

SHAPING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

For the past seven years Western Downs Regional Council has been actively working to improve pest management practices at local, state and national levels by influencing community and Council behaviour and practice. Its work has sought to forge change in the delivery of pest management and monitoring through partnerships, strategic planning, coordinated programmes and an established Vertebrate Pest Monitoring Programme.

Council has always had the belief that three 'C's of collaboration, coordination and commitment when combined with the use of monitoring and technology serve to shape stronger, productive and more resilient communities.

Critical to the success of this programme has been the use of Artificial Intelligence technology which allows land managers to rapidly identify pest activity, illustrate long-term trends, predict potential future pest activity and assess effectiveness of control activities.

Since 2014, Council has delivered \$1.5 million of coordinated pest management activity across 2,000,000 hectares, collaborating with 1,500 landholders and industry and government bodies. These efforts have included the erection of 130 kilometres of exclusion fencing and destruction of over 30,000 feral pigs, 10,000 wild dogs and 1,500 hectares of priority weeds.

They have empowered landholders with knowledge and experience to prevent or reduce pest impacts and shift decision making from a reactive to proactive approaches.

Western Downs Regional Council is proud to nominate this initiative as an exemplar of community shaping in the Local Government Awards for Excellence.



2021

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