



Request for Proposal (RFP) – The value of feral animals to First Nation’s communities in northern Australia

Office of the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer – Northern Australia

1. Background

The global biosecurity threat landscape continues to evolve. This is being driven by factors such as climate change, shifting trade and travel patterns and changes to disease distribution overseas. The Australian Government works to mitigate the risk of biosecurity threats.

Northern Australia is viewed as vulnerable to biosecurity threats due to its vast geography (with over 10,000 kms of coastline, inlets, and islands), hosting abundant, diverse wild and domestic ecology and low human populations.

To assess the risks in northern Australia, the OCVO commissioned the Northern Vulnerabilities Report which was delivered in 2023. The report identified that there is a shortage of information on the value of feral animals to First Nation’s communities in northern Australia. These animals frequently traverse and live on lands owned by Indigenous landholders and producers and are believed to play a role in these communities. If an emergency animal disease was to enter Australia, it may become established or involve feral animals which may have implications for First Nation’s communities.

This project will clearly identify the value of key feral animals to communities to assist in guiding decision-makers in the event of an emergency animal disease response in northern Australia. The animals selected for inclusion in this project are based on those likely to be affected by foot and mouth disease (FMD), lumpy skin disease (LSD) or African swine fever (ASF).

2. Objectives

This project seeks to answer – ‘Do First Nations communities across northern Australia value feral animals? If yes, what value do feral animals represent to these communities?’

We are seeking a Supplier to answer this question by conducting:

- Scope out forms of non-economic value (e.g. food security, companionship etc) regarding First Nations communities and feral animals and identify how this could be assessed or defined for this project.
- Scope out which First Nations stakeholders are suitable for engagement in this project – seeking logistical feasibility and affordability while capturing community diversity.
- A review current research and information that relates to the value of feral animals to First Nation’s communities in northern Australia.
- Engage with a selection of key First Nation’s stakeholders in northern Australia to ascertain if the findings from the literature review are consistent with sentiment in communities.



- Provide a report summarising the value of feral animals to First Nation's communities in northern Australia.

NOTE: These outputs from this project may be used by decision-makers during emergency animal disease response planning or response activities. Additional projects may stem from this project in the future.

3. Scope:

In scope:

- Feral animals – specifically those susceptible to diseases such as FMD, LSD and ASF – that is cattle, buffalo, camels, goats, deer and pigs
 - Feral animals are defined by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) as ‘an animal of a domesticated species that lives without requiring human supervision or control.’
- Location – north of the Tropic of Capricorn
- Stakeholders for consultation – First Nations representatives (Indigenous Ranger groups)
 - Must have representation from across northern Australia (Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland)

Out of scope:

- Australian native wildlife
- Domesticated animals – including livestock
- Stakeholders - First Nations stakeholders not located within 50km of the northern Australia coastline
- Feral animal species other than those above that are susceptible to diseases such as FMD, LSD and ASF
- Economic value of feral animals

4. Internal actions to support project:

The consultant will work closely with the OCVO-NA team. The OCVO-NA team will provide the following resources to assist the consultant in delivering the project:

- Reference material – the Northern Vulnerabilities Report (2023)

5. Consultant's brief:

- Provide a project approach/delivery document which meets the project objectives
- Conduct a literature review of research into the value of feral animals to First Nation's communities in northern Australia. This will form the bulk of the work for this project.
- Consult with First Nation's stakeholders about the project to confirm findings of the literature review.
- Provide a written report summarising findings. The report should clearly identify the value of feral animals to First Nation's communities across northern Australia.

6. Stakeholder management and Consultations



All stakeholder consultation must be conducted with consideration of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of engagement at Consult and Involve levels.

Consultation may take the form of:

- an email followed by phone conversation, or
- a phone call

All consultation must be performed in a culturally sensitive manner.

7. Request for Proposal and Project Timeline

If you elect to submit a proposal, please submit by **COB Tuesday 3 December 2024**.

Candidates will be notified of the outcome of the proposal evaluation by **COB Friday 6 December 2024**.

Project Timeline:

- Project plan and stakeholder engagement plan to be submitted to Project Manager by COB Friday 24 January 2025.
- Draft report to be submitted to Project Manager by COB Friday 2 May 2025.
- Final report to be submitted to Project Manager by COB Friday 30 May 2025.

NOTE: These dates are tentative and can be discussed.

8. Budget

The proposed payment terms are:

- 70% on acceptance of the project plan by the Project Manager
- 30% on acceptance of the final survey report by the Project Manager

9. Information required in proposal

Proposals are to be prepared considering the project description and scope outlined above and presented in a format consistent with the following outline:

An outline of the consultant's ability and approach to deliver the project including:

- A summary of the likely issues involved in the project
- Proposed project management methodology
- The proposed approach to stakeholder engagement
- An indication of how you will meet the timeframes for delivery, including staging of work.

An outline of the proposed project team including:

- Detail on key personnel to be involved, and their time commitment / expected number of hours on the engagement
- Nomination of a primary senior contact within your organisation and any required subcontractors
- Brief resume for key personnel.

Please provide examples of 2 similar reports developed by you.

Provide a list of up to 3 referees relevant to the type of services being sought.

10. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

To ensure consideration for this RFP, your proposal should be complete and include all the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated understanding of the nature and complexity of First Nations communities and remote local government authorities across northern Australia.
2. A baseline understanding of the Australian animal health system and response processes.
3. An appreciation of the core principles that underpin the value of feral animals to First Nation's communities.
4. Preparation of an acceptable methodology and work plan to deliver the project.
5. Ability and/or history of working with key stakeholders.
6. Appreciation of the Australian Government's objectives and principles and applicability to the project.
7. The proposed fee for service.

