

Feral Pig Control

Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are one of Australia's most destructive invasive animals – and this is no different in the SA Arid Lands region. These pests have significant impacts on the environment, agriculture, and biosecurity, and their populations can explode quickly if left unmanaged.



What are the impacts?

Agricultural Losses

- **Livestock Competition and Predation:** Pigs compete with livestock for feed and water, and damage fences, troughs, and infrastructure. Larger pigs may also develop an appetite for meat and feed on livestock, particularly lambs and calves.
- **Pasture Damage:** Their digging creates uneven ground and degrades pasture, reducing land productivity significantly.
- **Crop Destruction:** They trample and eat crops, leading to significant yield losses.

Environmental Damage

- **Soil Disturbance:** Feral pigs root up large

areas of soil while foraging, leading to erosion and loss of ground cover. This in turn, can reduce the water retention capacity in the soil.

- **Threats to Native Wildlife:** Pigs eat ground-nesting birds, reptiles, and native plant seeds, disrupting fragile ecosystems.

Biosecurity Risks

- **Disease Carriers:** Feral pigs are potential carriers of exotic diseases such as African swine fever, Brucellosis, foot-and-mouth disease, and Leptospirosis, which could devastate livestock industries.
- **Parasite Spread:** They can spread parasites like worms and ticks to domestic animals and wildlife.

Why early action matters

Feral pig populations are extremely adaptive and fast breeding. Under ideal conditions, a sow can produce two litters per year, with up to 10 piglets each time.

To simply maintain a stable population, at least **70 per cent** of feral pigs must be removed annually. Without coordinated, proactive control, populations can rebound quickly – and management becomes more difficult and expensive.

Ground shooting alone is ineffective for population reduction. It can make pigs 'gun shy,' making future monitoring and control efforts more difficult.

Early Detection = Effective Control

- Acting early means smaller populations, which are easier and cheaper to control.
- Pigs are highly mobile and intelligent—once established, they can be hard to detect and even harder to trap.
- Waiting until damage is obvious or until you see individuals, it often means the problem is already widespread. So early preventative measures are essential.

How can we support you?

FeralScan Monitoring

Track feral pig activity on your property using the FeralScan app. The best way to keep track of movement patterns and the number of pigs in an area is FeralScan. You will also be able to see other reports of pigs in your area and where to direct your efforts on your property.

Borrow a Camera – Free of Charge

The SAAL Landscape Board has motion-activated cameras available for **loan** to help monitor pig activity and plan control measures effectively.

Free 1080 and HogGone® Baiting services

Landholders can access **free HogGone® baits**, Bait delivery equipment such as bait boxes are required for deploying baits and are available for loan.



Trapping Equipment Borrowing

SAAL has **trapping equipment**, including pig traps and panels available for loan. Biosecurity staff will help you select the best setup for your property.

Work with Trapping Contractors

Need help on the ground? We can connect you with **experienced feral pig trapping contractors** to conduct professional control operations.

Grassroots Grants

Grassroots Grants are community-focused funding opportunities provided by the SAAL Landscape Board. They may support landholders with funding for feral pig control initiatives.

More information

Email: saal.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au

Phone: 08 8429 9666

www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal