

# VERTEBRATE PEST (FERAL PIG AND WILD DOG) BAITING

## PROCEDURE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DELIVERY SERVICES



### PURPOSE:

This procedure outlines the approach to be undertaken by Cassowary Coast Regional Council 'Authorised Officer' for the provision of 1080 (Sodium Fluoroacetate at less than 0.05%) for the control of wild dogs and feral pigs in the Cassowary Coast Region.

### SCOPE:

This procedure is consistent with the 'Cassowary Coast Local Area Biosecurity Plan for Invasive Plants and Animals' and outlines the process for landholders to access vertebrate pesticides as a tool to assist them discharge their obligations regarding feral pig and wild dog management on property under their control.

### RESPONSIBILITY:

Prior to requesting baiting service, the landowner or manager must contact a CCRC Authorised Officer to discuss the location, pest problem, management history, and what other control options have been tested (e.g., fencing, shooting, trapping) to determine if 1080 is an appropriate control method for the situation.

### PROCEDURE:

This procedure contains key requirements in summary.

The Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 requires that all suitable candidates for 1080 baiting have read 'The Departmental Standard – Dealing with restricted Schedule 7 poisons for invasive animal control'

### The following steps will need to be undertaken to access baited material:

Once site is selected the following needs to be sighted by an Authorised Officer before baited materials can be supplied:

- Lot on Plan number/s of the property/s where bait will be laid and exact location on the property have been identified (GPS or marked location on property map).
- Evidence of neighbour notification 72 hours' notice of the intended laying of 1080 poison baits to all adjoining and adjacent neighbours (including properties separated by roads and watercourses). Specific information about restraining and /or muzzling dogs must be included in the notification. A written list is required to be provided of who was notified, including when, and how this notification took place (a notification form will be provided by the Authorised Officer).
- Evidence of site monitoring with a motion camera for at least 3 days before, then during and after baiting. Photos of the animals that visit the site need to be provided to enable the Authorised Officer to determine the quantity of baited material to supply and ensure that no non-target animals are feeding. If non-target animals visit, contact the Authorised Officer to discuss options. All photos of the site should be made available to Council's Authorised Officer upon request, including those of animals eating baited material.
- Pigs – start free feeding in a few locations on the property to draw in the pigs or encourage pigs to more isolated parts of the property. When the free feed stations are being used by pigs, contact Cassowary Coast Regional Council to arrange 1080 bait provision.
- Dogs – free feeding is not required but a clear indication of wild dog movements across the property will aid in targeting problem dogs and ensuring effective control is achieved.
- A written risk assessment is conducted and the risk to non-target species and suitable control measures are identified.

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- If baiting for wild dogs, then evidence of wild dog presence or of stock damage is required before bait distribution can occur.
- If baiting on behalf of a landowner, a completed “Authority to Sign” form needs to be completed by the Owner or land manager giving permission to bait on their behalf and this must be provided to the Authorised Officer. An ‘Authority to Sign’ does not absolve a landholder from completing the above activities relating to monitoring, neighbour notifications or signage.
- Council encourages you to work collaboratively with neighbours to coordinate baiting effort to increase the effectiveness of the baiting event.
- Pigs - Fruit Baits will typically be required to be laid in the late afternoon and collected first thing in the morning to reduce the risk to non-target animals.

## At time of baiting:

Application of baits:

1080 poison Baits **must** be:

- Placed in areas of recent feral pig/wild dog activity and in areas less frequented by non-target animals.
- Pigs – use physical barriers to exclude stock and wildlife but only allow feral pig’s access to the bait station. Continue to monitor using cameras to ensure that only feral pigs are consuming baits. Stop baiting if non-target species are observed showing interest of interacting with the bait station during the baiting period.
- Dogs - Meat baits should be tied approx. 250m apart or hidden beneath brush or logs to deter non-target animals from accessing baited material.

1080 poison Baits **must not** be:

- Divided or split into smaller portions.
- Spread in the open area.
- Used for more than three (3) consecutive days.
- Laid on any stock route or reserve for travelling stock.
- Laid within five (5) metres of a fenced boundary.
- Laid within five (5) metres from the edge of a formed public roadway.
- Laid within twenty (20) metres of permanent or flowing water bodies.
- Laid within one hundred and fifty (150) metres of a dwelling.
- Pigs - Fruit baits are not to be used for more than 3 consecutive days

Other requirements while undertaking baiting program:

- The following incidents must be reported to the Chief Executive Queensland Health within two (2) business days of an event occurring.
  - Any poisoning or suspected poisoning of a person.
  - Any loss or theft of the poison.
- 1080 Warning signs will be supplied by the Authorised Officer, and it is the responsibility of the landowner to maintain signage. Warning signs must be put up immediately before

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baiting commences on the property and must be maintained for a least four (4) weeks after all bait has been removed. Warning signs are to be placed at all entrances to the land being baited and at the extremities of the land boundary fronting a public thoroughfare. If a property adjoins a public space, warning signs should be placed in a way that it visible to a person in the public space.

- Exclude hunters and other people from the property whilst baiting operations are active.

## **After baiting program:**

- Animal carcasses are to be recovered and disposed of during and 14 days after baiting campaign
- At the end of the bait period, all contaminated material, partially eaten baits, carcasses and unused bait must be disposed of as follows:
  - By burying at a depth of at least 50 cm, or
  - By disposal at a licenced waste disposal facility that can accept the RS7 poisons (Springmount Waste Management Facility currently accepts RS7 Poisons).
- Continue to monitor the site for new groups of pest animals that were not baited. If necessary, contact your authorised officer to initiate a follow up baiting event.
- Records must be maintained for a period of two (2) years.

Council staff may conduct random checks that neighbour notifications are being conducted and that signage is in place.

Please email notifications and photos to [sharedferalpigs@ccrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:sharedferalpigs@ccrc.qld.gov.au) prior to 1080 baiting for providing evidence before 1080 bait collection.