

Submission NSW Pest Animal Management

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[REDACTED] is situated [REDACTED] Gunnedah [REDACTED] the Kerringle State Forest in the [REDACTED] and the Pilliga Conservation Area in the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

The first feral pigs arrived out of the Pilliga during the drought of 1965 since then we have continuous waves that arrive looking for food and water. We work on a hundred percent wipe out of any feral pigs by poisoning, trapping, shooting and dogs. 1080 poison is the best method. The old 10.80 was much stronger and the pigs died within 200 metres of feeding. The 1080 used today, we rarely see dead pigs and they may feed for several days to get enough poison. Trapping, we use when there is a danger of cattle being poisoned if they get 1080. We have our own design of traps that is easy to move and secure once the pig is in. We have had up to 20 pigs in a trap with others waiting to get in. Trapping and poisoning most of the pigs till you are left with a hard core of old boars that are very cunning. You have to be very patient and lucky to get them with a high powered rifle 308 or 270. Some may take up to 2 years before they make a mistake. We have some long term shooters who have been coming for many years and don't waste ammunition.

The Real Problems are some farmers are their own worst enemies and one completely apathetic and see pigs as someone else's problem.

The Pig Chasers are the biggest curse with dogs, they destroy your planned programme to get one or 2 pigs. They spread a mob of into 22 mobs with pigs everywhere. The only way then is saturate the area with 1080 to try and catch them. The pig chasers then rob you of fuel tools and vandalise your property. They use vehicles with the number plates removed and set cameras up to monitor when you are away. They carry 18v friction cutters to cut chains and locks which they keep. They come with large quantities of alcohol and now drugs, they are not to be crossed. Reporting it to the police is a waste of time they do not have enough specialised people and we are too remote.

Allowing shooting in the State Forest by all and sundry for sport was absolute lunacy. It must be controlled or stopped. It was a political decision for the Shooters Party.

Forests, National Parks, Conservation Areas are a safe haven for pigs to breed and then move out onto farms. They do not have near enough resources to eradicate the problem. Their efforts are only token. These areas will ensure pigs are never eradicated.

Shooting from helicopters on the plains is excellent, but the need follow up hunting on the ground. Shooting from helicopters in the Pilliga is a complete waste of time. The cost at \$1,000 per pig. The money could be much better spent.

Rabbits – In most of our areas the rabbit population with a couple more years will reach plague proportions unless we can get a new Calise Virus. This winter we went on a campaign using phostoxin down the burrows and shooting left-overs. It has been very successful, but the rabbits in the forest and conservations areas are out of control as nothing is being done.

Goats – come from two sources, those out of the Conservation areas and left-overs from those who had goat enterprises. They are easy to round up if you have good sheep dog and some yards to hold them. Many of the goat farms have gone, but everybody has goats.

To many people, hunting feral animals is a sport. To us it is a very serious business.