

Feral Animal Control

What can you do?

We acknowledge the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to all Elders past and present



Contribute to Collection of Data



- Good monitoring and data is critical
- There are many ways the public can be involved in science and data collection, including:
 - Feralcatscan <u>http://www.feralscan.org.au/feralcatscan/</u>
 - MyPestGuide
 - Collect photos or specimen and send to DAFWA or WA Museum for identification
 - Contributing to specific research projects (citizen science or research)





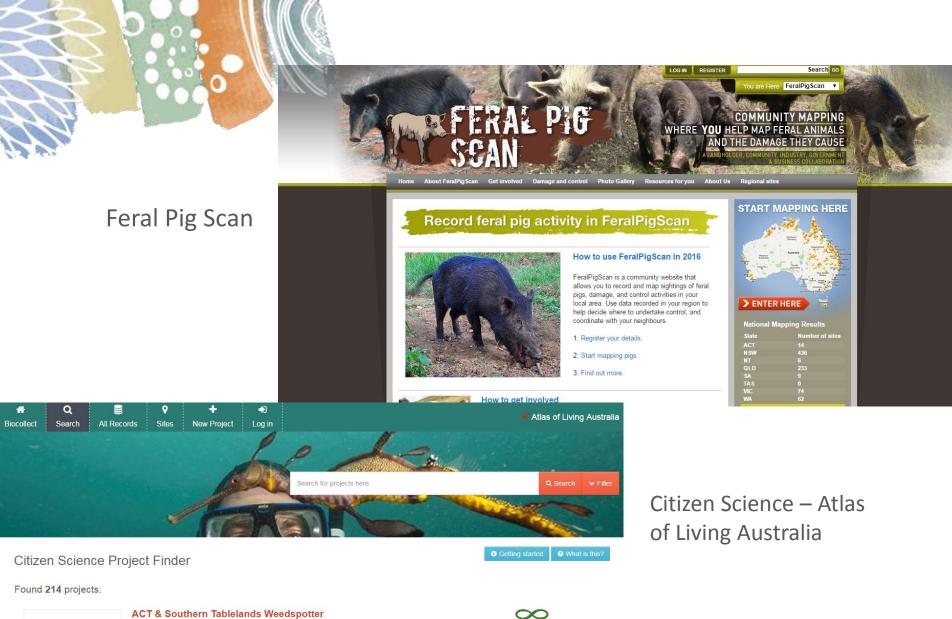




Feral Cat Scan



Search G



Started 2.0 years ago ACT Government
The aim of this project is to involve community members in the early detection and reporting of weeds so that ACT
government and NSW council weeds officers can respond quickly to minimise the potential spread of problem weeds.
Website | Mobile Apps
TAGS: Do It Yourself (DIY) No Cost Difficulty: Medium
TAGS: Do It Yourself (DIY) No Cost Difficulty. Medium



Weed Spotter

ACT Centenary BioBlitz
 Started 2.6 years ago Molonglo Catchment Group
 The aim of the project was to: 1. Enhance public und

PROJECT ONGOING

PROJECT

ENDED

Start date: 31 May, 2014



Contribute to Collection of Data

- What to record where to send it
 - Photo is ideal
 - GPS location or address as accurate as possible
 - What the animal is doing (what is it eating, where is it going, what does it look like, size etc)
 - Your name, date and contact details
 - For feral animals the best place to send the information:
 - Feral cat or pig scan websites.
 - DAFWA through MyPestGuide if related to agriculture.
 - Local Council or specific research project.







Feral animal control – what can you do legally?

- Feral **pigs** and **rabbits** are **declared pests** so there is a legal defence for killing them under the *Animal Welfare Act*, so long as the animals are killed in a humane way and through reasonable and accepted methods
- Feral cats are not declared, therefore the destruction of a feral cat is a bit of a grey area
- Generally a community based organisation (like PHCC) would require DAFWA, DPaW and RSPCA approval for a feral cat control project, with strict guidelines and approval requirements.







Feral animal control – what can you do legally?

- For individuals we suggest being very careful. If you choose to destroy a cat, you must ensure that it does not suffer any harm that could be alleviated by the taking of reasonable steps
- We recommend you contact your Local Government rangers, or call a licenced contractor or DAFWA for advice before undertaking control any animal control
- Be aware that permits are needed before baiting or poisoning







Feral animal control – what can you do legally?

Suggested resources for control options

Rabbits

https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/baits-poisons/rabbit-controloptions?page=0%2C0#smartpaging_toc_p0_s1_h3

Feral pigs

https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/mechanical-physicaland-cultural/feral-pig-control-trapping

Otherwise please feel free to talk to our speakers tonight.





Community Education

- The best way to influence change is through an informed community
- You can do your bit to convince your neighbour or workmate that letting their cats out at night is not good for our local wildlife
- Some facts that may help you to be more convincing:



- The federal Department of the Environment tells us that feral cats are the single biggest threat to Australia's native mammals
- Feral cats are already implicated in the extinctions of more than 20 of our Australian mammals



Community Education

Some facts that may help :

- Feral cats put direct pressure on at least 124 Australian species at risk of extinction
- Feral cats hunt, kill and eat bilbies, numbats, quokkas, quolls, bandicoots, parrots, lizards, frogs and many other endangered animals.
- Legal obligations of the *Cat Act (2011)*. Cats must be registered, tagged, microchipped and sterilised by 6 months of age, or the owners can face up to a \$5,000 fine.

Cat Act 2011

An Act to —

- provide for the control and management of cats; and
- promote and encourage the responsible ownership of cats, and for related matters.

The Parliament of Western Australia enacts as follows:





References

BURBIDGE, A. A., HARRISON, P., & WOINARSKI, J. (2014). *The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012*. Melbourne, CSIRO Publishing. <u>http://public.eblib.com/choice/publicfullrecord.aspx?p=1702486</u>.

Department of Agriculture and Food WA – *Animal Welfare Act (2002)*. https://www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_50_homepage.html

Department of Agriculture and Food WA – *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (2007)*. https://www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_2736_homepage.html

Department of Local Government and Communities – *Cat Act (2011)*. https://www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_12865_homepage.html

Department of the Environment (undated). *Tackling Feral Cats and their Impacts – Frequently Asked Questions*. <u>https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/bb591b82-1699-4660-8e75-6f5612b21d5f/files/factsheet-tackling-feral-cats-and-their-impacts-faqs.pdf</u>





Thank you for your time today!

Please ask me about future events in this space, or potential programs the PHCC can be involved in

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