

## Horse Owners

HORSES TAKE A LOT OF CARE TO LOOK AFTER RESPONSIBLY, YOU NEED TO:  
DESEX IT  
REGISTER IT  
FENCE IT  
FEED IT  
WATER IT  
EXERCISE IT



⚠ Do not take horses to islands without first checking quarantine issues. Be aware that it would be good to prevent other islands from having a feral horse problem.

⚠ BE AWARE OF QUARANTINE ZONES ⚠

## Be Aware When Driving

Horses may run unexpectedly onto the road. Be careful when driving around corners or at night.



TSRA Rangers and TSIRC Environmental Health Workers (EHW) need to work together with you and your community to monitor and manage the issues around horses...

Please contact your local EHW to discuss any concerns you have around:



1. Waterways and water sources.
2. Roads and safety.
3. Fencing and horse ownership.
4. Monitoring and managing the growth of feral horse populations.



Report any sightings of feral horses on uninhabited islands to TSRA rangers.

## Further Information

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
TSRA rangers  
TSIRC EHW

Illustrated by Rebecca Stevens

# TORRES STRAIT INVASIVE SPECIES FERAL HORSES



## General Information



Feral horses :

- Are found on Moa, Badu and POW.
- Breed VERY fast. Moa started with 8 horses in the 1980's, and now has an estimated 200 or more horses.
- Damage cultural rock art sites by rubbing against them.
- Impact waterways, grasslands, water quality and fish habitats.
- Spread weeds and cause damage to plants. may carry diseases that can be passed on to humans.
- Can run unexpectedly onto roads, causing serious car accidents.



# HORSES HARD HOOVES DAMAGE SOILS, PLANTS AND WATERWAYS!

## COMPACTION

Heavy horses trample the soft soil, making it hard. Native plants can't grow there anymore.



## WATER QUALITY

When horses drink they make the water muddy and fish don't like it.



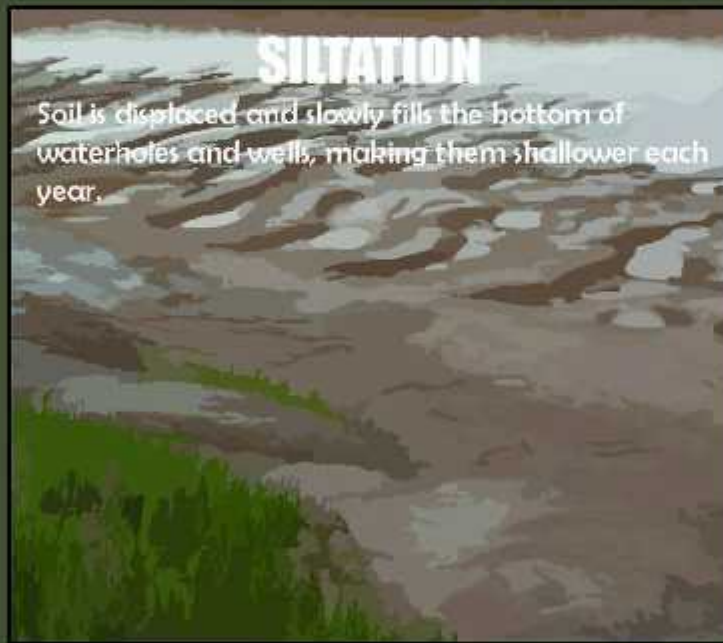
## EROSION

Trampling and eating plants near waterways means that there are no roots to hold soil in place. This causes erosion of river banks.



## SILTATION

Soil is displaced and slowly fills the bottom of waterholes and wells, making them shallower each year.



## WEEDS

Weeds get spread easily as they get stuck in horses' coats, manes and hooves.



## GRASSLANDS

Trampling and eating native grasses that are endangered.



## HOW COULD HORSES DAMAGE THE REEF?

Run off from soil into rivers flows into the sea and onto the reef. This smothers the coral and clams and causes a lack of fish in the damaged area.



