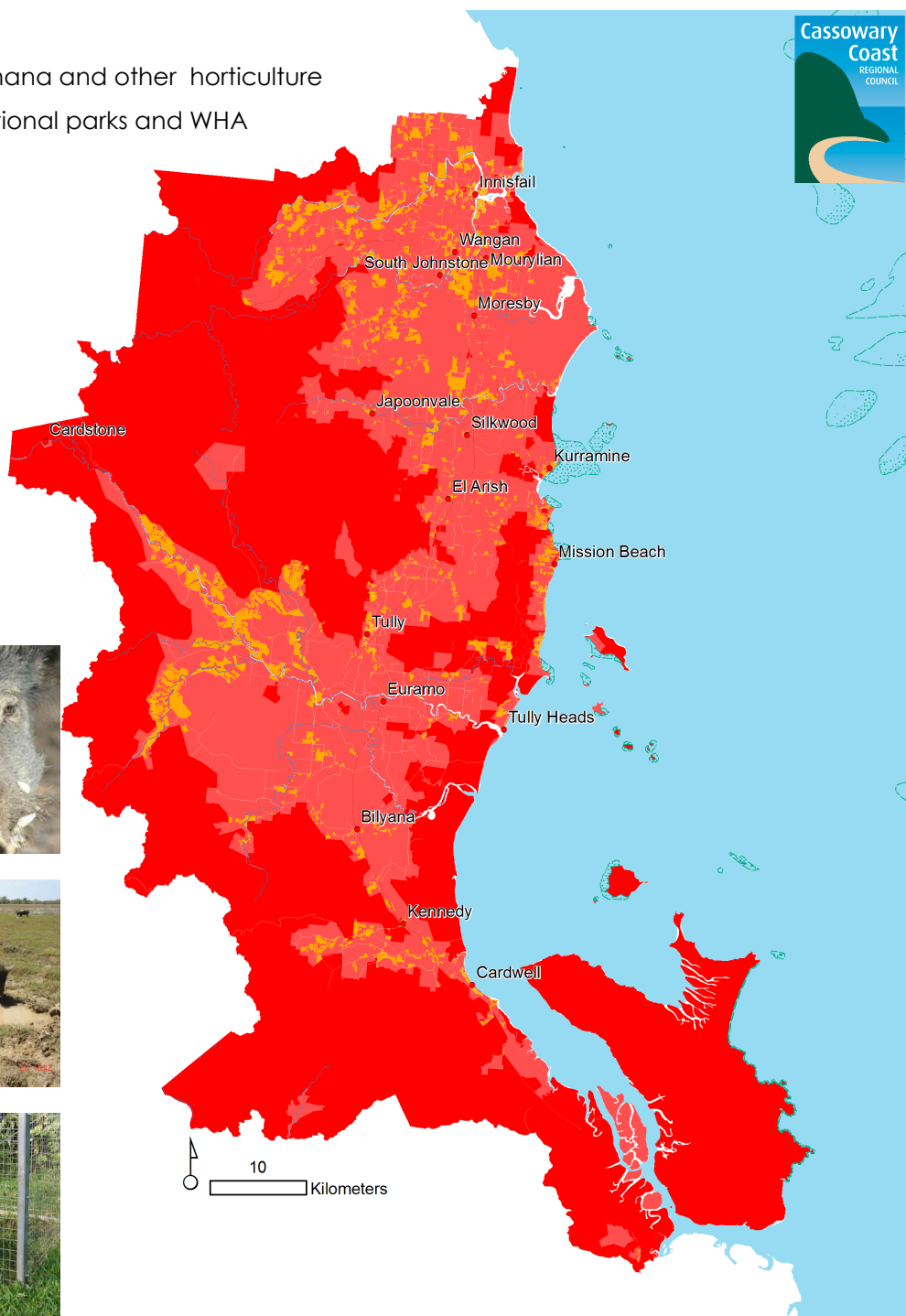
1300 763 903



@cassowarycoastregionalcouncil

## Feral pig (*Sus scrofa*)

- Banana and other horticulture
- National parks and WHA



Vertebrate

Omnivore

Biosecurity Act  
Restricted matter category

**2**  
Must be reported

**3**  
Do not distribute

**4**  
Do not move

**5**  
Do not keep

**6**  
Do not feed

Control



### What is my biosecurity obligation?

The feral pig is a restricted invasive animal under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and must not be distributed, fed given away, sold or released into the environment.

