

Feral Pigs *Sus scrofa*

We have identified feral pigs as non-statutory problem animals in our Animal Pest Management Strategy. This means we recognise they are an undesirable animal in our Region and we will work to control them in important areas of native bush and wildlife habitat. Where required, we will help to control these animals in other areas, but on a user pays basis.

Identification

Size: 1.1 – 1.5m in length and weighing up to 180kg

Appearance: similar body shape to domestic pigs, but generally thinner, with coarser hair and longer canine teeth or tusks. Hair is usually shades of brown to black.



Why are they a pest?

- Feral pigs are carnivorous and do great environmental damage in both the forest and on farmland by digging and rooting up food – including native species. Often they will form mobs, rooting up large areas of pasture and destroying plantings.
- Feral pigs can become infected with Tb (bovine tuberculosis) which is easily passed to possums, feral cats and ferrets who scavenge on an infected pig carcass.
- Trichinosis is a human disease which is spread by feral pigs and can be transferred to domestic pigs then to humans through eating infected meat. Symptoms range from headaches, high fever, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting and muscle aches.
- Trichinosis is a preventable disease so hunters should take the following precautions.
- Do not capture, and then release feral pigs into new areas where they could spread the disease.
- Bury any offal and off-cuts from feral pigs to deter scavengers.
- When butchering and handling feral pig meat thoroughly wash knives and preparation surfaces.
- Note: it is illegal to sell or trade meat unless you are a licensed commercial operator.

Control

Recreational hunting provides some control on feral pig numbers. Feral pigs can be stalked and shot with a rifle, but are more often hunted with specially trained dogs.

Contact us on free phone 0508 800 800 if you would like more information.