

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 staff authorised under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* for the provision of the vertebrate toxin sodium fluoroacetate (Toxin 1080) 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 in regard to 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 used previously (eg. fencing, shooting, trapping) to determine if 1080 is an appropriate control method for the situation.

PROCEDURE:

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) requires all suitable candidates for 1080 baiting to have read and understood the "Toxin 1080 - A Guide to safe and responsible use of sodium fluoroacetate in Queensland". This guide is produced by DAF and reflects QLD Health regulations that must be adhered to at all times.

1. Landowners are required to consider the following to select site and initiate baiting procedure:

- Exclude hunters and other people from the property whilst baiting operations are active.
- 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. Install a motion camera to monitor what comes to the site. When the free - feed stations are being used by pigs, contact an Authorised Officer 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.
- Work collaboratively with neighbours to coordinate baiting effort to increase the effectiveness of the baiting event. Talk to neighbours and see if concurrent baiting can be organised.
- Meet the following site conditions as regulated by QLD Health;
 - Baits must be laid only on the land described in the Deed Poll;
 - No baits are to be laid on a stock route or reserve for travelling stock;
 - No baits are to be laid within 5 meters of a fenced boundary;
 - No baits are to be laid within 20 meters of permanent or flowing water;
 - No baits are to be laid within 50 meters of the centre line of a declared road;
 - No baits are to be laid within 150 meters of a dwelling;

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2. Evidence of the following will need to be provided 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 of the property/s where bait will be laid and exact location on the property (GPS or marked location on property map);
- Evidence of neighbour notification at least 72 hours prior to laying the baits. A written list is required to be provided of who was notified, including when, and how this notification took place. (Appendix 5 of the "1080 Guide" is a form to fill in showing evidence of neighbour notifications);
- Pigs- 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.
- Dogs- 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 landowner 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.

3. At time of baiting:

- 1080 signs will be supplied by the Authorised Officer and must be erected at all entries, exits and corners of the property before baits are laid. Signs must be visible for 4 weeks following the final day of baiting. It is the responsibility of the landowner to maintain signage during the 4 weeks;
- 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.
- Dogs- Meat baits should be tied approx. 250m apart, or hidden beneath brush or logs to deter non-target animals from accessing baited material;
- At the end of the bait period, all uneaten baits must be deep buried or burned;
- 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.

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

Email notifications and photos can be sent to <sharedferalpigs@ccrc.qld.gov.au> prior for 1080 baiting to providing evidence before 1080 bait collection.