Undertake control activities for feral pigs on your property. Identify high value assets and protect them from impacts where possible. Smaller valuable assets like back yards and market gardens can be readily protected using exclusion fencing.

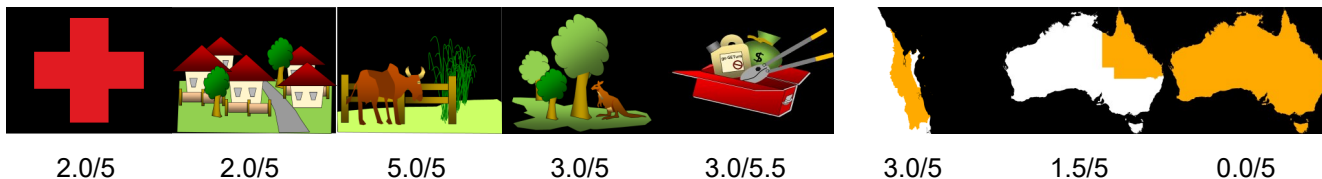
Ensure best practice biosecurity hygiene measures are in place to prevent spread of Panama TR4 and other biosecurity matter when controlling, trapping or hunting pigs. Comply with property access requirements. Participate in local and regional control programs.

**In the asset protection zone**

# Feral pig (*Sus scrofa*)

Human Health Social Amenity Economy Environment Achievability Local Impact/Values Declaration Status National priority

Priority



Details

**Description** Feral pigs are usually coarsely haired and coloured black, buff or spotted black or white. They are generally nocturnal and camp in thick cover during the day. Feral pigs are omnivorous and can range from 5 to 50 square kilometres. Feral pigs breed year-round if the conditions are suitable often producing two weaned litters a year.

**Distribution** Feral pigs are common and widespread in the floodplains and forests of the entire Wet Tropics region. Feral pigs occupy most suitable habitat in the Cairns region including farmland, wetlands, riparian areas, forests, reserves and peri-urban areas. Distribution is often seasonal based on the availability of food and water.

**Impacts** Feral pigs damage crops, stock, property and the natural environment. They transmit disease and could spread exotic diseases such as foot and mouth if this was introduced to the country. They have been identified as a likely vector of Panama TR4, a disease of bananas.

**Key projects** Council offers trapping and baiting assistance for feral pigs in the region. This is dependent on resources, landholder capabilities and obligations.

Background

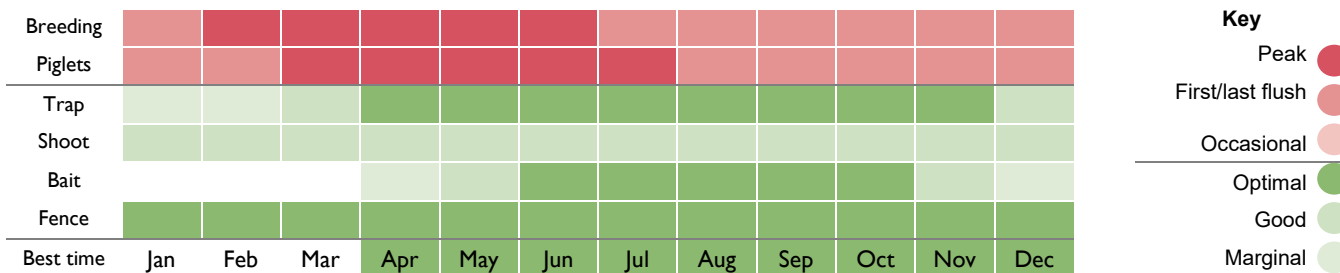
Feral pigs are thought to number around 24 million in Queensland and are one the most widespread and destructive invasive animals in the State. Their distribution and impacts are often seasonal and are heavily influenced by the availability of food, water and cover.

An individual animal or a small band of pigs can do a large amount of damage in a single night so it is important to be alert to any early signs of feral pig presence in your area; and to take steps to protect key assets like gardens, crops and vulnerable natural areas. Ensure best practice management actions are in place to reduce opportunities for feral pigs.

