

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question Without Notice

Wednesday, 21 September 2022

C866. Hon James Hayward to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the management of feral pigs in the South West Region and I ask:

- 1) Can the Minister advise if feral pig populations are growing in the South West Region of WA?
- 2) If “yes” to 1), what specific areas/locations are of particular concern to the Minister?
- 3) What enhanced management solutions are being considered by the Government to reduce or eradicate feral pig populations in the South West Region?
- 4) Will the Minister consider incentivising recreational and professional shooters to specifically target feral pigs in Western Australia?

Answer

- (1-2) Feral pigs are widespread and established throughout much of the south west. There is evidence that numbers are increasing, due to several factors:

- Favourable seasonal conditions have increased food sources and fecundity amongst established populations as they have with kangaroos and emus.
- Increased illegal seeding of feral pigs within both existing and new locations for recreational hunting purposes.

Increased reporting of distribution and density of feral pig populations as an outcome of the Western Australian Feral Pig Strategy 2020-2050 has also contributed to greater numbers being recorded.

I seek leave to table a map of the projected distribution of feral pigs in the south west.

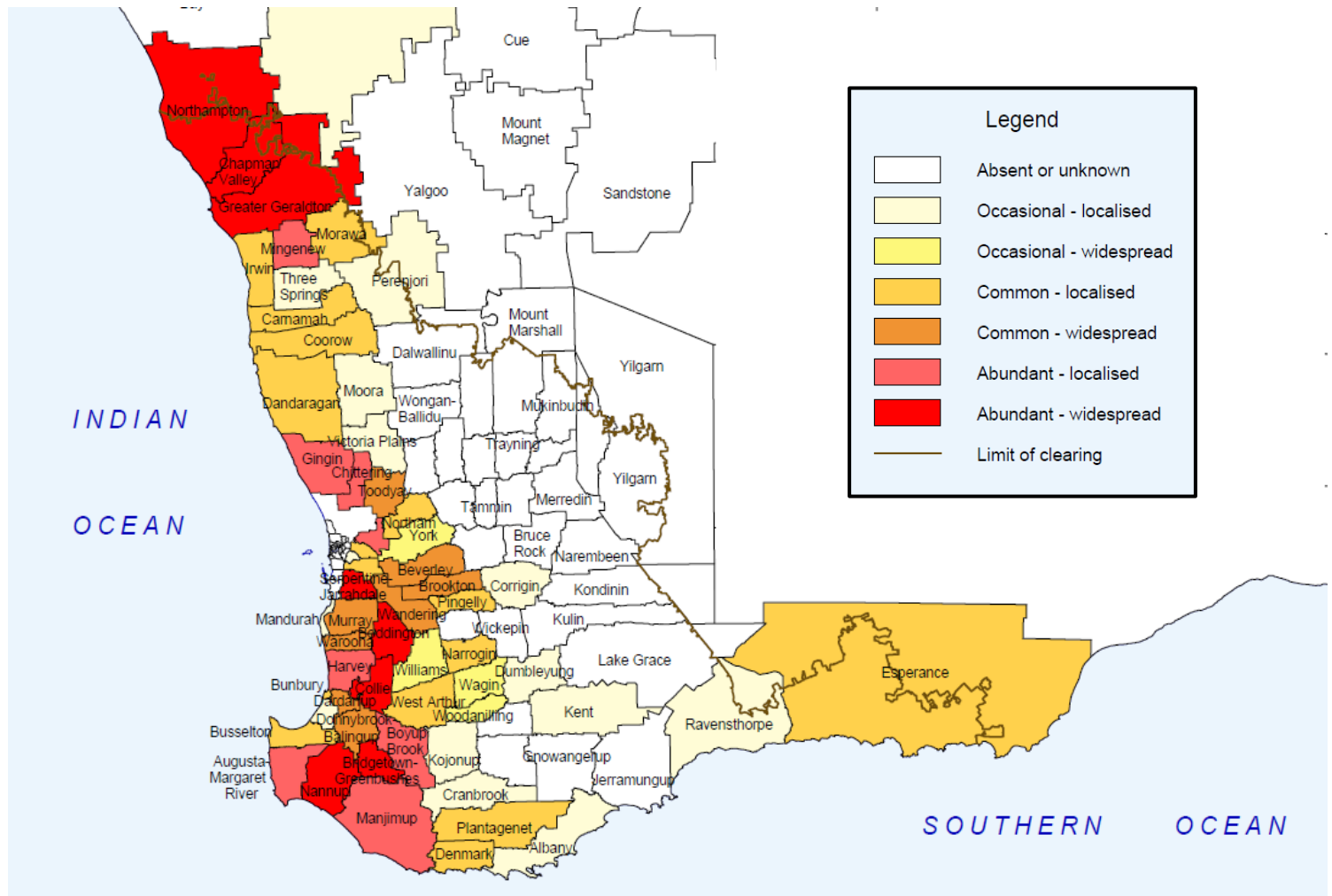
- 3) The Western Australia Feral Pig Strategy 2020-2025 has been developed in conjunction with key stakeholders to guide the long-term management of feral pigs. Community-led feral pig management groups exist in many areas of the south west. The State provides funding to Recognised Biosecurity Groups and NRM Groups to assist landholders manage feral pigs.

Yesterday as part of the State NRM Community Stewardship Grants we announced a further \$343,110 towards feral pig management, including the Shire of Plantagenet’s project *Feral Pig Control – Protecting the Environment Warren Region WA*.

This brings the total contribution to the management of feral pigs through our NRM grants from 2018 - 2022 to over \$1.5 million.

- 4) No. Ground shooting and recreational hunting is likely to lead to fragmentation and spread of feral pigs within the landscape. These control techniques target only a small percentage of individuals at any one time and miss most pigs within the group. These techniques are likely to be highly ineffective at reducing feral pig densities at a landscape or district level. Incentivising shooters, such as using a bounty, can also lead to unintended consequences where it is in the benefit of shooters to increase feral animal populations for financial gain.
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Distribution of feral pigs within the south west agricultural zone of Western Australia



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



REFERENCE:
Projection: Albers Equal Area
Longitude of Origin: 121:00:00 E
Latitude of Origin: 0:00:00
Standard Parallels: 17:30:00 S, 31:30:00 S
Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994
Date: April 2019
Job Number: 2019127