



## **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.

The aerial shoot will be held between April 14-18 and will include the Culgoa and Narran Lake National Parks and properties along the Darling River toward and including Gundabooka National Park and along the Bogan River upstream of Gongolgon.

Property owners within the shoot area are aware of the program, however, the RLPBs are keen to advise the residents of Weilmoringle and Gongolgon.

Brewarrina RLPB Ranger, Colin Betts, said this follows up a successful aerial shoot undertaken in November 2007.

"More than 400 feral pigs and one wild dog were killed during that shoot," Mr Betts said.

"This time we'll revisit those areas where there was a high concentration of pigs and also fly over some fresh country.

"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.

"We will again use landholders to assist as local navigators to ensure the most efficient use of the helicopter and shooters," Mr Betts said.

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.

"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.

"Traps have been 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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