

# MEETING YOUR GENERAL BIOSECURITY DUTY: *Vertebrate Pest Animals*

A GUIDE FOR RIVERINA LANDHOLDERS



Local Land  
Services

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## DISCLAIMER

© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services [2019]. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2019). 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, visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Cover image taken by Mary-Anne Addington, supplied by Centre for Invasive Species Solutions.



# MEETING YOUR GENERAL BIOSECURITY DUTY

There's no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to meeting your biosecurity obligations as a landholder.

You may or may not be aware that under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, you must demonstrate that you are meeting your General Biosecurity Duty. That is, that 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 Riverina landholders in mind. Inside you'll find "farm scenarios" which are based on real data from properties within our region. Each scenario provides background on the property, summarises the current pest control the landholder is carrying out, and identifies some of the challenges they face. We have then included some advice as to how the landholder could further improve their pest control practices.

This guide is merely a **starting point** for you as a landholder to consider whether or not you are meeting your General Biosecurity Duty. We hope it sheds some light on what can be a difficult topic to decipher, and inspires you to contact your closest Local Land Services 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 assist you to understand what your role is and how you can ensure you're meeting your obligations under the legislation.

Riverina Local Land Services



# What is the 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.

## 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.

The 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.



### 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.



### How do I fulfill my duty?

By referring to:

- State strategic plans
- Regional strategies
  - Local plans
- Guidelines and advisory material
- Codes of practice and industry standards
  - Mandatory measures

# THE BIG PICTURE

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

## BE ALERT AND REPORT

Monitor and report sightings of any species you have not seen before in your area. Prevention and early intervention to avoid the establishment of new pest animal species is an important part of this pest animal plan and relies on good information from the community. *Report via your Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer (call 1300 795 299 to find your closest)*

## PARTICIPATE AND WORK TOGETHER

Pest animal management is a shared responsibility between landholders, community, industry and Government and requires a coordinated approach across all scales and all land tenures including public and private lands

## BE COMMITTED

Effective pest animal management requires ongoing commitment by land managers, community, Government and industry. Those that create the risks associated with pest species and those that benefit from the pest animal management outcomes should help to minimise impacts and contribute to the costs associated with management

## STAY UP-TO-DATE

Community, industry, Government and landholders should stay up-to-date with new information to ensure that contemporary best practice pest animal management activities are employed to reduce pest animal impacts in a way that is as safe, effective, target-specific and humane as possible. *Your Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer can keep you in the loop of any changes, so keep in touch with them!*

# 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 we've summarised the primary and supplementary activities for seven priority pest species that are commonly found in the Riverina:

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

As a general rule, it's 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 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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground baiting</li> <li>• Fox exclusion fencing</li> <li>• Participate in local fox management groups</li> <li>• Take part in coordinated group programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground shooting</li> <li>• Trapping</li> <li>• Guard animals</li> <li>• Aerial baiting</li> </ul>
	<p><i>The lack of effective control methods severely limits the ability to manage feral cats.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground shooting</li> <li>• Trapping</li> <li>• Explore new management options</li> <li>• Advocate for new targeted cat toxins</li> <li>• Exclusion fencing</li> <li>• Participate in cat control trials</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trapping</li> <li>• Mustering</li> <li>• Aerial shooting</li> <li>• Prepare and implement local goat management plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground shooting</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in coordinated group programs</li> <li>• Ground baiting</li> <li>• Aerial shooting</li> <li>• Prepare and implement local pig management plans</li> <li>• Ground trapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground shooting</li> <li>• Recreational hunting</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerial shooting</li> <li>• Ground shooting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground shooting</li> <li>• Exclusion fencing</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in local wild dog management groups</li> <li>• Take part in coordinated group programs</li> <li>• Ground baiting</li> <li>• Proactive trapping</li> <li>• Exclusion fencing</li> <li>• Aerial baiting</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reactive trapping</li> <li>• Shooting</li> <li>• Guard animals</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground baiting</li> <li>• Harbour destruction (warren ripping/destruction and surface harbour removal)</li> <li>• Biological control (RHDV programs)</li> <li>• Exclusion fencing</li> <li>• Prepare and implement local rabbit management plans</li> <li>• Participate in coordinated group programs</li> <li>• Aerial baiting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fumigation</li> <li>• Ground shooting</li> <li>• Trapping</li> </ul>



# FARM SNAPSHOT: Rankins Springs

**Size:** 5000 hectares

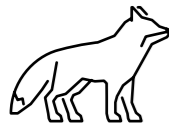
**Type:** Mixed farming - mainly cropping and sheep

