

Community coordination key to fight against feral pests

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A free AgForce Projects workshop will highlight the importance of strategic coordination in the fight against costly feral pests in the Meandarra area on Friday 1 August.

AgForce Projects Vertebrate Pest Management Officer Damien Ferguson said the aim of the meeting will be to help landholders in the area develop a more planned approach to feral animal control and to establish the Meandarra Pest Action Group.

“Feral pests including wild dogs, pigs, foxes and rabbits place a heavy financial burden on communities, causing lost income through livestock casualties, crop damage and environmental degradation,” Mr Ferguson said.

“Results have proven the only way to effectively tackle this community issue is to have all landowners involved in a strategic, coordinated and district-wide approach to reducing pest numbers. The best way to ensure this is to establish a Pest Action Group.”

The workshop will discuss the successful adaptation of the ‘Paroo model for wild dog control’ for the Moonie area and how it can work in the Meandarra area to decrease the area’s feral pig and wild dog population.

Mr Ferguson said some landholders may not think they need to get involved with feral animal control because they believe they are not directly affected.

“In fact, feral pests have a negative impact on the whole community, including the economic viability of local businesses,” he said.

“Even if they aren’t having an obvious impact on your property right now, they may still be traveling through your property to get to your neighbour’s livestock or crops. Good neighbours are those that get involved to help control this community-wide problem.”

“With feral numbers increasing overall it is particularly important for communities to take steps together to curb this costly problem.”

Techniques and strategies for the control of feral pigs will also be discussed on the day, along with mapping feral pig and wild dog hot spots for upcoming control programs.

Registrations are essential, please contact: Bryant Murray on 4665 6262; David Thornely on 4669 2174; or Brian McGoldrick on 4669 2196.

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