

MEDIA RELEASE

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WWW catches cane toads and feral pigs

From toaday (today) you can go online <www.feralscan.org.au> to map where cane toads are jumping right across Australia and in your local area so as to better target them in pest control activities. You can now for the first time do the same for feral pigs as well as a host of other invasive animals.

ToadScan and FeralPigScan are the latest addition to the FeralScan project by the Invasive Animals CRC and the NSW Department of Primary Industries that has received overwhelming community participation with more than 8,000 records of feral pests entered by 4,500 participants Australia-wide since it was launched in January this year.

“FeralScan is a landholder, community, industry, government and business collaboration showcasing citizen science at its best,” NSW DPI FeralScan officer Peter West said. “For the first time, FeralScan gives a national overview of the extent of invasive animals and damage they cause as well as mapping where control is being undertaken”.

FeralScan supports anyone with an invasive animal problem to access essential information and resources to help in control measures and record information about feral animals in their local area. The FeralScan project also includes RabbitScan, FoxScan, MynaScan, and CamelScan. FeralFishScan is part of future research plans to allow recreational fishers to start reporting carp in our rivers.

To further empower anyone with the technology to map where pest animals occur and to better target pest control activities, FeralScan plans to develop phone applications to deliver web-mapping technology directly into the hands of primary producers, pest controllers and communities Australia-wide. This future research remains contingent on the Invasive Animals CRC being successful in its research extension bid to 30 June 2017.

Partners in FeralScan include the Australian Government Caring For Our Country Initiative, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Invasive Animals CRC. Supporters include the Australian Feral Camel Management Project – supported by the Caring For Our Country Initiative, NSW Government Western Catchment Management Authority, Toshiba, Woolworths, Ninti One Limited, Landcare Australia and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

INTERVIEWS

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www.feralscan.org.au/toadscan

www.feralscan.org.au/feralpigscan

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