11. General conditions of service agreement:

The consultant must:

- exercise due care and skills in carrying out the project
- start and complete the project according to the dates outlined in the RFP
- assign the project intellectual property to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) in perpetuity
- not vary the contract unless agreed in writing by the department
- notify the department immediately if for any reason the project will be delayed.

12. Submission of proposals

All proposals must be submitted by email to [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@aff.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au) and CC ocvo.national@aff.gov.au by **COB Tuesday 3 December 2024**.

13. Further information

Further RFP information can be obtained from:

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au)

Senior Veterinary Officer | Office of the Chief Veterinary Office

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@aff.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au)

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Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



1. OWNERSHIP			
Project Name and Tier	The value of feral and wild animals to First Nations communities in northern Australia		
Project Manager	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Stream	Northern Australia, DS&E

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Project/Initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Existing Project/Initiative
2. OVERVIEW/BUSINESS BACKGROUND
<p>The Northern Vulnerabilities Report (2023) identified that further research was required to determine the value (social, cultural and/or spiritual) that feral and wild animals have in First Nations communities in northern Australia.</p> <p>Feral and wild animals frequently traverse and live on lands owned by Indigenous landholders and producers. To date, there is minimal information on the value of these animals and the role that they play in First Nations communities. It is possible that an emergency animal disease (EAD) may enter Australia and become established or involve feral or wild animals. This may have significant implications for First Nations communities in northern Australia.</p> <p>To allow adequate preparedness at local, state/territory and federal levels, it is important to address this gap. The intent of this project is to deliver a report that clearly outlines the value of feral and wild animals to First Nations communities, allowing decision-makers to consider this in their disease preparedness and response operations.</p> <p>Feral and wild animals within the scope of this project are cattle, buffalo, goats, camels, deer and pigs. These animals would be affected if three key EAD threats were to occur in Australia. These EADs are foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and African swine fever.</p>

3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES
<p>The objective of this project is to produce a report describing the value of feral and wild animals to First Nations communities in northern Australia to inform emergency animal disease preparedness preparedness and response decisions. This links directly to the departmental purpose which is to work together to safeguard agriculture, fisheries and forestry for all Australians. It also links to the departments commitment to empowering First Nations economic self-determination across Australia’s agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries and the objective to strengthen our national biosecurity system.</p>

SCOPE/OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
<p>The following output will be developed by this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report clearly outlining the value of feral and wild animals to First Nations communities in northern Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong engagement with First Nations stakeholders in northern Australia - A clear understanding of the value of feral and wild animals to First Nations communities in the north to inform EAD preparedness and response decision-making

4. OUT OF SCOPE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic value - Domestic livestock involved in production in northern Australia - Feral or wild dogs, cats, horses or bird species - First Nations stakeholders located south of the Tropic of Capricorn

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES		
Role	Name	Responsibilities
Senior Responsible Officer	Beth Cookson	Provide strategic guidance and support

Project Plan

The value of wild and feral animals to First Nations communities in northern Australia

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES		
Role	Name	Responsibilities
	Australian Chief Veterinary Officer (SES2)	
Project Director	s 22(1)(a)(ii) Director (EL2/VO4)	Provide strategic guidance and support
Project manager	s 22(1)(a)(ii) Senior Veterinary Officer (EL1/VO3)	Oversee execution of project and governance, and ensure milestones are met.
Project Officer	s 22(1)(a)(ii) Policy Officer (APS6)	Provide key input and support the delivery of the project
Consultant	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct literature review to gauge a baseline of information on the value of feral and wild animals to First Nations communities - Engage stakeholders - Draft report – seek stakeholder feedback as appropriate before forwarding to project manager for DAFF review and comment - Final report – seek stakeholder feedback as appropriate before forwarding to project manager for DAFF review/comment and SRO approval

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Project Plan

The value of wild and feral animals to First Nations communities in northern Australia

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

8. SCHEDULE - INDICATIVE TIMEFRAMES					
<input type="checkbox"/> 0-3 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-6 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-9 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-12 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-18 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 18+months
Comments					
The aim is for this project to be delivered within a six-month timeframe.					
Milestone			Targeted date		
Milestone 1 (project plan agreed between consultants and project manager)			January 2025		
Milestone 2 (consultants to deliver draft report to project manager for review and comment)			April 2025		
Milestone 3 (consultants to deliver final report to project manager for approval)			Late May/Early June 2025		
9. ESTIMATED COSTS (SUMMARY OF COSTING TEMPLATE)					
Summary of estimated costs					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultant (First Nations) to deliver a report describing the value of feral and wild animals to First Nations communities in northern Australia - \$40,000 (GST inclusive) - Project manager (OCVO-NA team) - BAU 					
Summary of Required Skills/Resources					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project manager – duration of project – provided by OCVO – NA team - Project officer – duration of the project - Consultant (First Nations) – duration of project 					
Confidence rating		<input type="checkbox"/> Red – hard to say	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amber – a rough estimate	<input type="checkbox"/> Green – confident	
10. MONITORING AND CONTROL					
Reporting Type	Audience	Responsibility		Frequency	
Verbal update	Project Director	Project Manager		Fortnightly	
Verbal update	Senior Responsible Officer	Project Manager		Monthly	

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13. CONSTRAINTS

The budget for this project is \$40,000 (GST inclusive).

The project must be completed within 6 months of commencement.

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16. DEPENDENCIES

First Nations peoples situated in northern Australia
Decision-makers during an EAD response

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