



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

MEDIA RELEASE

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FIRST NEW FERAL PIG BAIT PERMIT FOR WESTERN NSW

NSW Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson today announced that Local Land Services Western Region would establish demonstration sites to evaluate the use of 1080 meat baits on feral pigs.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority has issued a permit for the use of 1080 poison meat baits at selected properties in the western NSW rangelands from March 2015.

Ms Hodgkinson said this was the first and only permit of its kind in NSW, and aims to reduce the significant damage feral pigs are causing to primary producers and rangeland conservation areas.

“Feral pigs are responsible for the destruction of pasture, fences and water sources as well as stock losses, particularly through predation of newborn lambs,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Not only do they compete with stock for feed and water, they also carry a range of parasites and diseases that pose a threat to all livestock production.”

The permit is valid through to 30 June 2016 and will allow trained Local Land Services biosecurity staff to evaluate the benefits of 1080 meat baits for controlling feral pigs. The baits have already been used successfully for wild dog eradication.

“This is a significant step forward in the fight against the feral pigs, particularly in the north and north-west of NSW where the diet of the pigs has presented the need to consider alternate solutions to grain and pellet baits,” Ms Hodgkinson said

“This is a win for the landholders and demonstrates that the Western Local Board has listened and responded to their needs.

“We recognise the importance and implications of this permit and will be working collaboratively to ensure the permit is used to achieve the best results possible and that the impact on non-target species is minimised.

“The Department of Primary Industries and NSW Environment Protection Agency have played a strong collaborative role in securing the permit. Local Land Services will continue to work closely with these agencies, the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre and National Parks and Wildlife Service to monitor the demonstration sites,” Ms Hodgkinson said.