



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

19 November 2007

### **FERAL PIGS KILLED DURING AERIAL SHOOT ALONG BOGAN, CULGOA AND NARRAN RIVERS**

An aerial shoot along the Bogan, Culgoa and Narran Rivers in early November has yielded over 400 feral pigs.

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 worked together to undertake the aerial shoot as part of a coordinated feral pig control program.

Starting on November 3, the shoot included the Culgoa and Narran Lake National Park and properties along the Bogan, Culgoa and Narran Rivers.

One hundred and thirty pigs were shot in Narran Lakes National Park, twenty-two pigs were shot in the Culgoa National Park and 254 pigs were shot on properties. One wild dog was also shot on "Araluen", located between Angledool and Goodooga.

Chair of the Western Catchment Management Authority, Rory Treweeke, says feral pig control is undertaken to improve land condition and water quality.

"Feral pigs can cause significant damage and foul waterways, particularly in fragile areas such as wetlands," Mr Treweeke said.

"Aerial shooting is an effective method of controlling isolated pockets of pigs, which will prevent reinfestation if landholders are conscientious about follow-up control with baits and/or traps," he said.

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

"Approximately 100 landholders gave their permission to shoot on their property and I think everyone was surprised by how many pigs were found," Mr Betts said.

"The shoot ran very smoothly and I'd like to thank the rangers from the Bourke and Walgett RLPBs and the landholders who assisted as local navigators to ensure the most efficient use of the helicopters and shooters.

"We hope to conduct another aerial shoot in February, where we will concentrate on those areas where there was a high concentration of pigs and also to fly over some fresh country," Mr Betts said.

As part of the coordinated program, CSSP baits 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 with an emphasis on properties with significant bodies of water, and in hotspots as identified in the aerial shoot.

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

ENDS

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Captions:

- Rural Lands Protection Board staff Colin Betts and Mal Easton with Lee Webley of the Department of Primary Industries.
- The helicopter pilot briefs local landholders/navigators David Thompson and Robert Wason (who are also members of the Brewarrina RLPB Board).
- The helicopter crew changes-over. RLPB staffer Mal Easton with RLPB shooter Robyn Wells-Budd.