

Defending Dryandra

Feral Hotspots Project



REGIONAL GOALS

People 

Biophysical 

Knowledge 

Targeted feral cat control on farmland surrounding Dryandra Woodland National Park will reduce predation pressure from feral cats to threatened species to help maintain or improve their populations.

Feral cats have played a significant role in 27 of the 47 extinctions of Australian fauna. They are recognised as a potential threat to 74 mammals including numbats and woylies both of which can be found in Dryandra Woodland National Park (NP). Dryandra Woodland NP is 28,000ha and made up of 17 discrete blocks surrounded by farmland. For this reason landholders surrounding the Woodland play a significant role in protecting threatened fauna by conducting feral animal control to complement on-reserve control activities.

Through the Western Australian Government Feral Cat Management Grants, the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) was awarded \$183,865 to implement the 3 year project *Defending Dryandra – Feral Hotspots Project*. The project will implement activities that address objectives in the Western Australia Feral Cat Strategy 2023 – 2028. Defending Dryandra is a community-based project that will use information gathered through the Dryandra Woonta Feral Cat DNA Analysis study, Felixer Report 2023 and DBCA camera data to support feral cat control and fauna monitoring on key properties surrounding Dryandra Woodland NP.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

1. Monitoring data used to direct control efforts to hotspots will reduce predation pressure from feral cats to threatened species to help maintain or improve their populations
2. Increased understanding of feral cat and native fauna populations on farmland and the effectiveness of feral cat control efforts
3. Reduced disease risk from feral cats to livestock
4. Improved skills for staff particularly in the use of technology to monitor feral species
5. Increased community capacity and awareness of threats from feral cat and best practice management



PROJECT ACTIONS

- 3000 ha of targeted feral cat control (and opportunist fox and pig control) through a pest animal control contractor, including collecting DNA for future analysis and recording culls into Feralscan
- Fauna monitoring on farmland where feral cat control is taking place using 4G cameras for real-time feral cat and native fauna monitoring
- 7 x Communication materials to improve community capacity and awareness of threats from feral cats, novel monitoring methods and best practice management
- 1 x case study to share the results of the project



FUNDING

Western Australian Government \$183,865 (exc GST)

PHCC PROJECT TEAM

- Melanie Durack, Operations Manager, Land Conservation & Agriculture
- Dr Karen Bettink, Program Manager, Land Conservation
- Christine Townsend, Coordinator, Farmers for Fauna

STEERING COMMITTEE*

- Amanda Batt
- Paddi Creevey
- Melissa Evans
- Sue Fyfe
- Rob Harris

REGIONAL COVERAGE



PARTNERS

- Landholders surrounding Dryandra Woodland NP
- Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
- WA Feral Cat Working Group (WAF CWG)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

- WA Feral cat Strategy - <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/threat-management>
- Felixer Feral Cat Grooming Trap Study and Understanding sources of feral cats in Dryandra Woodland through DNA analysis - <https://peel-harvey.org.au/publications/>

**this project will join the existing Land Conservation Steering Committee*