Pig proof fencing is by far the most effective means of reducing the impacts of feral pigs on domestic gardens and small crops. It is also a useful strategy for protecting vulnerable natural areas.

A range of control options from shooting, to trapping and baiting are used to control feral pigs when required. Cairns Regional Council operates a series of traps along the coastal lowlands to reduce the number of feral pigs.

Control calendar



For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Cairns Biosecurity Plan available at [cairns.qld.gov.au](http://cairns.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



[www.cairns.qld.gov.au](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au)  
[council@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@cairns.qld.gov.au)



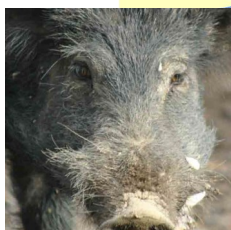
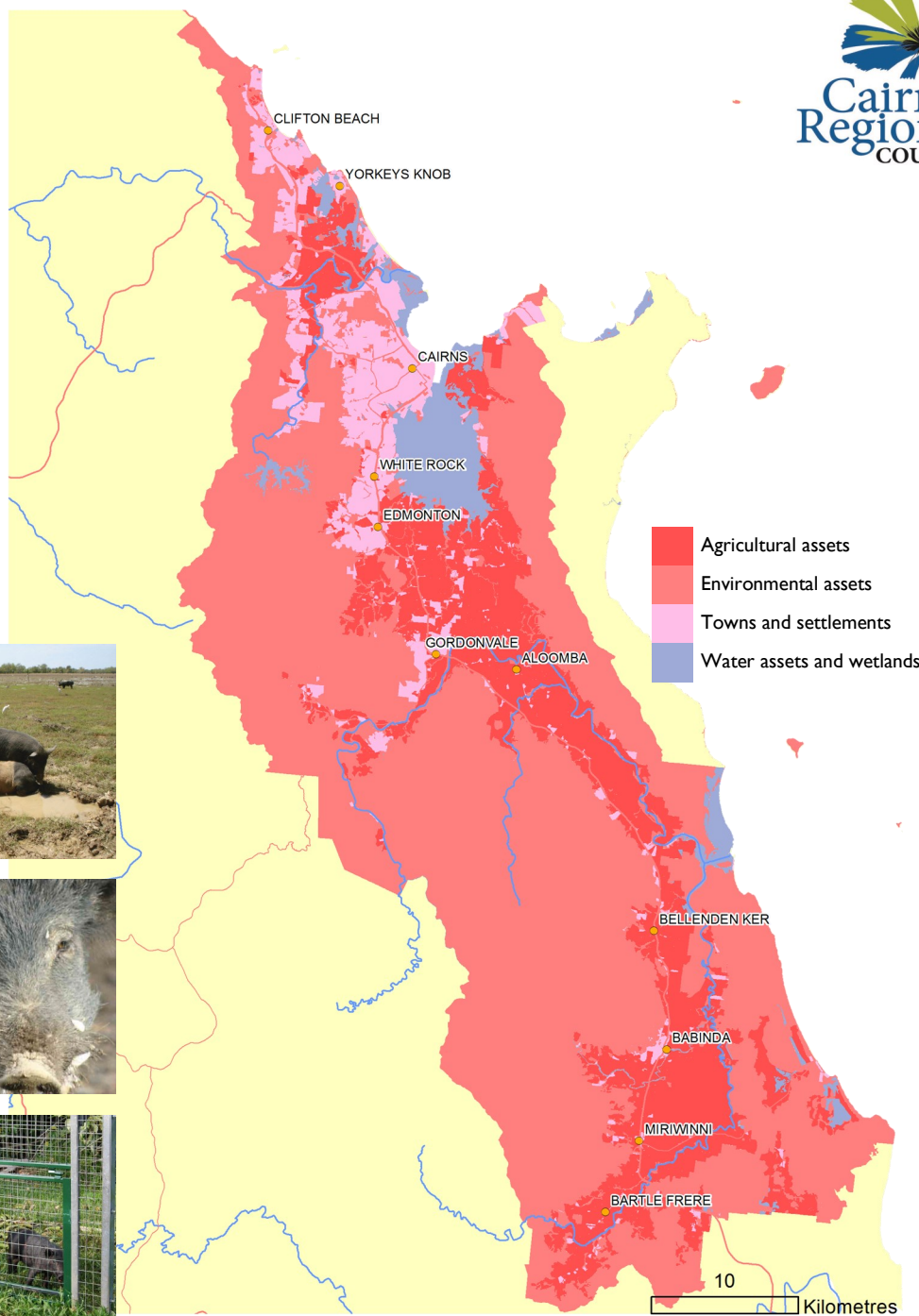
PO Box 359, Cairns Q 4870  
 119-145 Spence St, Cairns Q 4870



