

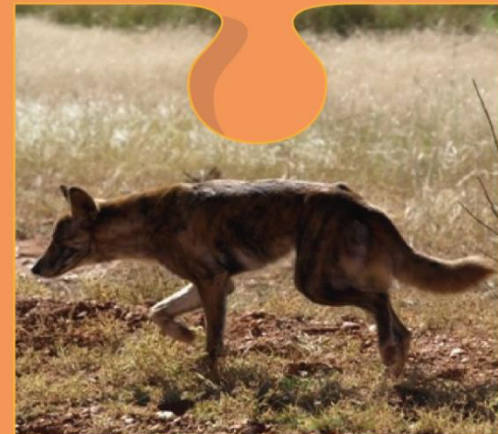


Natural
Resources
Commission

SHARED PROBLEM, SHARED SOLUTIONS

Review of pest animal management in NSW

Public Meetings
27 April to 17 May 2016



Schedule for today

- Welcome and introductions
- Draft findings and recommendations
- Question and answer
- Informal discussion /light lunch
- Close

The Commission is seeking your feedback to improve the draft recommendations.

Outline of today's presentation

- Terms of reference
- Review process
- Pest animal impacts
- The shared problem
- Shared solutions
- Providing adequate resources
- Expanding research efforts

Terms of Reference

Request the Commission to investigate and identify:

- opportunities to better manage pest animals across tenures
- ways to promote community involvement
- any policy barriers
- priority issues and emerging risks
- quality of evidence
- examples of current good practice
- priority research needs