**Surroundings:** Four direct neighbours ranging from 500ha to 10,000ha

**Pests present:** Foxes, feral pigs, feral goats, feral deer, wild rabbits

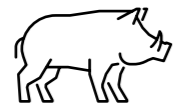
**Bob farms near Rankins Springs in the western Riverina. Let's take a look at his current pest control, challenges he faces, and consider how Bob could further improve his pest animal management to uphold his General Biosecurity Duty.**

## CURRENT PEST CONTROL



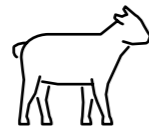
### FOXES

- Conducts fox baiting program twice a year - over a four week period in February 300 baits are laid and over a two week program in August/September 100 baits are laid
- Recreational shooting (by landholder)



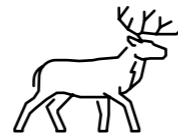
### FERAL PIGS

- Borrows two traps from Local Land Services. Sets when feral pigs / signs of pig presence are sighted
- Ground baiting once a year
- Opportunistic ground shooting
- Reports feral pig activity to Local Land Services
- Consents to an aerial cull program conducted by Local Land Services
- Allows a recreational hunter to hunt pigs



### FERAL GOATS

- Up to 800 feral goats roam between this property and the three neighbouring properties
- Borrows two spear gates for trapping from Local Land Services
- Conducts an annual mustering and trapping program which nets approximately 400 goats which are sold to an abattoir
- Does not consent to aerial cull of goats
- Happy to see goat populations build on property



### FERAL DEER

- Unknown numbers - small population sighted roaming on this property and on three neighbouring properties
- No active control program
- Shoots one occasionally for meat
- Consents to aerial cull of deer



### WILD RABBIT

- Low numbers - mainly around sheds and outbuildings - area and population hasn't grown or spread in 25 years
- 20 hectares of rocky hill on the outskirts of the farm has a fluctuating rabbit population
- Has released Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease virus (also known as rabbit calicivirus disease or viral haemorrhagic disease)
- Opportunistic shooting and trapping of rabbits

## IS BOB ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Below we've cross checked Bob's current pest control against the *Riverina Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan*. Underneath each pest are some thoughts on whether or not Bob's working towards his General Biosecurity Duty, and how he could improve.



- Ideally Bob should aim for one bait per five hectares - this will reduce and become cheaper over time. In this scenario that means he would lay closer to 1000 baits annually, not 300
- Bob's combining both primary (baiting) and supplementary (ground shooting) measures for controlling foxes which is a big tick



- Bob should increase the frequency of baiting, but the fact he's combining aerial and ground shooting, plus baiting, shows he is working towards controlling feral pigs



- Bob is conducting one primary control of goats (trapping) which is positive
- If Bob wishes to muster and sell goats, and watch the population build, he needs to demonstrate that he is keeping the population contained on his property. He has a General Biosecurity Duty to his neighbours to not be fostering pest populations



- Bob consenting to an aerial cull program goes a long way to working towards his General Biosecurity Duty as this is a primary control measure
- Given population is low, it's a good idea to record sightings so he can monitor population growth over time
- Bob should ideally report any sightings to Local Land Services so they can assist him with control options



- It appears Bob is doing his best to manage the rabbit population given the terrain he is working with
- He is conducting both primary (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 to his neighbours

## WHAT FURTHER ACTION COULD BOB TAKE?

- All neighbours should ideally be a part of their local pest control group to allow for landscape scale control at similar times - Bob could approach his neighbours and discuss getting them involved if they aren't already
- Fox baiting should be carried out by all neighbours twice a year over a four week period - ideally in autumn and spring. Bob also definitely needs to increase the volume of baits he is laying each year
- Bob's neighbour is a recreational hunter. This is legal, but according to the pest plan, it is a supplementary measure for controlling pigs so a primary measure (such as baiting) must also be carried out which he is doing. Allowing a recreational hunter to solely control feral pigs is not satisfactory
- All neighbours should coordinate feral goat control with the intent of reducing numbers, not building populations
- Bob should continue to uphold his deer control despite low populations, as they are an emerging pest so he has a good chance of preventing future impacts

## THE CHALLENGES TO PEST CONTROL ON BOB'S FARM

- Terrain varies over the property - from cropping, to steep rocky ranges. 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
- All four neighbours are not concerned about deer. Only two consent to aerial cull
- Many pests inhabit the property on a seasonal basis
- Pests have a large home range

# FARM SNAPSHOT: *Junee*

**Size:** 500 hectares

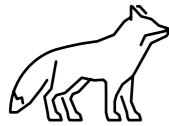
**Type:** Cattle

**Surroundings:** Two neighbours – one runs sheep only, and the other runs sheep and cattle. Properties range in size from 400ha to 800ha

