



The Honourable Lindy Nelson-Carr MP
Member for Mundingburra



**Queensland
Government**

26 JUN 2007

**Minister for Environment
and Multiculturalism**

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 24 May 2007 relating to Petition No. 823-07 concerning feral pigs in North Queensland's national parks and State forests and their impacts on adjoining farming areas and crops.

The management of pests, including feral pigs, continues to be of vital importance both to the environment and to primary producers, and the Queensland Government remains committed to meeting the challenge. To this effect, more than \$4.5 million will be expended in the 2006/07 financial year to manage pests across the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) estate. For example, in the Hinchinbrook Electorate alone feral pig control programs are occurring in Edmund Kennedy National Park, Girringun National Park, Ingham State Forest, Paluma Range National Park, at various locations in the Mission Beach area, and on Hinchinbrook Island National Park and Dunk Island National Park. The QPWS also has 17 feral pig traps currently available for loan to the public with an additional 20 traps being produced for use by neighbours in the Ingham area.

Furthermore, the QPWS is stepping up its feral pig management activities with a three-month program to remove feral pigs from the Wet Tropics area from Innisfail to Ingham. An Expression of Interest was advertised in the first week of June 2007 for contractors to carry out the program from 1 August until 31 October which, according to experts, is the peak time for feral pig activity.

This additional trapping will complement feral pig management control already undertaken by QPWS staff across the protected area estate. The program is designed to destroy pigs from the protected area estate, with a particular focus on locations bordering farming and grazing lands perceived to be heavily impacted by feral pigs. It will also help to provide further data about feral pig numbers, assist in controlling feral pigs in identified problem areas, and help the QPWS to plan its ongoing feral pig management control.

The QPWS is also allocating \$75,000 to the Far North Queensland Natural Resource Management Ltd to augment its existing feral pig control program. This additional funding will enhance the development of a coordinated and collaborative approach to feral pig management across a range of tenures throughout the general Wet Tropics region.

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The QPWS takes feral pig control very seriously and remains committed to working in partnership with the community. It has been, and continues to be, actively involved in community-based feral pig trapping programs throughout national parks and other protected areas in the Wet Tropics region. In addition, the QPWS is an active member of a number of local government weed and pest species management groups. It also works closely with other peak natural resource management agencies and organisations such as Biosecurity Queensland and the Far North Queensland Natural Resource Management Ltd on a range of pest species issues, including feral pig management.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Lawson of the QPWS on telephone (07) 4046 6653. Alternatively, you may wish to telephone your local QPWS office, as follows, particularly in relation to any specific localised feral pig concerns:

- Innisfail Office - Senior Ranger, Vaughan Smith – (07) 4061 5910
- Cardwell Office – Acting Senior Ranger, Justine Douglas – (07) 4066 8779
- Ingham Office – Senior Ranger, Ross Domin – (07) 4777 2822.

Yours sincerely

Lindy Nelson-Carr MP
Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism