



The Hon
Warren Truss MP
Former Federal Minister for
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



[BACK](#) Home | Media Releases DAFF04/360WT - 16 December 2004

M E D I A R E L E A S E

› \$854,000 Australia Government funding to tackle feral animals

The war on feral animals received a boost today with the Australian Government providing \$854,471 from its Natural Heritage Trust for 18 projects across the nation, Agriculture Minister Warren Truss announced today.

"The 18 projects will be overseen by the National Feral Animal Control Program (NFACP), and are about finding better ways to control Australia's pest animals," Mr Truss said.

"Pests such as rabbits, foxes and feral pigs cost Australia over \$500 million a year in lost agriculture production.

"They also kill or compete with livestock and native animals, damage crops and degrade the environment, and could spread exotic diseases if they were to enter the country.

"One of the projects funded involves using genetic sampling to get a much better idea of feral pig movements around Cunnamulla in Queensland. If successful, it could dramatically improve the way we control isolated populations of this damaging pest.

"Another will look at the impact of feral camels in Australia's rangelands. The camels feed on 80 per cent of the available plant species and, in some areas, double in numbers every eight years. A NSW-based project will focus on a relative newcomer - feral deer - and their growing impact on agriculture and the natural environment.

"Yet another will examine risk assessment processes to help prevent new exotic species - such as the dwarf mongoose or red-billed *quelea* - a finch that devastates grain crops in Africa - from becoming established in Australia."

Mr Truss said the NFACP is administered by the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS), and aims to identify better ways of managing nationally significant pest animals, including rabbits, foxes, feral pigs and wild dogs.

"One of the program's priorities is to help develop more cost-effective and humane control techniques," he said. "The program also supports a range of extension activities to ensure the latest techniques and strategies are widely adopted.

"The NFACP demonstrates the Australian Government's commitment to finding practical solutions to the problems pest animals cause to our agriculture sector and the environment."

Full details of the funded projects are **attached**.

Further media inquiries:

Minister Truss' office:

Tim Langmead - 02 6277 7520 or 0418 221 433

<http://www.maff.gov.au/releases/04/04360wt.html>

