

Meeting your general biosecurity duty

Vertebrate pest animals

A guide for Western NSW landholders



Local Land
Services

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DISCLAIMER

© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services [2021]. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

Some of the information contained in this publication was sourced from NSW Department of Primary Industries. For more information, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.



What is general biosecurity duty?

‘Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised’ - Section 22 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

HOW WILL IT APPLY TO YOU AS A LANDHOLDER?

You are not expected to know about all biosecurity risks, but you are expected to know about risks associated with your industry, business, day-to-day work and hobbies.

A general biosecurity duty can apply to more than one person in relation to the same biosecurity risk, for example, an owner and a manager may both be responsible for managing a particular biosecurity risk on a property.

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* prohibits some high-risk activities and materials. There is also a general obligation on people to be aware of their surroundings and take action to prevent the introduction and spread of pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants.

Discharging your general biosecurity duty

There is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to discharging your biosecurity obligations as a landholder.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, you must demonstrate that you are discharging your general biosecurity duty. That is, you are taking reasonable steps to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risks on your property.

But what does this mean when it comes to vertebrate pest animals?

The uniqueness of each property means this is a very complicated topic to sum up, so we have put this guide together with Western NSW landholders in mind. Inside you will find 'property scenarios' which are based on real data from properties within our region. Each scenario provides a background on the property, summarises current pest control the landholder is carrying out, and identifies some of the challenges they face. We have then included some advice on how the landholder could further improve their pest control practices.

This guide is a starting point for you as a landholder to consider whether or not you are discharging your general biosecurity duty. We hope it sheds some light on what can be a difficult topic and inspires you to contact your closest Local Land Services office to discuss your individual situation.

In the same way that you may visit an accountant for tailored advice, we encourage you to get in touch with us so our team of biosecurity officers can help you to understand what your role is and how you can ensure you're discharging your obligations under the legislation.





What is my duty?

Prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risks as much as reasonably possible.



When do I have a duty?

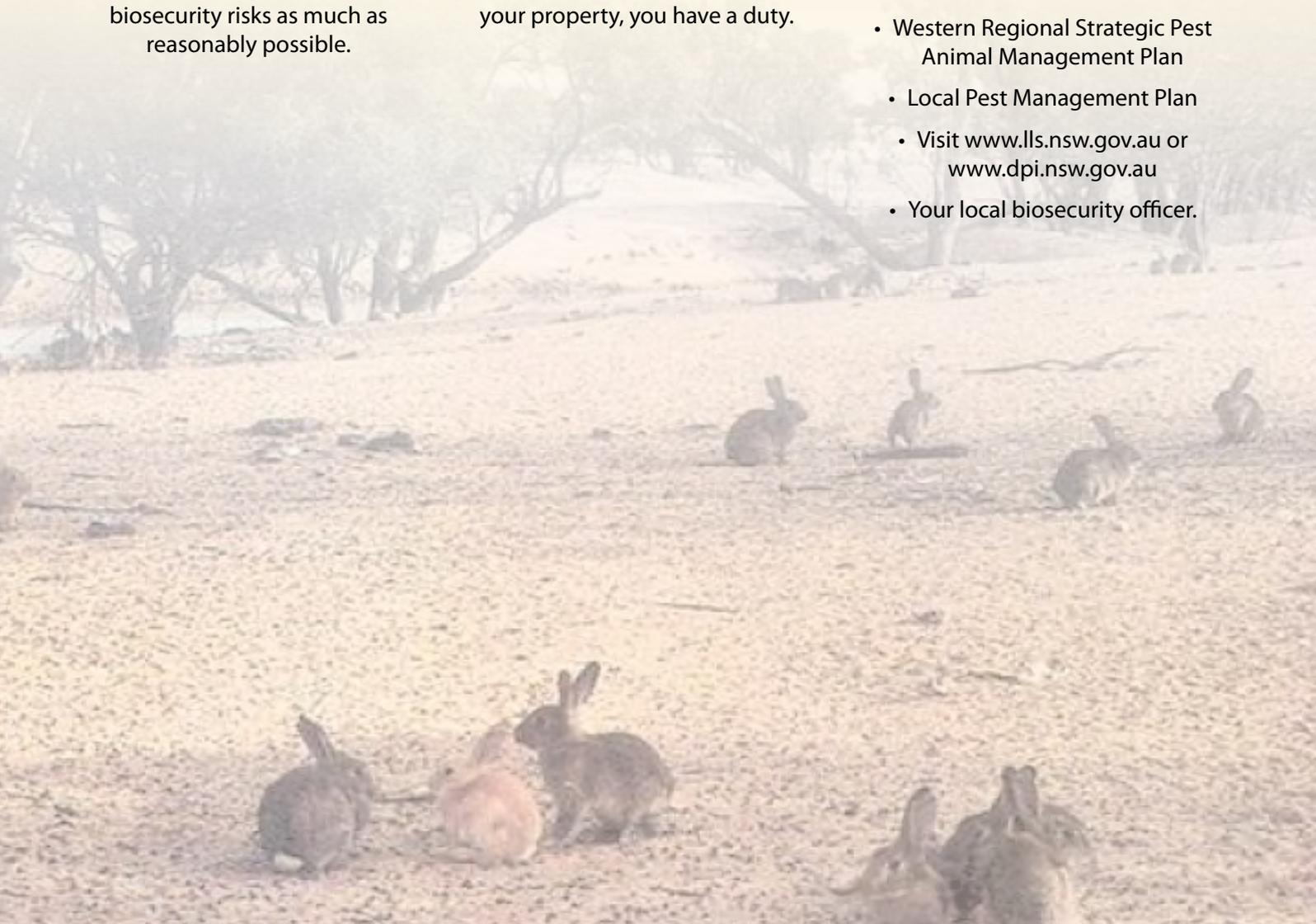
If you have vertebrate pests on your property, you have a duty.