HORSE POPULATIONS CAN DOUBLE EVERY 4-5 YEARS.

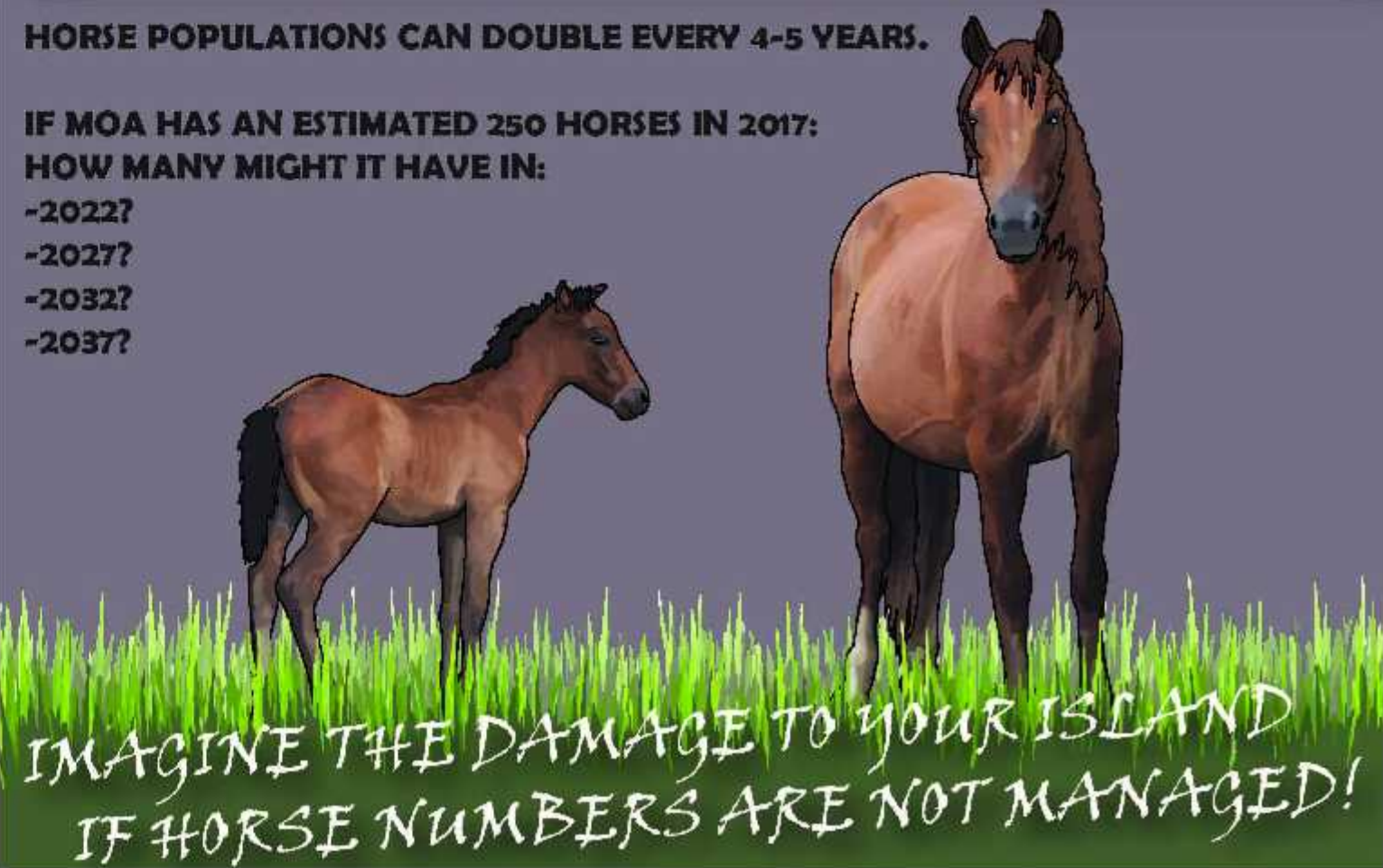
IF MOA HAS AN ESTIMATED 250 HORSES IN 2017:  
HOW MANY MIGHT IT HAVE IN:

-2022?