Ph: 1300 69 22 47  
 24 hours / 7 days



# Feral pig (*Sus scrofa*)



## What is my biosecurity obligation?

Ensure best practice biosecurity hygiene measures are in place to prevent spread of other biosecurity matter when controlling, trapping or hunting pigs. Comply with property access requirements.

Speak to Council on 1300 69 22 47 for best practice management advice and discuss the range of assistance options available.

**In the asset protection zone**

Landholders in rural areas should consider various management solutions including fencing, shooting, baiting and trapping, dependant on their location and capability. People in urban areas should consider temporary fencing, alternatives to mulching or garden arrangements and trapping. No individual solution leads to permanent management and feral pigs will be an ongoing management issue in the region.

Vertebrate

Omnivore

Biosecurity Act  
Restricted matter category

2

Must be reported

3

Do not distribute

4

Do not move

5

Do not keep

6

Do not feed

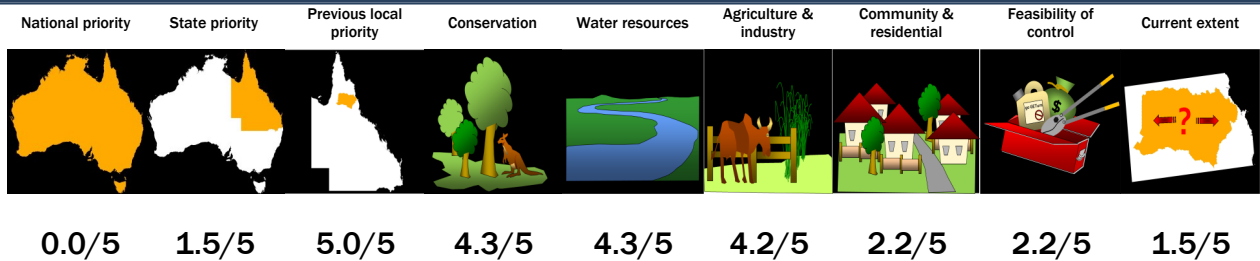
Control





# Sus scrofa (Feral Pig)

## Priority



## Details

**Description:** Feral pigs include all pigs ranging from typical black wild pigs to buff or spotted black or white which may resemble a typical farmed pig. By definition a feral pig is any pig which is not domesticated and is living in a wild state. They are generally nocturnal, and camp in thick cover during the day. Feral pigs are omnivorous and can range from 5 to 50 square kilometres. Feral pigs breed throughout the year often producing two weaned litters per year.

**Distribution:** Common and widespread within the Hinchinbrook shire

**Impacts:** Feral pigs damage crops, stock, property and the natural environment. They transmit disease and could spread exotic diseases such as foot and mouth if this was introduced to the country.

**Key projects:** A long-term shire wide program has been set up to assist the community to minimise the environmental, social and economic impacts of feral pigs.

## Background

Feral pigs are considered to number around 24 million in Queensland and are one the most widespread and destructive invasive animals in the State.

The Hinchinbrook Community Feral Pig Management Program is an ongoing trapping, baiting and shooting operation across the Hinchinbrook Shire Council Area. The program targets the protection of agricultural and urban assets (marked orange). Landholders wishing to participate in the program should contact Hinchinbrook Shire Council on 07 4776 4607.