Where can I find out more?

By referring to:

- Western Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan
- Local Pest Management Plan
- Visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au or www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
- Your local biosecurity officer.



The big picture

Pest animals have a significant impact on agricultural production, industry, the environment and communities in Western NSW. Without coordinated efforts across the landscape, the level of effort to achieve the same outcome significantly increases. There are four main goals outlined in the *Western Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan* (the Plan).



GOAL 1: Exclude – prevent the establishment of new invasive species



GOAL 2: Eradicate or contain – eliminate, or prevent the spread of new invasive species



GOAL 3: Effectively manage – reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species



GOAL 4: Capacity building – ensure NSW has the ability and commitment to manage invasive species

By identifying strategies and key deliverables under these goals, the Plan will help guide investment and resource allocation for invasive species prevention and management activities in New South Wales.

All stakeholders – Government agencies, industry, landholders and members of the community – play a valuable role in confronting the challenges and achieving the goals and actions outlined in this plan.

The local picture

Community participation is essential to reduce the impacts of pest animals in your area.

LOOK OUT FOR AND REPORT PEST ANIMALS

You should know what the priority pest animals in your area are and routinely report any sightings or sign of these pests to your local biosecurity officer, or log it on FeralScan.

BEST PRACTICE PEST CONTROL

Use best practice techniques to actively control pest animals. If you need assistance with these techniques visit www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/ or ask your local biosecurity officer.

THE GROUP MODEL TO ACHIEVE LANDSCAPE CONTROL

You should actively participate in coordinated pest management group control programs. This helps to keep everyone connected and up-to-date, as well as increasing the effectiveness of our efforts to control pest animals that can travel well beyond our boundary fences. Assistance to establish or join groups is available from Western Local Land Services, Western Landcare NSW or the NSW Farmers Wild Dog Coordinator.

RECORD AND REPORT YOUR CONTROL EFFORTS

It is important to report to your local biosecurity officer or FeralScan what you are doing to control pest animals and what the results of your control efforts are. This reporting not only helps discharge your general biosecurity duty but also helps plan more effective control programs and helps support future investment in pest control.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE AS A LANDHOLDER

A simple way of looking at how you can work towards your general biosecurity duty is thinking about the pest management you have in place on your property.

