

MEDIA RELEASE

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New weapon in the fight on ferals

Goondiwindi local, Nathan Stephenson, has joined the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) to help in the fight against feral animals.

“Ferals, especially pigs, are big problems in this region, from an environmental perspective, and a production one,” said Border Rivers Catchment Coordinator, Julia Telford.

“So we’re particularly glad to have Nathan working with us, and he’ll be coordinating an extensive feral animal control program we’ve just begun,” she said.

QMDC has begun working with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Biosecurity Queensland, the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), and a number of local landholders to better understand feral animal movements, eating habits, most effective control methods, and the amount of damage they actually cause to the environment and the agricultural industry.

“The project has some research components, which Biosecurity Queensland and the Invasive Animals CRC are heading up, and an on-ground coordinated control component, which I’ll be working with landholders on,” said Nathan.

“I’ll be organising meetings with landholders and shooters to get them involved in the project, which is happening at six specific locations across the Border Rivers region.”

“We’ll be trapping feral pigs, foxes and cats, and collaring them with special GPS devices to track and monitor their movements. We’ll also be doing some aerial surveys to track feral pig numbers, one of which is happening in August, which I’m looking forward to.”

Nathan said that the whole project would mean much better information for landholders and shooters, and would hopefully lead to a more regional approach to controlling feral animals.

“We’re really hoping to build this project into a broad-scale control program with landholders, taking a cross-property approach to control, and using solid research to inform investment into feral animal control activities,” he said.

The feral animal control project has been funded through the Queensland Government’s Blueprint for the Bush initiative. For more information, please contact QMDC’s Border Rivers office (Goondiwindi) on 07 4671 7900.

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Images



Caption: one of the varieties of pig traps being used throughout the project. QMDC hopes to gain information about the most effective forms of feral pig control.



Caption: QMDC staff member, Darren Marshall, collecting data on feral pig numbers, sizes, and movements as part of the project that Nathan Stephenson will now be coordinating.