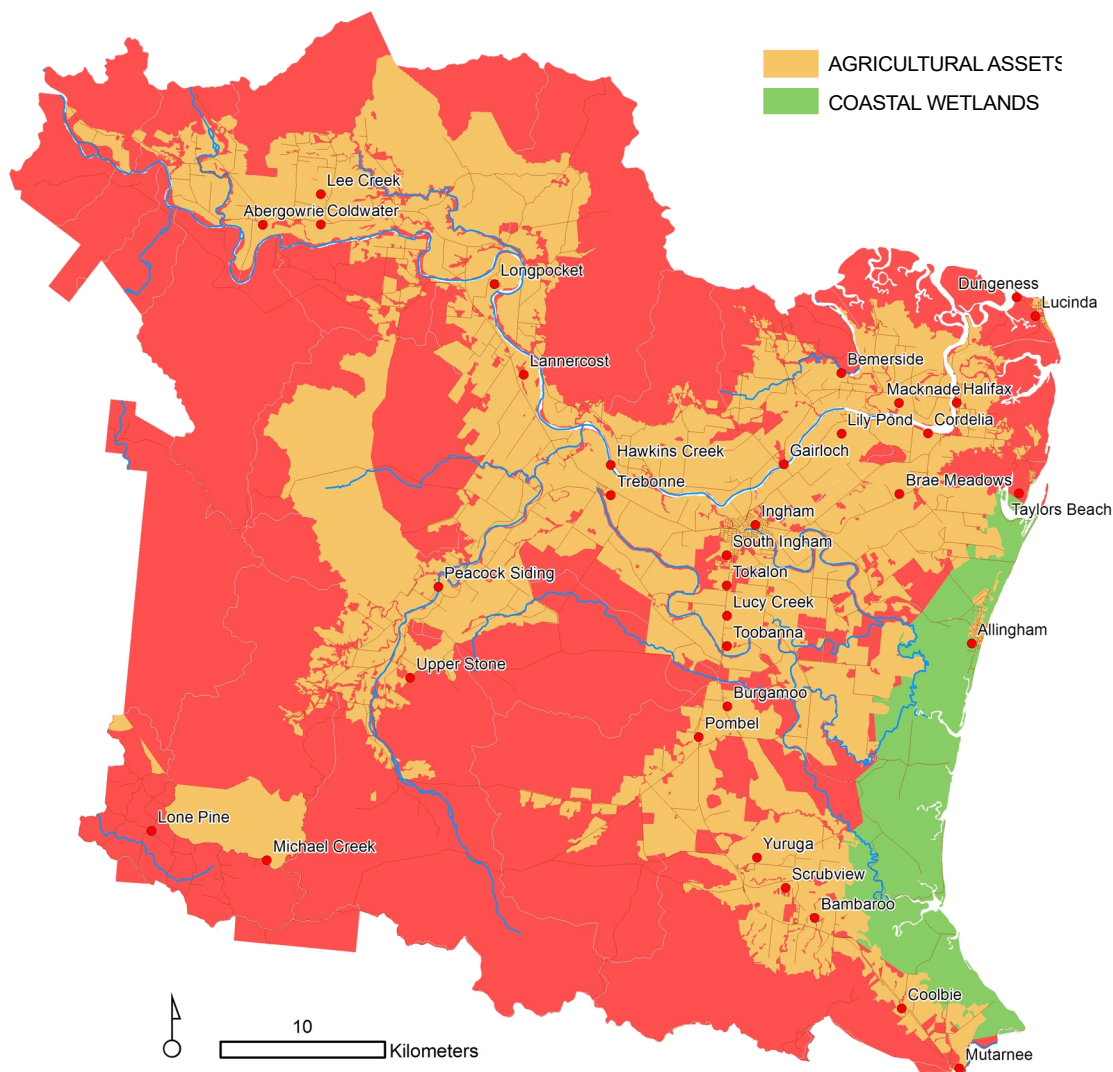
The program also assists to reduce the impacts of feral pigs on the natural environment by targeting trapping programs and aerial shooting in the wetland systems on the coastal margin (marked green). These programs have the added benefit of protecting marine turtle nesting sites on the beaches. Integrated management including weed control and prescribed fire is being used to assist the restoration and recovery of the wetlands when feral pigs numbers have been reduced.

## Control calendar

													Key
													Peak
													First/last flush
													Occasional
													Optimal
													Good
													Marginal
Breeding													
Piglets													
Trap													
Shoot													
Bait													
Fence													
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan and control tools refer to the Hinchinbrook Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan available at [www.hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au](http://www.hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au).

