Feral Goats

If you see any signs of feral goats, contact Greater Sydney Local Land Services for advice.

You should also record sightings via the FeralScan website or smartphone app. www.feralscan.org.au

Contact Us

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Feral Goats

What are feral goats?

Goats were introduced to New South Wales as domestic livestock from the time of European settlement. Populations of feral goats have become established after either escaping or being released into the wild.

Feral goats threaten the biodiversity of our native animals and plants and pose a serious risk to livestock and agriculture.

Impacts of feral goats

- destroy and eat native plant species
- compete with native animals for food, water and shelter
- cause soil erosion through over grazing and trampling vegetation ground cover
- compete with domestic livestock for resources
- spread disease to native animals and domestic livestock – feral goats are hosts to many sheep diseases and a potential host of foot and mouth disease
- damage Aboriginal Cultural heritage sites

Control options

A strategic landscape control campaign is the best way to reduce the impact of feral goats. Our biosecurity team can provide expert advice and assistance on best practice control options best suited to you and your land management needs.

Trapping

- Cage traps can be an effective way of removing large numbers of goats
- Traps should be set up with food and water and an entry and exit point
- Traps can involve spear gates, one-way swinging gates or jump-down ramps
- Traps must be checked at least once every 24 hours.

Fencing

- Electric fences can be used to help control goats, however they are expensive and difficult to maintain
- Goats will continually test fences and find holes or weak points.

Mustering

- Can be done by horseback, dogs, motorbikes, cars or on foot
- Goats captured can be sold at local sale yards to recoup costs.

Ground-based shooting

- Shooting feral goats from the ground is a preferred option in more open areas.
- A preferred option if the animals aren't in large numbers

Judas Goat technique

- Involves radio-tracking equipment to locate herds
- A radio collar is attached to the 'Judas' goat and will then meet up with the group of feral goats.
- The animals can then be tracked down via the radio transmitter.

Signs of feral goats

- Disturbance to native vegetation
- Tracks
- Faeces
- Distinct smell