Review Process

Collaborative issues workshop

• September 2015



Issues paper

• Released October 2015



Consultation

• October – November 2015



Draft report

• Released 31 March 2016



Consultation

• April 2016 – May 2016



Final report

• July 2016

Submissions close 25 May 2016



Economic impacts of pest animals

**Costs
NSW
\$170
million
every year**



**Farmers in
NSW spend
\$22 million
every year**



**Some
landholders
spend up to
\$7,200
every year on
managing wild
dogs**



Environmental impacts of pest animals

40% of threatened species in NSW are affected



**AT LEAST 81 INTRODUCED VERTEBRATE PESTS SPECIES
HAVE ESTABLISHED POPULATIONS IN AUSTRALIA**



304

threatened species impacted
by EUROPEAN RABBITS



149

threatened species impacted
by FERAL PIGS



142

threatened species impacted
by FERAL CATS



79

threatened species impacted
by WILD DOGS



76

threatened species impacted
by FOXES

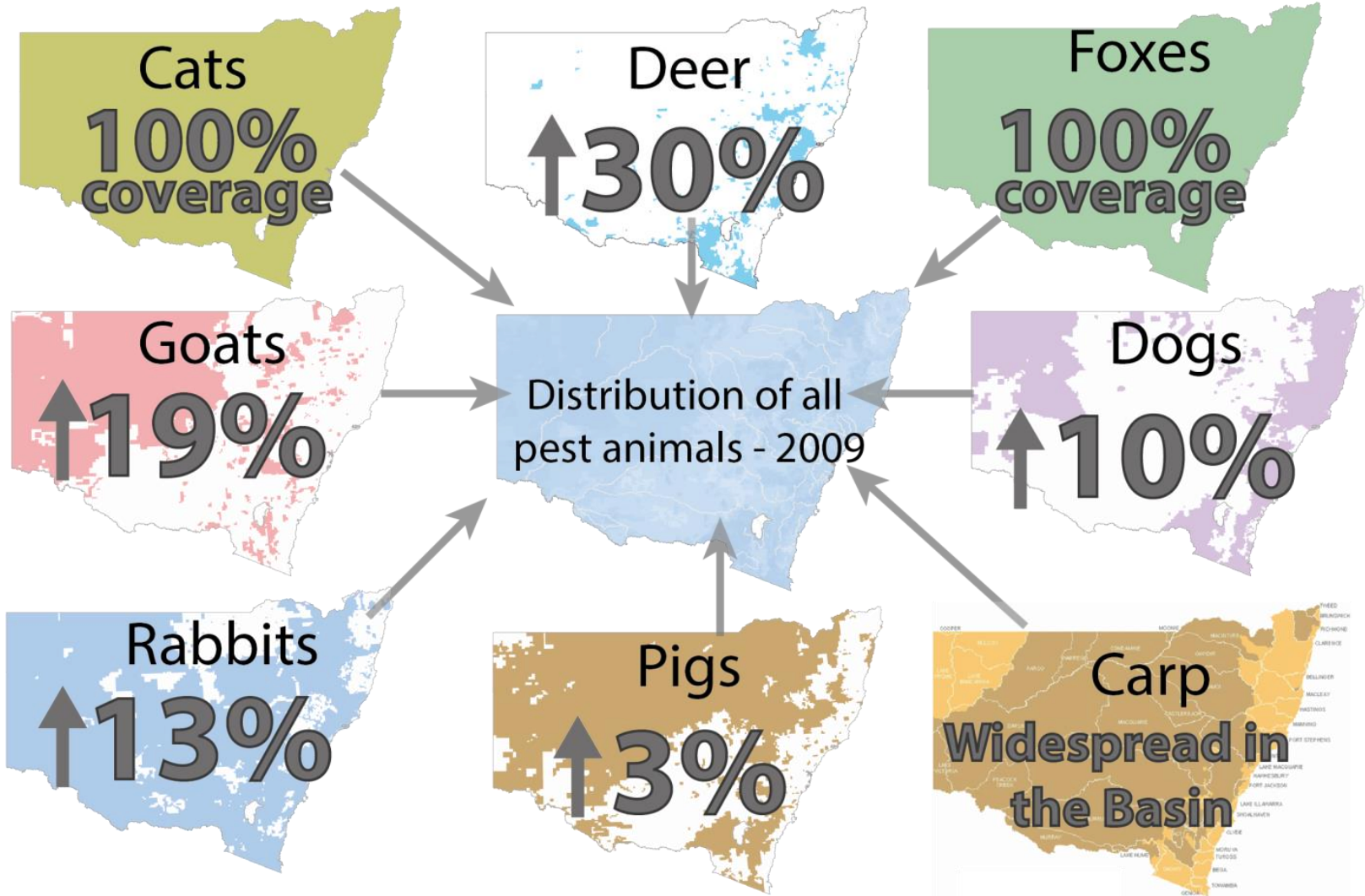


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threatened fish species impacted
by EUROPEAN CARP



Pest animals are on the increase



The shared problem of pest animal management

- No one is immune
- The impacts are projected to increase
- Prevention is best
- Effective pest animal control requires collective action
- Maintaining collective action programs is difficult



