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Roper Gulf Regional Council Triumphs with Mitigating Community Health Risks

In an impressive feat, Roper Gulf Regional Council has successfully lead a ground breaking feral pig management and removal program in the communities of Numbulwar and Ngukurr last month.

This initiative underscores the solid commitment to the health and well-being of all residents, particularly in addressing the significant health risks associated with feral pigs, including the threat of Japanese encephalitis.

Moreover, it highlights our dedication to the preservation of our precious local flora and fauna and overall community well-being.

Japanese encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease, poses a severe threat to our region's population as feral pigs serve as a reservoir for this virus, putting our residents at risk.

For the past several years, both communities had the unique issue with wandering feral pigs brought into the community and causing much nuisance, and ultimately a significant health risk with their proximity to human habitation.

Recognising the urgency of the situation, the Roper Gulf Regional Council collaborated closely with various organizations, including Wild Science, local ranger programmes, police, and most importantly, the resilient community residents.

Marc Gardner, CEO, Roper Gulf Regional Council voiced “We were experiencing feral pigs living in our communities, raiding rubbish bins, spreading garbage, creating havoc and sanitation issues, and ultimately being a vector for Japanese Encephalitis, the risks to our residents were too high.”

“Our commitment to the health and safety of our residents has propelled us to implement this comprehensive pig management scheme to reduce all pigs.”

“It is not merely a one-off program; it stands as a testament to our unwavering dedication to shielding our region from the haunting reality of Japanese encephalitis. We are thrilled to report that this initiative has proven to be a resounding success, symbolizing our collective resilience and determination to safeguard the well-being of our people and protect our environment for generations to come.” Mr Gardner said

This collaborative effort showcased the power of community engagement by working hand in hand with our dedicated residents, the implemented safe, humane and effective feral pig management techniques that have already yielded significant results.

Furthermore, Roper Gulf Regional Council’s commitment to the environment is unwavering.

The program was executed with utmost consideration for the local ecosystem, ensuring that all unique flora and fauna remain unharmed.

This initiative aligns with the broader goal of maintaining a balanced and sustainable environment for current and future generations.

Roper Gulf Regional Council extends its heartfelt gratitude to all those who participated and supported this crucial initiative.

Together, we have taken a significant stride toward safeguarding the health and well-being of all residents and preserving the natural beauty that makes our region exceptional.

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Attachment 1:



Pigs entering the trap that been set up in Ngukurr

Attachment 2:



Children looking at the pigs in the trap in Ngukurr

Attachment 3 & 4:



Pigs roaming the streets of Numbulwar