-2027?

-2032?

-2037?

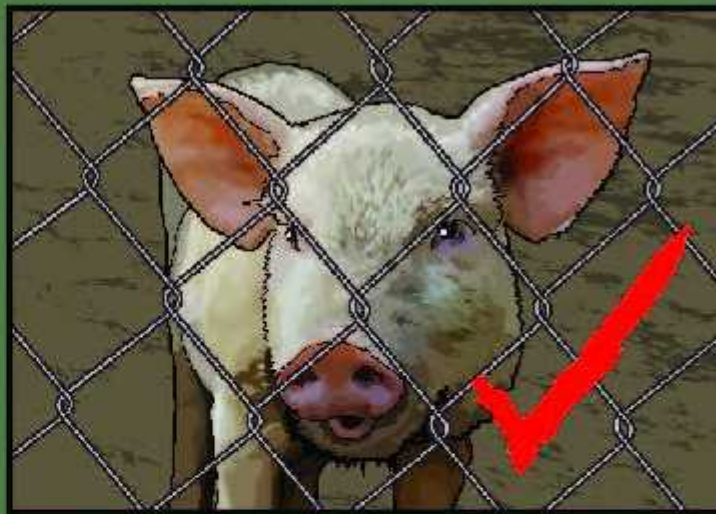


IMAGINE THE DAMAGE TO YOUR ISLAND  
IF HORSE NUMBERS ARE NOT MANAGED!



## WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. STOP THE SPREAD!  
WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU DO NOT TAKE LIVE PIGS TO ISLANDS WHERE THERE ARE NO PIGS.



2. PLEASE MANAGE YOUR OWN DOMESTIC PIGS RESPONSIBLY.

If you own pigs it is really important to keep them inside a strong fenced yard. All pigs do damage to the environment, and if they escape, they will breed and become feral. Call your Environmental Health worker for advice.

REPORT SIGHTINGS OF FERAL PIGS OR SIGNS OF FERAL PIGS (ROOTED UP GROUND) ON UNINHABITED ISLANDS TO TSRA RANGERS.



TSRA Rangers and Council Environmental Health Workers will monitor the number of pigs and when necessary organise trapping programs to keep the numbers down.



## Further Information

Further information—TSRA rangers  
Environmental Health Workers....

