



Using HOGGONE® to control feral pigs – Leschenault Biosecurity Group



The Leschenault Biosecurity Group (LBG) uses the HOGGONE® feral pig control system, as their primary tool supporting landholders within their operational area with feral pig management. This system involves a sodium nitrate bait, placed within carefully designed bait boxes to allow pigs to smell and easily access bait after limited pre-training. These boxes keep other animals and rain away from the bait placed in the boxes. After many successful trials using this system, the LBG adopted this system as a highly effective and humane system for feral pig management.

One of the group's recent successes with this system was in response to a land manager's request to the group for assistance to address pigs which have been a recurring problem at a farming property adjacent to a wine producer and Crown land. Pigs were regularly observed on and around the property, "tractoring" along fence lines, and digging up valuable pasture near Marri trees. This resulted in soil disturbance, direct and indirect introduction of weeds, erosion, and loss of productivity.

The landholder, using an LBG supplied trail camera, conducted free feeding using flaked barley (fermented with water and molasses) placed in one-metre long trails amongst the pig disturbed ground. It took some time for the animals to find the grain however once found, it was readily consumed, and they came back for more.

HOGGONE® bait system was then used as the control strategy. The bait box was filled with free feed

daily in early July 2022, with the placebo introduced five days later. The following evening, supported by camera footage of pigs consuming the placebo, the bait was introduced. All pigs were observed to have eaten the bait. The morning after bait introduction, carcasses of the six pigs observed consuming and licking the containers clean were all found within ~30m of the bait box. One sow was pregnant. None of the pigs showed any signs of struggle.

The landholder has continued to free feed feral pigs at the same site and has had multiple successes using HOGGONE®. One boar, which has avoided the active bait, is the focus of current management activities.

The group has found the HOGGONE® system to be a particularly good fit in navigating the property-specific circumstances within their operational area with a mix of rural and semi-rural properties, often abutting state forests and along waterways, which are often a challenging landscape for trapping or shooting, and with cross tenure management. The LBG provides support to landholders for their private trapping and control efforts with loan of surveillance cameras, as well as application and related fees assistance for those interested in using I080 baiting (where applicable according to WA restricted pesticide use regulations).

If you have any questions, please contact Kate Duzevich, Project Officer via email: info@lbginc.org.au or phone: 0488 021 344.



Trail camera images inform the LBG team and land manager of feral pig acceptance of "pre-feed" at HOGGONE Feral Pig Control installation site, as part of preparation for successful use of active bait in the bait boxes.



Extensive damage showing where feral pigs had been rooting around; the camera and bait box setup