# Sus scrofa (Feral Pig)



Vertebrate

Omnivore

Biosecurity Act  
Restricted matter category

2  
Must be reported

3  
Do not distribute

4  
Do not move

5  
Do not keep

6  
Do not feed

Control

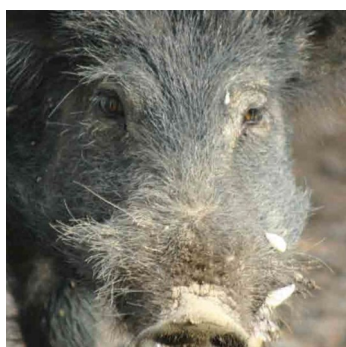


## What is my biosecurity obligation?

In the asset protection zone

Ensure best practice management actions are in place to reduce opportunities for feral pigs. Identify high value assets and protect them from impacts where possible. Get involved in the Hinchinbrook Community Pig Management Program by contacting Hinchinbrook Shire Council on 07 4776 4607.

Smaller valuable assets like market gardens can be readily protected using exclusion fencing.

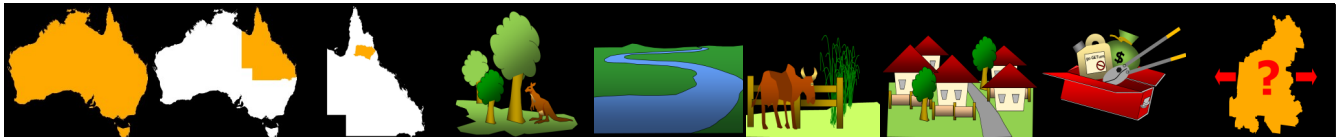




# Sus scrofa (Feral Pig)

National priority State priority Previous local Conservation Water resources Agriculture and industry Community and residential Feasibility of control Current extent

Priority



0.0/5 2.5/5 5/5 4.2/5 3.7/5 2.6/5 2.6/5 4.3/5 3.8/5

Details

**Description:** Feral pigs include all pigs ranging from typical black wild pigs to buff or spotted black or white which may resemble a typical farmed pig. By definition a feral pig is any pig which is not domesticated and is living in a wild state. They are generally nocturnal, and camp in thick cover during the day. Feral pigs are omnivorous and can range from 5 to 50 square kilometres. Feral pigs breed throughout the year often producing two weaned litters per year.

**Distribution:** Common and widespread within some areas of the Mareeba Shire. Feral pigs range are able to exist wherever there is water available from rainforest to drier woodlands.

**Impacts:** Feral pigs damage crops, stock, property and the natural environment. They transmit disease and could spread exotic diseases such as foot and mouth disease or Asian swine flu if these were introduced to the country.

**Key projects:** Local trapping and baiting programs can assist where pigs impact on key assets.

Background

Feral Pigs can transport various weeds, diseases and pests and their foraging sites create ideal conditions for the establishment of weeds. The availability and quality of food and water are the main factors influencing feral pig distribution.

Feral pigs in the tropics tend to have a significantly larger home range size in the dry season compared to the wet season. They are intelligent, opportunistic omnivores with a rapid breeding cycle that makes them difficult to control.

Feral pigs numbers in Queensland are estimated at 3–6 million, with the majority in northern Queensland. Evidence suggests that at least 70% of the population needs to be removed or the mob will rapidly replenish to numbers that were present before the control program commenced.

Feral pigs have a negative effect on world heritage-listed natural areas, protected land, threatened species and ecosystems, parklands, reserves, essential infrastructure, drainage systems, wetlands, farmland, private, rural and peri urban land and other areas.

Control calendar

Breeding												
Piglets												
Trap												
Shoot												
Bait												
Fence												
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Key



For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Mareeba Biosecurity Plan available at [msc.qld.gov.au](http://msc.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



[www.msc.qld.gov.au](http://www.msc.qld.gov.au)  
[info@msc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@msc.qld.gov.au)



Mareeba, 65 Rankin Street, Mareeba  
QLD 4880  
Kuranda Library, Kuranda Community  
Precinct 18-22 Arara Street, Kuranda  
QLD 4881



