



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

3 November 2008

### **FERAL PIG CONTROL ALONG BOGAN, CULGOA, BARWON, CUTTABURRA AND WARREGO RIVERS**

People on the Bogan, Culgoa, Barwon, Cuttaburra and Warrego Rivers are advised that the Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB) will undertake aerial shooting of feral pigs in the last week of November.

The Brewarrina, Bourke and Wanaaring 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 \$150,000 coordinated feral pig control program.

This is the second phase of the successful program conducted during the 2007-2008 financial year, which involved 200 landholders responsible for 98 individual properties. Aerial shooting resulted in 584 pigs being shot, 45 traps were built and distributed and 150 tins of poison were distributed to landholders.

The aerial shoot will be held from November 22-31. It will start at the Culgoa National Park before heading south along the Darling River and finishing with the Cuttaburra and Warrego River Systems.

Brewarrina RLPB Ranger, Colin Betts, said the shoot will revisit old ground as well as some new areas.

"The Cuttaburra and Warrego River systems are being included this time because the rains earlier in the year resulted in flooding throughout that country has provided ideal breeding conditions for feral pigs," Mr Betts said.

"We will also revisit some areas that had significant pig populations such as along the Culgoa and some individual hotspots along the Bogan and Barwon Rivers.

"All landholders in the targeted area are being approached and most have been very keen.

"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.

"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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