Illustrated by Rebecca Stevens

## TORRES STRAIT INVASIVE SPECIES

# FERAL PIGS



## Pigs Are Good Kai Kai, But Did You Know?



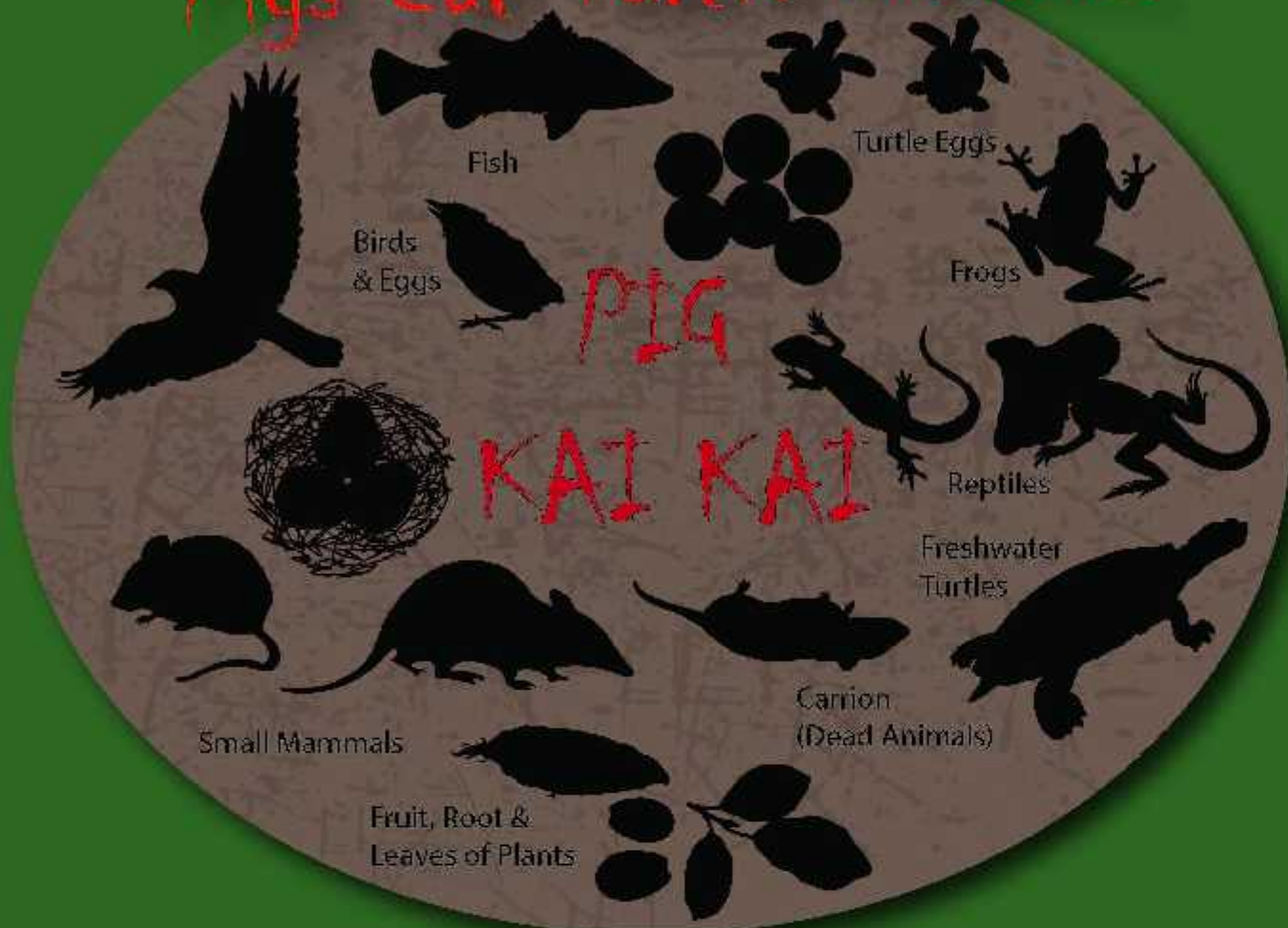
Feral pigs:

- Are found on Moa, Badu, Gebar, POW, Hammond (Horn?)
- Do a lot of damage to native soils, plants and waterways. This includes erosion and the spread of weeds.
- Prey on native animals such as freshwater turtles, fresh and saltwater turtle eggs, lizards and frogs.
- Are dangerous to humans and dogs if they feel threatened.
- Carry diseases such as tuberculosis and Japanese encephalitis that can be passed on to humans.
- Damage fences and water sources.
- Can damage peoples vegetable gardens.
- Impact on the ability of mangroves to grow.