**Pests present:** Foxes, feral goats, feral deer and wild rabbits

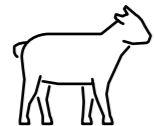
**Kate farms near Junee in the eastern Riverina. Let's take a look at her current pest control, challenges she faces, and consider how Kate could further improve her pest animal management to uphold her General Biosecurity Duty.**

## CURRENT PEST CONTROL



### FOXES

- Recreational shooting only (conducted by Kate)



### FERAL GOATS

- Recreational shooting (conducted by Kate)
- Only the odd goat is sighted
- Kate consents to aerial culling when available



### FERAL DEER

- Recreational shooting (conducted by Kate)
- Doesn't appear to be a large population
- Kate does not consent to aerial culling when available



### WILD RABBIT

- Recreational shooting (conducted by Kate)
- Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) has been released on both Kate's and her neighbours property
- The rabbit population appears to have not grown in size or spread for the last 10 years

## THE CHALLENGES TO PEST CONTROL ON KATE'S FARM

- Because Kate runs only cattle, she believes foxes don't have an economic impact on her business so she doesn't believe in controlling them
- Only one neighbour baits for foxes consistently
- Deer and goats are only seen occasionally – while she consents to aerial culling goats, Kate enjoys shooting deer so she prefers to hunt them herself

## IS KATE ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Below we've cross checked Kate's current pest control against the *Riverina Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan*. Underneath each pest are some thoughts on whether or not Kate's working towards her General Biosecurity Duty, and how she could improve.



- Shooting is only a secondary activity when controlling foxes – meaning Kate is not upholding her General Biosecurity Duty responsibilities as she's not carrying out any primary measures. She should ideally be ground baiting and/or participating in a coordinated group program



- Kate gets a big tick for consenting to aerial culling when available
- Ground shooting is a supplementary measure - it's good Kate is doing this. However, if she starts to see more goats, she should introduce another primary method such as trapping



- To show she is participating in controlling wild deer, Kate should adopt further control to just recreational shooting, such as consenting to aerial shoots



- Biological control (RHDV programs) is a primary activity in controlling wild rabbits so this is a big tick
- Ground shooting is a supplementary measure
- Kate should continue to keep a close eye on the rabbit population to ensure it does not grow or spread

## WHAT FURTHER ACTION COULD KATE TAKE?

- Under legislation, Kate has biosecurity obligations to her neighbours so she should definitely be controlling foxes
- She should be fox baiting twice a year (in autumn and spring) and at the same time as her neighbours to achieve a landscape scale program
- Kate should consent to aerial shooting of deer. While there doesn't appear to be a large population at the moment, deer are an emerging pest species so she should report sightings to Local Land Services so a Biosecurity Officer can assist her

*Did you know?*

In the Riverina there are three types of Feral Deer listed as "alert species". These are species that aren't normally found in the region but may be likely to establish.



Chital Deer (Male)



Chital Deer (Female)



Rusa Deer (Male)



Rusa Deer (Female)



Hog Deer (Male)



Hog Deer (Female)

All images: Gaming Management Authority, Victoria

You should report any sightings of the **below species only** by calling the Invasive Plants and Animals Enquiry Line (1800 680 244) or email [invasive.species@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:invasive.species@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

# FARM SNAPSHOT: *Wagga Wagga*

**Size:** 50 hectares

**Type:** Grazing country - all sheep

**Surroundings:** Eight direct neighbours ranging from 20 hectares to 300 hectares

Lisa's property is within three kilometres of the Wagga Wagga town limits

**Pests present:** Foxes, rabbits, feral cats

*Lisa farms near Wagga in the Riverina. Let's take a look at her current pest control, challenges she faces, and consider how Lisa could further improve her pest animal management to uphold her General Biosecurity Duty.*

## CURRENT PEST CONTROL



### FOXES

- Lisa has significant issues during spring lambing with fox predations on lambs, with large numbers of foxes moving into Lisa's property from her neighbours
- Does not bait



### WILD RABBITS

- Low number of rabbits
- Lisa uses Pindone to control rabbits around her shearing shed and outbuildings during spring months when populations are more noticeable. Lisa has also recently released RHDV into the rabbit population around her shearing shed
- Opportunistic ground shooting



### FERAL CATS

- Lisa has no controls in place for feral cats, but sees two individual cats regularly coming and going from the feed shed

## IS LISA ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Below we've cross checked Lisa's current pest control against the *Riverina Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan*. Underneath each pest are some thoughts on whether or not Lisa's working towards her General Biosecurity Duty, and how she could improve.



