



MEDIA RELEASE

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FERAL PIG CONTROL ALONG BOGAN, CULGOA AND NARRAN RIVERS

People on the Bogan, Culgoa and Narran Rivers are advised that the Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB) will undertake aerial shooting of feral pigs next week.

The Brewarrina, Bourke and Walgett Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB), the Department of Primary Industries, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Australian Government and the Western Catchment Management Authority are working together to undertake the aerial shoot as part of a \$250,000 coordinated feral pig control program.

Shooting will start in the Narran Lake National Park on November 3-4. The week beginning Monday November 5, the helicopter will concentrate on properties along the Bogan, Culgoa and Narran Rivers and on November 10-11 shooting will occur in the Culgoa National Park.

Property owners within the shoot area are aware of the program, however, the RLPBs are keen to advise the residents of Weilmoringle and Gongolgon that there is no cause for alarm.

Brewarrina RLPB Ranger, Colin Betts, said the aerial shoot will take advantage of the dry conditions by focusing on waterways.

"With the dry weather, we know that feral pig populations will be concentrated on the rivers. We will be able to identify hotspots on properties, such as crops or dams, and we'll shoot there as well," Mr Betts said.

"All landholders in the targeted area have been approached and most have been very keen. About 100 landholders have given their permission for shooting on their property.

"Most people are very aware that it's crucial to undertake control measures before the rain gets here, so we have a better chance of reducing pig numbers," he said.

The helicopter pilot will be joined by one of two RLPB specialist shooters who work in a two hour rotation, Robyn Wells-Bud of Nyngan and Mal Leeson of Merriwa. In addition, landholders will assist as local navigators to ensure the most efficient use of the helicopter and shooters.

"Having the local knowledge means we can steer clear of stock that might be distressed by the helicopter, such as sheep that are lambing or horses," Mr Betts said.

"The aerial shoot is part of a coordinated program that also includes baiting and trapping.

"There has been a steady uptake of CSSP baits, which are available free of charge when two neighbours are also willing to participate.

"From the end of November traps will be available for hire free of charge to participating landholders. The aerial shoot will enable RLPB staff to identify hotspots to be targeted for traps, including those properties with significant bodies of water.

"Local landholders are well aware of the importance of controlling feral pigs to improve land condition and water quality as well as improving stock and infrastructure management and reducing the spread of disease," he said.

Any people with concerns or questions are encouraged to contact their local RLPB.

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For further information:

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Caption: The Steering Committee. Back: Andrew Hull, Thomas Schmid, Robert Wason, Colin Betts. Front: Leticia Nicoll, Rhoda Betts, Robyn Wells-Budd.