Below are the primary and supplementary activities for eight priority pest species that are commonly found in Western NSW:

- European red fox
- Feral cat
- Feral donkey
- Unmanaged rangeland goat
- Feral pig
- Wild deer
- Wild dog
- Wild rabbit

As a general rule, it is recommended that for effective control, landholders should conduct at least one primary control method and this can be supported by supplementary techniques to work towards satisfying their general biosecurity duty. However, 'effective' control is imperative. For example, although baiting for feral pigs is considered a primary control method, it may not be effective in controlling the pig population if executed poorly, carried out on a scale that is too small for the size of the property, or as a sporadic activity.

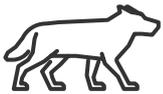
Discussing your individual situation with your local biosecurity officer is vital in ensuring you are conducting best practice pest control and achieving effective pest management.

PEST	PRIMARY ACTIVITY	SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITY
EUROPEAN RED FOX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground baiting • Fox exclusion fencing • Participate in local fox and/or dog management groups • Take part in coordinated group programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground shooting • Trapping • Guard animals • Aerial baiting
FERAL CAT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground shooting • Trapping • Explore new management options • Trial new targeted cat toxins • Exclusion fencing • Participate in cat control trials 	
FERAL DONKEY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial shooting • Ground shooting (where terrain is accessible) • Mustering or waterpoint trapping (where infrastructure is available and seasons are suitable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground shooting • Mustering or waterpoint trapping <p><i>Note: These can be either primary or supplementary, depending on your terrain and local conditions.</i></p>
UNMANAGED RANGELAND GOAT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trapping • Mustering • Aerial shooting • Prepare and implement local goat management plans • Fencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground shooting
FERAL PIG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in coordinated group programs • Ground baiting • Strategic trapping program • Aerial shooting • Prepare and implement local pig management plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground shooting
WILD DEER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial shooting • Ground shooting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground shooting • Exclusion fencing
WILD DOG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in local wild dog management groups • Take part in coordinated group programs • Ground baiting • Proactive trapping • Aerial baiting • Exclusion fencing • Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reactive trapping • Shooting • Guard animals
WILD RABBIT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground baiting • Harbour destruction (warren ripping/destruction and surface harbour removal) • Biological control, i.e. Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) programs • Participate in coordinated group programs • Prepare and implement local rabbit management plans • Exclusion fencing • Aerial baiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fumigation • Ground shooting • Trapping

PROPERTY SNAPSHOT: *Wanaaring*

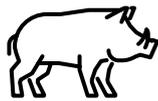
Denis' property is located near Wanaaring in the Western Local Land Services region. Let's take a look at his current pest control, challenges he faces, and consider how Denis could further improve his pest animal management to uphold his general biosecurity duty.

CURRENT PEST CONTROL



WILD DOGS

- Is not a member of any pest management groups.
- Does not participate in aerial baiting, ground baiting or trapping programs conducted by Local Lands Services.
- Recreational shooting may be taking place while pig hunting.
- Does not use FeralScan or report pest signs or pest control activities to Local Land Services.



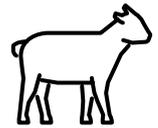
FERAL PIGS

- Has pig dogs and is participating in recreational hunting on his property.
- Unknown number of feral pigs, although neighbours are reporting repeated incursions.
- Denis often has recreational hunters who pay to hunt on his land.



FERAL CATS

- Is not conducting any targeted pest control for feral cats, but will opportunistically shoot one if he sees it.
- Neighbours have reported destroying large numbers of feral cats in recent years.



UNMANAGED RANGELAND GOATS

- Denis has a goat paddock on his property.
- Denis regularly musters goats from across the property into the designated goat paddock and sells the animals to a local goat buyer when prices are high.

