



PHCC Working Together
Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

MEDIA RELEASE

FERAL ANIMAL S.H.A.R.E. ON POPULAR TOPIC



Image: PHCC CEO Jane O'Malley, PHCC member Michael Schultz, with S.H.A.R.E presenters

Paul Tholen, Carl Grondel, Mike Burkett and Eddie Juras

8 June 2016... In an effort to protect our native animals, the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) presented a community forum on the issue of controlling feral cats and pigs. Over 40 people attended to hear guest speakers from the Department of Parks & Wildlife and feral animal control contractors on the impacts of feral animals on our native species and effective methods of controlling them to reduce impacts to native wildlife and agricultural productivity.

PHCC regional landcare facilitator Luke Rogers, who helped organised the Social Help, Action & Resources for Environment (S.H.A.R.E.) event, said the topic resonated with both town and country dwellers.

"We wanted to move the focus slightly from regional areas to the urban and peri-urban landscape as we know the issue of feral animals is impacting across the landscape, not only on agricultural properties. Many residents are aware of potential impacts, especially of feral cats, and are keen to understand acceptable methods of control and tools to control them. The event helped to raise awareness of tools such as Feral Cat Scan. This is an excellent citizen science app which monitors and tracks sightings of these animals which anyone can use effectively," said Luke Rogers.

"At the end of the day feral or stray cats, whether within urban or regional areas, cause an estimated 75 million deaths of native animals every day. This is a significant community and environmental issue across the country. A big part of what the community can do is to talk to their neighbours and other members of public to raise awareness of the issue, and the importance of proper cat management and how to report feral cats if you come across one on your property or elsewhere".

"Feral pigs are an emerging issue in the Peel-Harvey Region. While they have been a problem for a long time, anecdotal evidence is that numbers are increasing, and hence the damage they cause is escalating. We are very keen to work with the community to raise awareness of the impacts of releasing pigs for hunting, and how to manage existing feral pigs."

If you would like more information on feral animal control, contact Luke.Rogers@peel-harvey.org.au This project is supported by the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

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

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