Sharing the solutions

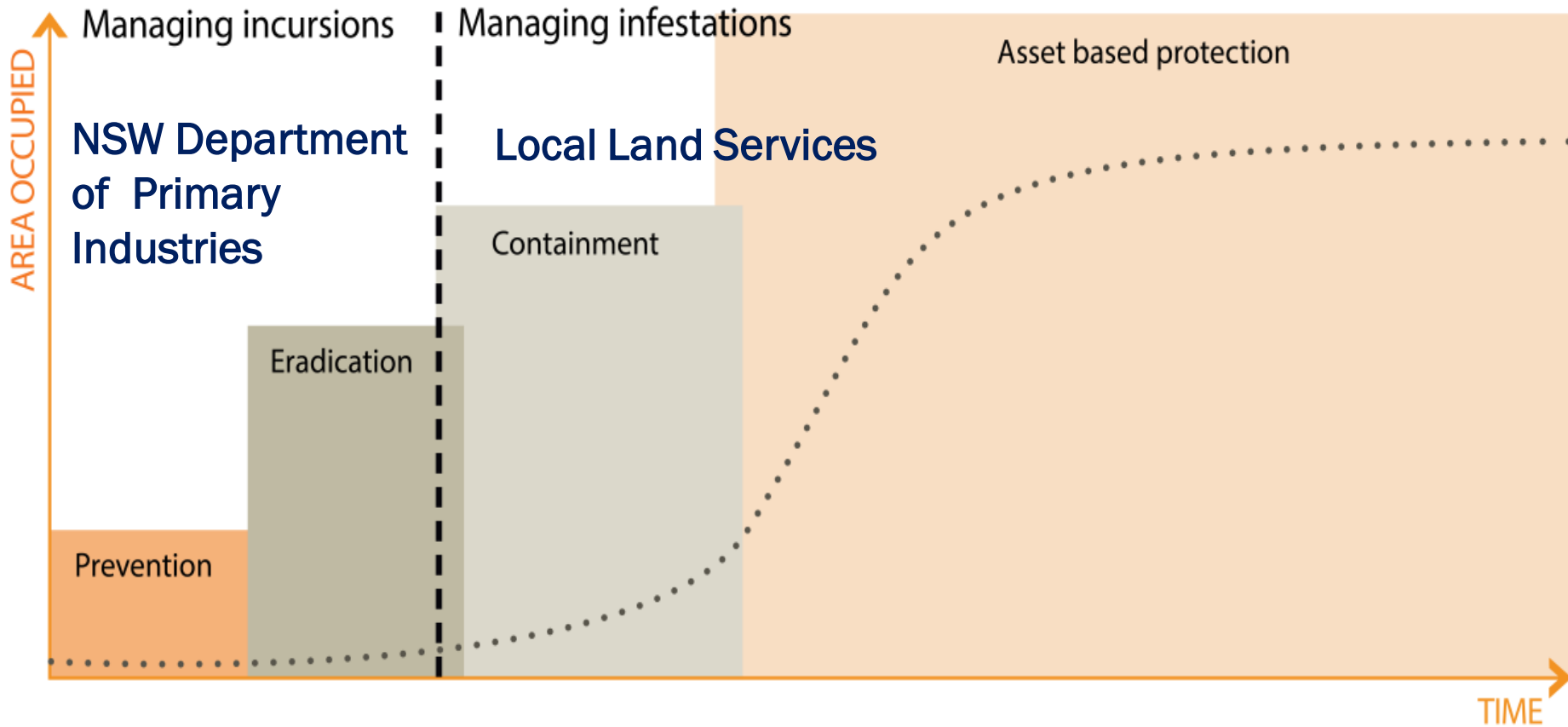
- Establish clear roles and responsibilities
- Address new and emerging risks
- Support local communities and local on-ground action
- Improve management approaches for feral deer and cats



Image: NSW Natural Resources Commission



Creating clear roles and responsibilities



Address new and emerging risks

- The risks of new pest animal incursions is increasing
- Control of high risk species and pathways
- Early detection, improving surveillance
- A rapid and effective response



Image: Samantha Courtney, courtesy Invasive Animals CRC

Managing established pests

- Regional Local Land Services pest management coordinators
 - Facilitate local collective action among landholders
 - Build community capacity and awareness
- Strengthened governance and planning
- Cross-tenure, shared responsibility and accountability

Managing established pests

- Encouraging participation in co-ordinated programs
 - Critical to effective pest animal control
 - The General Biosecurity Duty
 - Enforceable regional plans