**Pigs are OMNIVORES - They eat plants and meat.**

**Pigs Eat Turtle Nests...**

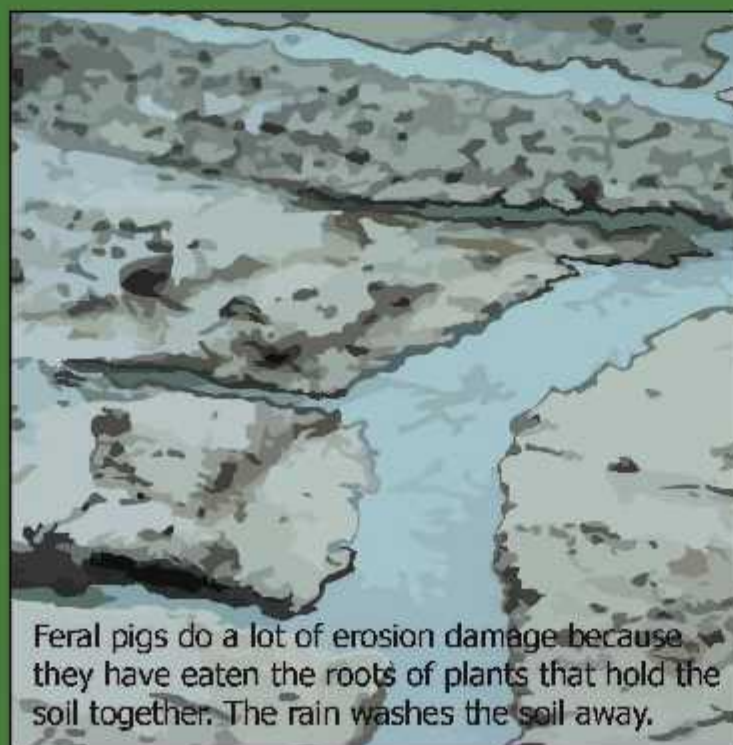


## Pigs Damage Wetlands

Pigs do not have sweat glands like humans so they need to keep cool by being in mud or near water. If they do not drink every day, they die. This means that they do a lot of damage to wetlands.



Freshwater turtles and fish are losing their homes (Habitat) as they cannot live in the dirty water left by pigs.



Feral pigs do a lot of erosion damage because they have eaten the roots of plants that hold the soil together. The rain washes the soil away.

## Rainforests Cannot Regenerate

Feral pigs change the nature of forests and rainforests. Normally young palms grow up to replace older palms. Pigs eat the hearts out of the young palms, so they are not growing anymore. This means that when the old trees die, there will be no more palms to replace them and the whole forest is changed. Animals and plants that rely on the palms will struggle to survive.



## HOW MANY PIGS?

A female pig (sow) can breed 2 litters a year— Around 6 piglets in each litter. Pigs can reproduce fast!



**Discussion question:** Imagine if your island has 100 pigs on it. Around half of these will be female. If your family hunt and kill 6 pigs a year, will this be enough to reduce the number of pigs on your island? Why, or why not?

**Answer:** It wouldn't be enough, because other pigs that don't get shot will easily have more piglets. The only ways to reduce numbers would be: -To kill all the males, or all the females or sterilise them (stop them having babies). -Kill as many pigs each year as the number of babies being born.



## Where to Find :

Deer carry diseases that can put domestic stock in Australia at risk. Some diseases that deer can carry are leptospirosis, rabies, foot and mouth disease and blue-tongue. One disease that is a big worry is Surra disease. This causes animals to waste away and die.



## What to Do:

**Report sick deer to Environmental Health Worker or TSRA rangers!**



### Consider Quarantine Zones!

If you want to take deer meat, antlers or hide to other islands outside of your zone- you must get a permit from the quarantine officer first!

**BE AWARE OF QUARANTINE ZONES**

TSRA Rangers and TSIRC Environmental Health Workers need to work together with you and your community to monitor and manage the issues around deer.

Please contact to discuss any concerns you have around:

- Waterways and water sources.
- Monitoring the number of deer.
- Deer with signs of disease.

## Further Information

TSRA rangers  
TSIRC EHW

Illustrated by Rebecca Stevens

# TORRES STRAIT INVASIVE SPECIES FERAL RUSA DEER



## Deer Are Great Kai Kai... But Did You Know?



- Rusa Deer are found on POW, Saibai and Boigu
- Deer can damage cultural sites such as traditional gardens.
- Deer impact forests, wetlands and waterways.
- Deer spread weeds and cause damage to plants.
- Deer may carry diseases that can be passed on to other animals and humans.
- Deer swim from Papua New Guinea to the Torres Strait.