1300 308 461



@MareebaShire

Conservation, Irrigated agriculture  
and urban assets

Vertebrate

Omnivore

Biosecurity  
Act  
Restricted  
matter

**2**  
Must be  
reported

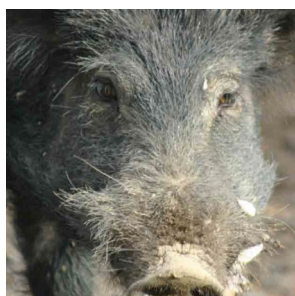
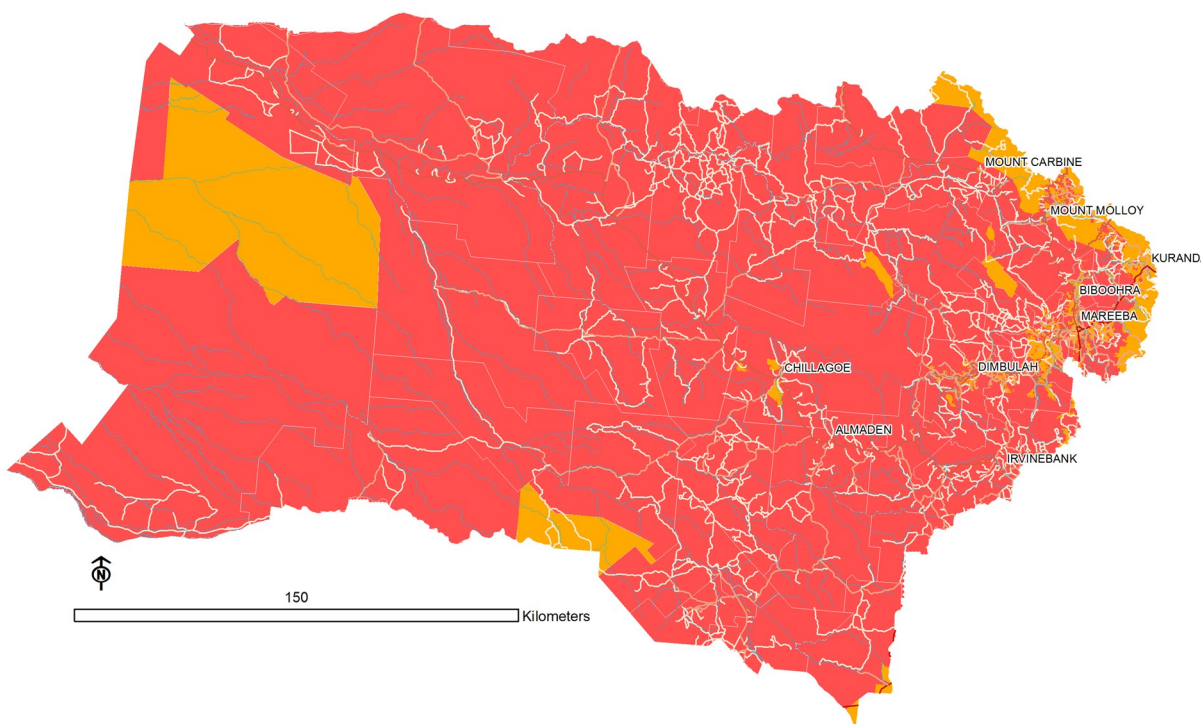
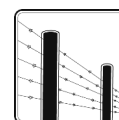
**3**  
Do not  
distribute

**4**  
Do not  
move

**5**  
Do not  
keep

**6**  
Do not  
feed

Control



## What is my biosecurity obligation?

**In the priority  
asset  
protection  
zone**

Feral pigs can have a significant impact on agricultural and conservation assets. In areas of high conservation or production value management programs may have specific requirements or programs for controlling feral pigs.

Ensure best practice management actions are in place to reduce opportunities for feral pigs. Identify high value assets and protect them from impacts where possible. If pigs are kept they must be in a fenced enclosure and the property must have a registered Property Identification Code (PIC) even if you are not the owner of the property.

**In the asset  
protection  
zone**

Pig proof fencing is by far the most effective measure of reducing the impacts of feral pigs on domestic gardens and small crops. Follow best practice management guidelines to ensure that non-target impacts are appropriately managed during baiting and trapping activities. Contact Mareeba Shire Council for advice on trap design, placement and management on 1300 308 461.