

Media release

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App strengthens WA efforts in pest animal management

Improved monitoring and mapping of introduced pest animals has been the focus of recent training sessions in Manjimup, Geraldton and Perth.

Community and biosecurity groups learnt more about [FeralScan](#), a national website and Smartphone app used to record pest animal activity, damage and control actions.

The workshops were co-ordinated by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), with support from the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and Australian Wool Innovation.

NSW DPI Invasive Species officer Peter West detailed how to use the FeralScan program to monitor pest animals in local areas, and how the information can be used to guide local pest management.

“People can use FeralScan to record and map information about pest animals, including wild dogs, foxes, rabbits, feral pigs and many other species seen in their area,” Mr West said.

“It is also being used to document the impacts of pests, where control is being done, and see trends throughout the year.”

He said workshop participants were keen to work together to reduce the impacts of pest animals, and use FeralScan to help monitor and map pest animal activity in their local area.

“The sessions also helped me to identify how we can improve FeralScan to ensure it helps communities even further,” he said.

DPIRD biosecurity officer Glenice Batchelor said the workshops were designed to bring community group representatives together with licensed pest management technicians and NRM professionals.

“It’s important, particularly for Recognised Biosecurity Groups, to have options to improve awareness of declared pests, encourage the public to record sightings and be able to collate information to prioritise on-ground activities,” Ms Batchelor said.

“Data entered into FeralScan can add value to the current information used for pest control.

“People are also using FeralScan in WA to connect to community action groups in their region.”

The Manjimup workshop, held with the Southern Feral Pig Advisory Group and Blackwood Biosecurity Inc., focused on how FeralScan could be used to capture information about feral pig activity and measure the effectiveness of current control measures.

In Geraldton, the Northern Biosecurity Group hosted a workshop, attended by representatives attending from the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and local Shires, with discussion including wild dogs, feral pigs and other declared pest control.

Photo captions:

1: At the South Perth workshop are Peter West, NSW DPI, Lisa O’Neill, Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group, Linda Vernon, Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association and Andrew and Linda Lockley, WA Feral Animal Management.

2. Geraldton FeralScan workshop.

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