# DEER CAUSE MAJOR DAMAGE TO BIODIVERSITY!

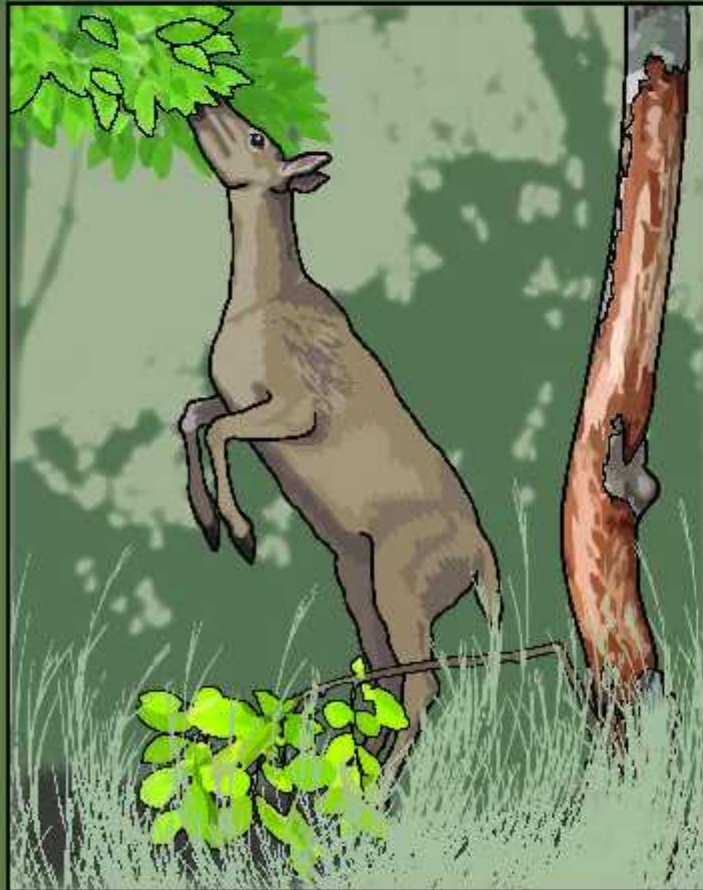
## GRAZING

Deer eat a lot of grass. Your native grasses are special. Too many deer can put your special native grasses in danger of extinction. Deer also like to eat your vegetable garden.



## BROWSING & TRAMPLING

Deer don't just eat grass. They like to 'taste' everything. They chew bark off trees, sometimes eating the bark all around, (ringbarking) - which kills the tree. They eat shrubs, ferns and whatever they can reach—even if they have to stand on their hind legs to reach it. They trample on plants and make the soil hard (compact).



## RUTTING

During mating season a buck will 'plough' plants and gather a lot of greenery on his antlers. He will scrape his antlers on trees and scrape his hooves on the ground to mark his territory. This causes a lot of damage.



## DEER SPREAD WEEDS

Seeds of weeds get stuck in the deer's fur. This spreads the seed to other areas. Weeds are a problem because they often grow over, shade and kill native plants.

## DEER DAMAGE WATERWAYS & WELLS

Deer's hard hooves break up the banks wells and waterways. Slowly the dirt fills up waterholes.



A female deer is called a 'hind' and males are called "stags" or "bucks".  
A female deer can produce up to 3 calves in 2 years.  
Deer form herds and the stags compete with each other to mate with the females.  
Deer numbers can build up quickly if not enough are killed by hunters.



Local TSRA rangers are planning to do surveys to find out how many deer are in the Torres Strait, and working together with communities to monitor numbers so that there are not too many deer and the environmental damage is limited.