THE CHALLENGES TO PEST CONTROL ON DENIS' PROPERTY

- On such a large scale Denis finds it difficult to adequately manage pests across the entire property.
- Denis has not had positive experiences working with government agencies in the past and does not see why he should work with them in controlling pest animals.
- For personal reasons Denis does not want to participate in the local pest management group.
- Although neighbours are baiting for feral pigs there is no coordinated program in place.
- Denis is socially isolated and does not have regular contact with neighbours and other social groups.

Help is available

Local Land Services staff are ready to assist in helping to identify and establish new pest management groups. Local Land Services also works closely with Western Landcare which has local coordinators based in the region who are ready and eager to assist. If wild dogs are a problem, the NSW Farmers Wild Dog Coordinator is also available to support new and emerging groups. Your closest Local Land Services office can connect you with these resources.

Size: 40,000 ha

Type: Cattle and sheep grazing – open to densely shrubbed and generally flat country

Surroundings: Six direct neighbours ranging from 10,000 ha to 40,000 ha

Pests present: Wild dogs, feral pigs, feral cats, unmanaged rangeland goats

IS DENIS ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Below we've cross checked Denis' current pest control against the *Western Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan*. Underneath each pest are some notes on whether or not Denis is working towards his general biosecurity duty and how he could improve.



WILD DOGS

- Ideally, Denis should participate in the seasonal baiting program (primary control measure) consisting of ground baiting and signing up to aerial baiting to cover the inaccessible terrain on his property.
- Becoming a member of his local pest management group will go a long way towards discharging his general biosecurity duty.
- Denis should report any wild dog signs or control measures either to his biosecurity officer or on Wild Dog Scan.
- Denis could seek the services of a professional wild dog trapper, who will be able to determine if and where dogs are present on the property.
- Denis could benefit from attending trapper training days and other training days held by Local Land Services.
- If personal issues cannot be resolved and joining a pest management group is not an option, Denis can still bait and trap wild dogs. Denis should speak to his local biosecurity officer.



FERAL PIGS

- While Denis is participating in supplementary control measures, hunting alone is not discharging his general biosecurity duty, as it is not a primary control measure.
- Denis should undertake a baiting/trapping program at pig hotspots.
- Denis should report pest observations to Local Land Services.
- Denis could work with neighbours in coordinated group baiting for feral pigs.
- Denis should participate in coordinated aerial shooting programs when available.



FERAL CATS

- Cats are a problem; however, there is no organised form of coordinated control through a local pest management group. Seasonal wild dog baiting will also control foxes and feral cats.
- Denis should be completing the pest program-monitoring survey at the end of each wild dog baiting program and noting the number of cats seen and/or destroyed on the property. Alternatively, Denis can report these figures directly to his biosecurity officer.
- Local Land Services can source cat traps which Denis can loan by approaching his biosecurity officer.



UNMANAGED RANGELAND GOATS

- Denis is doing the right thing by using a goat paddock to control his rangeland goats, provided the goat paddock located on the property is sufficient to contain goats.
- Letting rangeland goats roam without containment is breaching his general biosecurity duty.
- Quarterly and reactive musters of goats from the property is sufficient to discharge his general biosecurity duty and keep the goats controlled and contained.

WHAT FURTHER ACTION COULD DENIS TAKE?

- As part of his general biosecurity duty, Denis should report his pest management strategies to Local Land Services.
- The most effective way for Denis to contribute to landscape control of pest animals is to participate in a baiting program and be an active member of his local pest management group.
- Denis should continue shooting feral pigs; however, he should also develop his own baiting or trapping program and will benefit by approaching his neighbours to all participate in a coordinated baiting program through summer.

PROPERTY SNAPSHOT: Coolabah

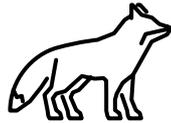
Jane's property is near Coolabah in the north east of the Western Local Land Services region. Let's take a look at her current pest control, challenges she faces, and consider how Jane could further improve her pest animal management to uphold her general biosecurity duty.

