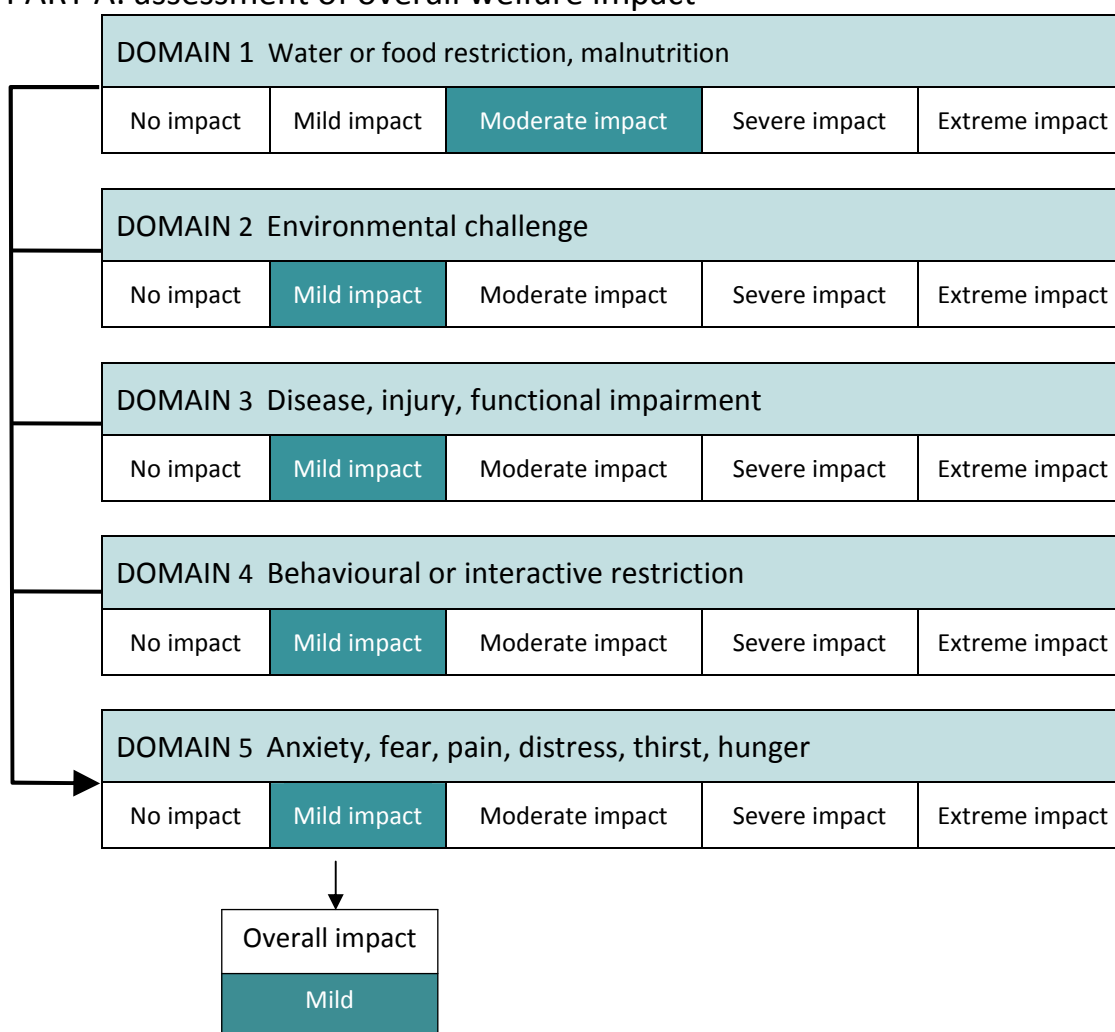


## Control method: Trapping of feral pigs

Assumptions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best practice is followed in accordance with the standard operating procedure PIG001.</li> <li>▪ In hotter areas, setting the trap in the evening and checking early in the morning will prevent some of the suffering associated with thirst and heat-stress.</li> <li>▪ With shooting of pigs in traps, it was assumed that best practice is followed and that the shooter is competent and will make accurate decisions about whether the shot can be successfully placed.</li> <li>▪ Traps are open at top, therefore shooting from the <i>top</i> of the trap is recommended as opposed to shooting <i>through</i> the trap.</li> <li>▪ Duration in trap is usually less than 12 hours as traps are set overnight, maximum time held is 24 hours.</li> </ul>
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### PART A: assessment of overall welfare impact



DURATION OF IMPACT				
Immediate to seconds	Minutes	Hours	Days	Weeks

<b>SCORE FOR PART A:</b>	<b>4</b>
Summary of evidence:	
Domain 1	Some food is supplied in the trap as bait; however water deprivation is a problem. Although the traps are checked daily pigs will experience some thirst. This will be a moderate impact especially if it is a hot, sunny day and the trap is not fully in the shade.
Domain 2	Pigs are very susceptible to hot conditions and the rate of sweating is very low, so there is inadequate thermoregulatory compensation by respiratory evaporative loss <sup>1</sup> . If the trap is set during the day in a hot area without shade pigs would suffer from heat stress. This could happen on occasion especially in areas where shade is limited and shade cloth or hessian doesn't provide enough protection; therefore in a small proportion of cases the impact in this domain would be moderate. Young pigs are also sensitive to cold conditions.
Domain 3	Mesh size will affect level of injury (the minimum mesh size is specified in the SOP). Most injuries would be mild i.e. minor skin lacerations. Young piglets could get trampled underfoot especially when the adult animals are stressed (e.g. in the presence of humans).
Domain 4	There will be some restraint stress and some aspects of behaviour will be restricted but pigs quickly recover from this if released. Re-trapping rate is high which indicates no long-term effects (one observation was noted of a sow being caught 39 times!). There will be additional stress if a sow is caught and piglets are left outside the trap. Dependent young that do not accompany their mother into the trap could die of starvation if not found and euthanased when the trap is checked.
Domain 5	Observations of trapped pigs indicate that pigs tend to settle down quickly when trapped. However, it is likely that they experience some fear and distress for a short time when they are approached by people checking the traps.

### PART B: assessment of mode of death – shooting (head shot)

Time to insensibility (minus any lag time)				
Very rapid	Minutes	Hours	Days	Weeks
Level of suffering (after application of the method that causes death but before insensibility)				
No suffering	Mild suffering	Moderate suffering	Severe suffering	Extreme suffering

<b>SCORE FOR PART B:</b>	<b>A</b>
Summary of evidence:	
Duration –	With head shots, a properly placed shot will result in immediate insensibility <sup>2,3,4</sup>

Suffering –

The approach of a human to trapped pig is likely to cause some distress. A well-placed head shot which causes immediate insensibility should not cause any additional suffering.

If any very small piglets (under around 5kg) are caught in trap they are caught and humanely killed with blunt trauma to the head. Larger piglets should be shot (with shotgun) once they have settled down. There may be mild to severe suffering in the case of piglets caught in trap due to: fear and distress prior to euthanasia, the potential for non-head shots when shooting is used; and handling required when blunt trauma to the head is used as a method of euthanasia.

## Summary

CONTROL METHOD:	Trapping of feral pigs
OVERALL HUMANENESS SCORE:	4A
Comments	

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