### FOXES

- Given Lisa has many challenges due to her property's location, she should aim to participate in coordinated group projects - by contacting her closest Biosecurity Officer they can do a risk assessment to see if she if she meets the legislative requirements for the use of 1080. If she doesn't the Biosecurity Officer can then advise of alternative control methods such as cage and soft jaw trapping at the same time as neighbors are baiting
- Lisa could also look at other options such as exclusion fencing



### WILD RABBITS

- Biological control (RHDV Programs) is a primary activity in controlling rabbits
- Ground shooting is a good follow up supplementary control measure
- As Lisa has been using Pindone carrots as well to control the population of rabbits around her sheds and outbuildings, she is working towards upholding her General Biosecurity Duty by controlling the spread of the population



### FERAL CATS

- Because Lisa's property is in very close proximity to neighbouring properties and surrounding suburbs, she should communicate with her close neighbours to identify if the cats might be a family pet. If so she should stress the importance of responsible pet ownership in rural areas. Lisa is also able to hire a cage trap from her closest Local Land Services office which she can use to catch the animal - because she lives so close to town and cats come under the *Companion Animal Act*, Lisa's local Biosecurity Officer would advise her to take any cats she traps either to the local pound or a private veterinarian to be scanned for a microchip

## THE CHALLENGES TO PEST CONTROL ON LISA'S FARM

- Only some of her neighbours fox bait and not all at a coordinated time - many of her neighbours are lifestyle blocks and have no livestock
- Many pests inhabit the property on a seasonal basis with large populations of foxes during the lambing periods in autumn and spring
- Because Lisa has rabbit warrens situated closely around buildings and sheds harbour destruction is difficult
- Lisa's property is in close proximity to neighbouring houses and suburbs of Wagga Wagga

## WHAT FURTHER ACTION COULD LISA TAKE?

- Take part in coordinated local pest control groups with all neighbours doing their bit, to control foxes across the landscape at similar times
- Keep moving forward with her current rabbit control programs to keep on top of the breeding population and reduce the spread of rabbits not only on her own farm but on her neighbours as well
- Lisa could also look at filling in any established rabbit burrows to prevent reinfestation, and remove any potential harbour
- Lisa should aim to minimise the food sources for the feral cats by reducing rodent populations in her feed shed



# FARM SNAPSHOT: *Tumut*

**Size:** 300 hectares

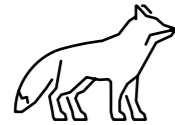
**Type:** Cattle

**Surroundings:** Three neighbours – two neighbours are absentee landholders with 200ha each. The third neighbour is the National Parks and Wildlife Service

**Pests present:** Foxes and wild dogs

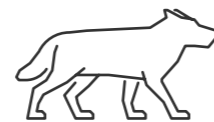
*Jim farms near Tumut in the eastern Riverina. Let's take a look at his current pest control, challenges he faces, and consider how Jim could further improve his pest animal management to uphold his General Biosecurity Duty.*

## CURRENT PEST CONTROL



### FOXES

- Baits in autumn for two weeks – collects 50 baits in total
- Recreational shooting by the landholder as well as licensed hunters who have gained consent from Jim



### WILD DOGS

- Baits in autumn for two weeks – collects 50 baits in total
- Recreational shooting by the landholder as well as licensed hunters who have gained consent from Jim
- Jim allows access to his property for a wild dog trapper when dogs are sighted on his property or any adjoining neighbours properties
- Jim's a member of his local wild dog plan group

## THE CHALLENGES TO PEST CONTROL ON JIM'S FARM

- The terrain varies from creek flats to inaccessible bush block which makes pest control difficult
- Wild dogs in particular inhabit the property on seasonal basis
- Not all neighbours participate in the local wild dog plan
- Pests have a large home range

## IS JIM ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Below we've cross checked Jim's current pest control against the *Riverina Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan*. Underneath each pest are some thoughts on whether or not Jim's working towards his General Biosecurity Duty, and how he could improve.