CURRENT PEST CONTROL



WILD DOGS

- Has recently erected an exclusion fence and working on encircling the whole property.
- Contacts biosecurity officers to report neighbours who are not baiting.
- Notifies neighbours when dog signs or wild dogs are spotted.
- Jane reactively baits with 1080 baits when required.
- As there is no current local pest management group in the Coolabah area, does not participate in any organised ground or aerial baiting.



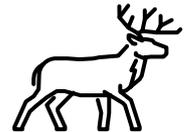
FOXES

- Believes that the wild dog baits are also controlling fox populations.
- Spot-light shoots foxes on a regular basis.
- Has shot three foxes in the past 12 months (Jane says she used to shoot three foxes every night a few years ago).



FERAL PIGS

- Participates in recreational pig hunting.
- Always has pig traps set.
- Does not purchase any bait or access supplementary control measures through Local Land Services.



WILD DEER

- Jane has not personally witnessed any wild deer but is aware that wild deer exist in her area.
- Jane has been educating herself about spotting signs of wild deer and monitors water points with motion cameras.

THE CHALLENGES TO PEST CONTROL ON JANE'S PROPERTY

- Nyngan, in the Central West Local Land Services region, is the nearest town to the homestead and is where Jane regularly goes for shopping, etc, however the property is actually located in the Western Local Land Services region. Jane is under the impression that she can't utilise the Nyngan Local Land Services office as it is in the Central West Local Land Services region, and therefore is currently contacting the Bourke office to access Local Land Services.
- The property includes some parts of dense hills and scrub paddocks.
- There is no local pest control group or coordinated pest management programs.
- The neighbours are not currently baiting for dogs, foxes or pigs.

Did you know?

Under the "one Local Land Services" principle you can get baits and assistance from any Local Land Services office across the state. All landholders are welcome to access whichever local office is most convenient to their operations. Local Land Services employs staff that are based in, and understand their localities, in order to provide the best possible service to the community.

Size: 19,000 ha

Type: Mixed farming (wheat crops and cattle and sheep grazing)

Surroundings: Five direct neighbours ranging from 8,000 ha to 25,000 ha

Pests present: Wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs, wild deer

IS JANE ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Below we've cross checked Jane's current pest control against the *Western Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan*. Underneath each pest are some notes on whether or not Jane is working towards her general biosecurity duty, and how she could improve.



WILD DOGS

- Jane's exclusion fencing is working towards discharging her general biosecurity duty.
- Jane has shown a keen interest in joining a pest management group if there was one closer to her property.
- Jane is open to participating in ground and aerial baiting.



FOXES

- Trapping is a useful supplementary control measure when used in conjunction with primary control measures such as baiting.
- In conjunction with joining her nearest pest management group, Jane should continue to use wild dog strength 1080 baits.
- Shooting is an acceptable supplementary control measure.



FERAL PIGS

- Having pig traps set is a primary control method for feral pigs, provided that free feeding is adequate.
- Shooting is an acceptable supplementary activity.
- We encourage Jane to participate in ground baiting of pigs and assistance to do so can be obtained from any Local Land Services office.



WILD DEER

- Jane should participate in an aerial cull if one is undertaken in her area.
- Jane should report observations of wild deer signs to her biosecurity officer to enable deer incursion to be mapped across the region.

WHAT FURTHER ACTION COULD JANE TAKE?

- A pest management group should be established and all properties in the local area should be active members.
- Wild dog baits should be laid every Autumn and Spring as part of a coordinated program.
- Jane should consider establishing a seasonal pig baiting regime that targets the hottest and driest time of the year.
- Jane should continue to uphold current pest control methods and introduce organised ground and aerial baiting.
- When a pest group is formed, a closed feral scan group can be established, making reporting and neighbour notification simpler and more precise.

I'm an organic producer, how can I discharge my general biosecurity duty?

- European Union (EU) organic accredited producers can still bait with 1080 without impacting their organic status.
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) organic accredited producers can excise and fence off small focal points on their property (for example, near selected waterpoints) where 1080 baiting can occur without impacting their organic accreditation.
- Trapping and shooting either by professional contractors or by yourself are essential if limited baiting is taking place.

Please talk to your organic certifying body to confirm your specific requirements.