- Jim's showing a commitment to baiting and is laying baits at the right time of the year. Fox baiting during the spring period is critical in keeping the population reduced and limit the breeding potential. Females come into oestrus for two to three days over three weeks in winter with gestation lasting up to 53 days and a litter of up to five cubs can be born
- Jim's combining both primary (ground baiting) and supplementary (ground shooting) controls of foxes which is good



- The rule of thumb is one bait per five hectares – meaning Jim should collect around 60 baits per year. He's currently laying 50, so he is doing well in terms of baiting
- Jim's carrying out both primary (participating in coordinated group programs and ground baiting) and supplementary (reactive trapping and shooting) activities so it appears he's doing his best to control wild dogs both on his property and through local groups
- Jim's working with the National Parks and Wildlife Service as they are both members of their local wild dog plan

## WHAT FURTHER ACTION COULD JIM TAKE?

- Jim should encourage all neighbours to participate in coordinated control wild dog and fox programs – this entails actively participating in twice a year baiting for wild dogs and foxes in autumn and spring, and allowing access to a pest animal contractor (wild dog trapper) if their property has been identified as an area wild dogs are inhabiting or using as a path
- Jim should consent to aerial baiting on his property when available – landscape baiting is effective for wild dogs in particular as it is often conducted in inaccessible terrain
- By baiting in spring Jim can increase his effectiveness of dog control as this is the time juveniles disperse and establish new home territories
- Jim should report any wild dog activity to his closest Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer - he can reach them on 1300 795 299

*Are you reporting pests?*

**It is imperative Jim reports any wild dog sightings to Local Land Services - a Biosecurity Officer can then assist him with pest control options, and ensure he's involved in any coordinated programs in his local area**



Image: [www.pestsmart.org.au](http://www.pestsmart.org.au)

FeralScan is another option Jim could use. FeralScan ([www.feralscan.org.au](http://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.



# FARM SNAPSHOT: *Hay*

**Size:** 8000 hectares

**Type:** Sheep

**Surroundings:** Both neighbours also run sheep. Wal also had 10 kilometres of river frontage on his property

**Pests present:** Foxes, feral pigs, wild rabbits

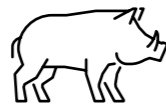
*Wal farms near Hay in the western Riverina. Let's take a look at his current pest control, challenges he faces, and consider how Wal could further improve his pest animal management to uphold his General Biosecurity Duty.*

## CURRENT PEST CONTROL



### FOXES

- Opportunistic shooting
- Opportunistic trapping



### FERAL PIGS

- Wal allows recreational hunters to enter his property a few times a year for a fee
- Does not carry out any other control currently
- Wal only sometimes consents to aerial shoot programs



### WILD RABBIT

- Wants to participate in harbour destruction
- Does not carry out any control currently

## THE CHALLENGES TO PEST CONTROL ON WAL'S FARM

- Wal does not want to use 1080 as a form of pest control
- Wal is earning an income from recreational hunting and is therefore currently not motivated to implement primary control measures for feral pigs
- Major water course through property attracts pests, especially feral pigs
- Thick vegetation around river can make that area difficult to access
- Scale of property

## IS WAL ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Below we've cross checked Wal's current pest control against the *Riverina Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan*. Underneath each pest are some thoughts on whether or not Wal's working towards his General Biosecurity Duty, and how he could improve.



- Both ground shooting and trapping are supplementary activities when it comes to controlling foxes – meaning Wal needs to combine these with a primary measure. Given he doesn't want to use 1080, Wal needs to have a conversation with his local Biosecurity Officer so tailored advice can be given
- Trapping foxes is acceptable to use, but given the size of this property it is not an efficient option long term
- Especially given both Wal and his neighbours run sheep, he should consider the economic impact foxes are having on both livestock and native animals



- While recreational hunting is recognised as a supplementary activity, it is not sufficient as the only control measure when being carried out sporadically. The income received from fees charged to recreational hunters is negligible compared to the financial loss to his sheep enterprise from feral pigs
- Wal should be baiting, trapping and/or allowing access to aerial shooting



- It's really positive that Wal wants to participate in harbour destruction but he should conduct a baiting program prior. Failing to do so leads to reestablishment of the warren by surviving rabbits
- Control options for Wal that aren't 1080 based include using Pindone, fumigation, or biological control. The practicality of each of these alternatives will need to be considered and the local Biosecurity Officer can step Wal through options

## WHAT FURTHER ACTION COULD WAL TAKE?

- Wal should be participating in a number of control measures, particularly because he does not undertake any form of baiting
- Wal should discuss with his local Biosecurity Officer what other options are available other than 1080 poison as a method of pest control
- Wal should always consent for aerial shoots especially given the scale of his property and his location along the river which could be a water source for pests
- **Did you know? Warren ripping and surface harbour destruction are the ONLY long-term forms of rabbit control. Although Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus is technically a primary measure, relying on it alone if you have a lot of active warren entrances on your property is not sufficient**



**As a landholder you are not expected to know everything about managing pest animals on your farm - it is our role to advise you.**

**Across the Riverina we have Biosecurity Officers in many locations, so there's always someone local to assist you. Please contact your closest office to get in touch.**

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