PROPERTY SNAPSHOT: *Balranald*

Bob's property is near Balranald in the south of the Western Local Land Services region. Let's take a look at his current pest control, challenges that he faces, and consider how Bob could further improve his pest animal management to uphold his general biosecurity duty.

CURRENT PEST CONTROL



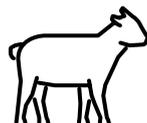
FOXES

- Foxes are occasionally sighted on the property.
- Recreational shooting by landholder.



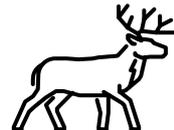
FERAL PIGS

- Pigs are regularly seen on Bob's property.
- Does not participate in aerial cull programs conducted by Local Land Services.
- Reserves feral pigs for recreational hunters who pay to hunt pigs on his land.
- Occasionally traps feral pigs adjacent to his feedlot when numbers get too high.
- Undertakes opportunistic ground shooting.



UNMANAGED RANGELAND GOATS

- Does not have adequate fencing to contain or exclude goats.
- A number of goats move between his property and the three neighbouring properties.
- Conducts several mustering and trapping events each year which net approximately 400 goats that are sold to an abattoir.
- Returns small goats to the wild.
- Happy to see goat populations build on the property.



WILD DEER

- Unknown numbers – small groups sighted on the property and on three neighbouring properties.
- No active control program.
- Occasionally shoots a deer for meat.
- Does not consent to an aerial cull of deer.



WILD RABBITS

- Moderate numbers over about half of the property (confined to the lighter soils).
- Has undertaken three warren ripping programs in the past 20 years.
- Has released RHDV (also known as rabbit calicivirus disease or viral haemorrhagic disease).
- Opportunistic shooting and trapping of rabbits.
- Area and population has been gradually decreasing.

THE CHALLENGES TO PEST CONTROL ON BOB'S PROPERTY

- Terrain varies over the property — from cropping, to densely vegetated floodplain. Some areas are difficult to access.
- Bob has difficulty implementing coordinated control on such a large scale.
- Only some of the neighbours fox bait and not all at a coordinated time.
- Three neighbours actively coordinate pig control but one is a recreational hunter.
- None of the four neighbours have shown an interest or concern about wild deer, although two have participated in aerial culls.
- Many pests have a large home range and inhabit the property when seasons are favourable.
- There is a significant cost to upgrade boundary fences to a goat-proof standard on such a large property.



FeralScan is another option Bob could use. FeralScan (www.feralscan.org.au) is a community website and smartphone app that allows you to map sightings of pest animals and record the problems they are causing in your local area. FeralScan can be used by farmers, community groups, pest controllers, local government, catchment groups and individuals managing pest animals and their impacts.

Image: www.pestsmart.org.au

Size: 10,000 ha

Type: Pastoral country with dryland cropping

Surroundings: Four direct neighbours ranging from 5,000 ha to 20,000 ha

Pests present: Foxes, feral pigs, unmanaged rangeland goats, wild deer, wild rabbits

IS BOB ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Below we've cross checked Bob's current pest control against the *Western Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan*. Underneath each pest are some notes on whether or not Bob is working towards his general biosecurity duty, and how he could improve.



FOXES

- Bob and his neighbours would benefit from forming a pest management group.
- The group should then perform a primary control measure (coordinated baiting) by distributing up to one bait per five hectares (or as recommended by their biosecurity officer).
- It is critical that Bob and his neighbours report sightings (or lack of) to FeralScan or their biosecurity officer.
- If Bob or his neighbours suspect wild dog activity in the area, they should consider moving to wild dog strength baits which will continue to control foxes but also control wild dogs.



FERAL PIGS

- While ground shooting and hunting are considered control measures, both are supplementary activities and should be used in conjunction with an annual baiting program.
- Bob could participate in coordinated aerial shoots.
- Bob could work with his neighbours and/or his local biosecurity officer to establish a pest management group and a coordinated baiting program.



UNMANAGED RANGELAND GOATS

- Bob is conducting one primary control of goats (mustering).
- If Bob wishes to muster and sell goats, and watch the population build, he needs to demonstrate that he is keeping the population contained (appropriately fenced goat paddocks) on his property as part of his general biosecurity duty.



WILD DEER

- Bob could participate in coordinated aerial cull programs which are the primary control measure for wild deer and therefore would discharge his general biosecurity duty.
- Occasional hunting and shooting are supplementary to aerial shooting.
- Bob should report any sightings or sign of deer to Local Land Services so they can assist him with control options.



WILD RABBITS

- It appears Bob is doing his best to manage the rabbit population given the terrain.
- He is conducting both primary (warren ripping, virus programs) and supplementary (shooting and trapping) measures.
- The area and population has not grown or spread in many years so he is upholding his general biosecurity duty.

WHAT FURTHER ACTION COULD BOB TAKE?

- Ideally, all neighbours should be a part of a pest management group to allow for coordinated landscape scale control — Bob could approach his neighbours and discuss getting involved.
- A coordinated fox baiting program should be established by Bob's (new) pest management group; any variation to this should be discussed with their local biosecurity officer in response to the monitoring data that landholders provide in accordance with their general biosecurity duty.
- Releasing untagged rangeland goats that cannot be adequately contained on your property is against the law. Establishing well fenced goat paddocks for release of underweight goats or selling all mustered goats to a goat depot are both good management options.
- Bob should also familiarise himself with the range of signs that deer leave in areas they use. Deer themselves are difficult to sight, but they can leave signs (rubs, scrapes, tracks, scats, pads, antlers, etc) that can be unique.
- With deer being an emerging pest, Bob should continue to monitor his property for sign of deer and report this to his local biosecurity officer.
- By consenting to aerial culls and supplementary ground shooting, Bob will be discharging his general biosecurity duty.

PROPERTY SNAPSHOT: Broken Hill

Mitch's property is near Broken Hill in the west of the Western Local Land Services region. Let's take a look at his current pest control, challenges he faces, and consider how Mitch could further improve his pest animal management to uphold his general biosecurity duty.

CURRENT PEST CONTROL



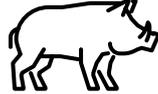
WILD DOGS

- Opportunistically shooting wild dogs when spotted, often off water points in evenings or while undertaking mustering duties.
- Mitch is trained and experienced in wild dog trapping. He undertakes trapping when signs are found and provides photographic evidence to Local Land Services of his results.



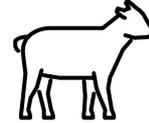
FOXES

- Recreational shooting of foxes when the opportunity arises. Mitch's mates often visit and assist in keeping numbers low.
- Mitch used to bait once a year for foxes when ewes were lambing with either a prefabricated bait or fresh baits.
- Mitch also targets foxes with his wild dog trapping and reports his results to Local Land Services.



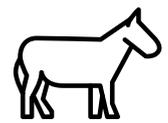
FERAL PIGS

- Traps feral pigs when populations and signs of pigs are noticeable.
- Opportunistic ground shooting.
- No 1080 baiting is undertaken.



UNMANAGED RANGELAND GOATS

- Have been the main source of income for Mitch and his neighbours throughout the drought.
- Conducts several musters each year netting approximately 2,000 goats which are sold to a local goat depot.
- Young goats are either sold to the depot or put into a goat paddock to grow out, and trucked at a larger size.



FERAL DONKEYS

- Mitch has not participated in an aerial cull program conducted by Local Land Services.
- Ground shooting is used to control populations when they get exceedingly high and when infrastructure is being damaged.

THE CHALLENGES TO PEST CONTROL ON MITCH'S PROPERTY

- Mitch does not like to use 1080 anymore since he lost a good working dog to 1080 in the past.
- Terrain varies over the property — from rocky ridges, to dense scrub. Some areas are difficult to access.
- Mitch has difficulty implementing coordinated control on such a large scale.
- Only some of the neighbours fox bait and not all at a coordinated time.
- Three neighbours actively coordinate pig control but one is a recreational hunter.
- Many pests have a large home range and there is a significant cost to upgrade the boundary fence to a goat proof standard on such a large property.

What can I do to prevent 1080 harming my working dogs?

Working dogs are a valuable tool in a livestock enterprise; landholders should take the time to consider some strategies around the use of 1080 baits and for preventing bait uptake by working dogs. For example:

- use muzzles on working dogs
- only bait in areas where working dogs will not be working in the near future
- use a combination of burying and/or collecting baits from areas likely to be used by working dogs (eg, around yards, waterpoints, in laneways and stock thoroughfares)
- the use of Canid Pest Ejectors (CPE) to enable baits to be disabled while working dogs are used in the area.

Size: 55,000 ha

Type: Sheep and cattle grazing – open rangeland country, with rocky hills and ridgelines

Surroundings: Six neighbours ranging from 45,000 ha to 73,000 ha

Pests present: Wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs, unmanaged rangeland goats, feral donkeys

IS MITCH ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Below we've cross checked Mitch's current pest control against the *Western Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan*. Underneath each pest are some notes on whether or not Mitch is working towards his general biosecurity duty, and how he could improve.



WILD DOGS

- Mitch could benefit from 1080 baiting which is a primary control method, however shooting and trapping are also good supplementary control measures.
- 1080 is widely used in the region and the maximum rate at which baits can be laid is one bait per five hectares (20 baits/100 ha). For Mitch's property this is a large task but in observing wild dog signs and placing baits strategically, the number of baits could be significantly less.



FOXES

- If Mitch used wild dog strength baits he would also be controlling foxes and cats.
- Other landholders have reported that after continued wild dog baiting, the fox population diminishes as does the need for standalone fox control.
- It is good to see Mitch ground shooting and reporting trapping results to Local Land Services, though for this to effectively control the fox population it needs to be sustained over a large area and long timeframes.



FERAL PIGS

- Mitch is on the right track trapping feral pigs, a primary control measure. He could establish his own annual feral pig trapping (or baiting) program targeting the hottest and driest part of the year. This program should consider all waterpoints on the property.
- Ground shooting is a supplementary control measure and is also effective as a mop up measure after a coordinated aerial cull.
- Mitch would benefit from participating in coordinated programs when they occur.
- Mitch should work with his neighbours and/or his local biosecurity officer to join his local pest management group and develop a coordinated summer baiting or trapping program that focusses on waterpoints.



UNMANAGED RANGELAND GOATS

- Mitch is conducting one primary control of goats (mustering) which is positive.
- Mitch is also managing the population by returning goats to a goat paddock.



FERAL DONKEYS

- Given the population is low, it's a good idea to record sightings so he can monitor population growth over time.
- Mitch should humanely ground shoot donkeys.
- Mitch should report any sightings to Local Land Services so they can assist him with control options.
- If Mitch were to participate in an organised aerial cull program this would discharge his general biosecurity duty.

WHAT FURTHER ACTION COULD MITCH TAKE?

- Ground shooting is usually only a supplementary control measure and is most effective as a mop up measure after a coordinated aerial cull.
- Mitch would benefit from participating in coordinated programs when they occur in the area.



As a landholder you are not expected to know everything about managing pest animals on your property — it is our role to advise you. Across the Western Local Land Services region we have biosecurity officers in many locations, so there's always someone local to assist you. Please contact your local office or biosecurity officer to get in touch.

Balranald	(03) 5020 1876 or 0429 614 953	Hillston	(02) 6967 2507 or 0428 362 073
Bourke	(02) 6870 8600 or 0428 722 045	Tibooburra	(08) 8087 3378 or 0436 475 814
Brewarrina	(02) 6839 2047 or 0448 524 781	Wanaaring	(02) 6870 8600 or 0436 475 814
Broken Hill	(08) 8087 3378, 0400 873 378 or 0438 382 868	Wentworth	(03) 5027 3064 or 0427 200 820
Cobar	(02) 6836 2081 or 0439 596 614	Wilcannia	(08) 8091 5070 or 0428 915 070