Image: Brian Boyle, courtesy Invasive Animals CRC

Managing emerging pests and issues

- Feral deer
- Recreational hunting
- Feral cats

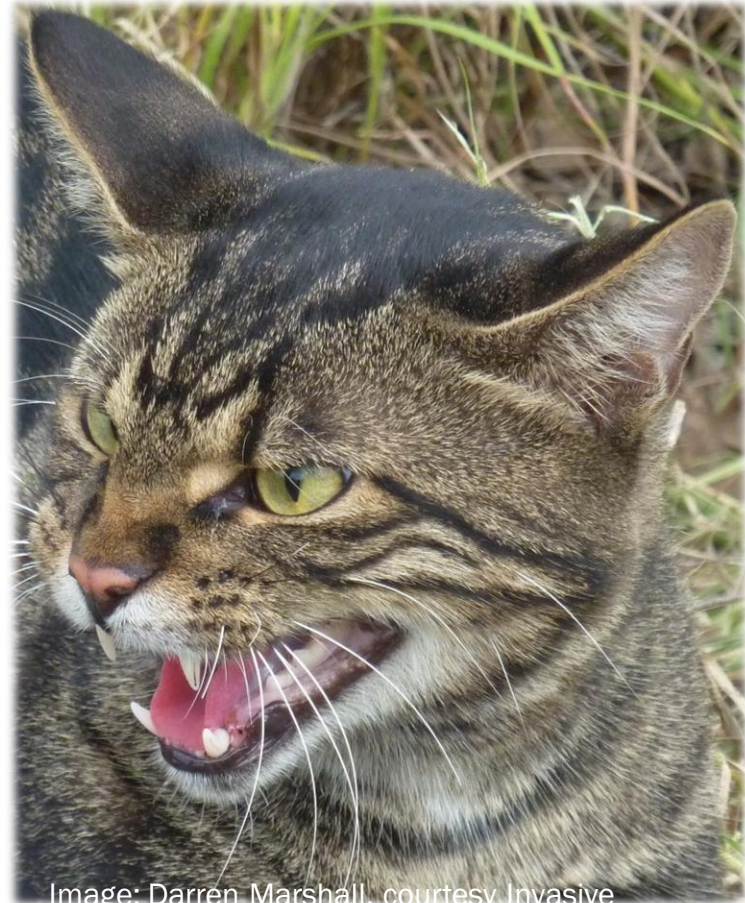


Image: Darren Marshall, courtesy Invasive

Improving management of feral deer

The issue

- Deer populations have **increased 30%***
- Cause 100s road & rail accidents each year
- Impact on production and environment

Current situation

- “Game” status constrains deer management
- Recreational hunting is one tool, however ineffective on its own



Image: Richard Ali, courtesy Invasive Animals CRC

Improving management

- Change status of all deer species from game to pest animal
- Include deer in regional pest management planning and programs
- Reduce restrictions on recreational hunting

* 2004-2009

Improving arrangements for recreational hunting

The issue

- Hunting is over-regulated by unnecessary costs

Current situation

- Recreational hunters are constrained by G-licences and 'fair chase' restrictions
- They are not involved in pest management planning and programs



Image: Peter Hayes,
courtesy Invasive Animals CRC

Improving arrangements

- Feral deer should no longer be listed as game
- Remove 'fair chase' restrictions and the need for G-licences
- Involve recreational hunters in consultation on regional pest management plans

Improving management of feral cats

The issue

- 142 threatened species impacted by feral cats
- Stray and domestic cats are part of the problem

Current situation

- NSW lags behind other jurisdictions
- Limited control techniques available



Improving management

- Declare feral cats as a pest animal
- Compulsory de-sexing of all domestic cats by 4 months of age, unless owner is registered as a breeder
- Local governments declare and enforce cat confinement areas

Improving management of feral horses

The issue

- Australia has almost **one million** feral horses
- Managing feral horses is difficult – they have heritage value, though cause severe ecological damage

Current situation

- NSW has a ban on aerial shooting
- Wild horse numbers are increasing 17% every year
- An Independent Technical Reference Group is reviewing the Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Management Plan



Improving management

- Finalise and implement the findings of the Independent Technical Reference Group
- Remove horses from ecologically sensitive areas
- Maintain an acceptable horse population

Improving management of pest fish

The issue

- 21 of 23 introduced fish are from the aquarium industry
- 83% of fish biomass in Murray-Darling Basin is carp
- Other pest fish include tilapia and redfin perch

Current situation

- Limited regulation of aquarium trade
- Poor public awareness of pest fish



Image: Chris Wisniewski

Improving management

- Support the \$15m National Carp Control Plan
- Prevention is critical - targeted education campaigns to reduce risky behaviour and improve community surveillance of pest fish
- Fast track use of innovative surveillance technologies, such as eDNA
- Strategic coordination on environmental flows

Providing adequate resources

- Greater investment from the State government
- Reduce minimum Local Land Services rateable area from 10 hectares to 2 hectares
- New special purpose rates for:
 - 11 regional Local Land Services pest management coordinators
 - Regional Rapid Response Fund
- Concessional loans for high capital cost management activities, such as exclusion fencing

Expanding research efforts

- Sustaining research and development
- Prioritising biocontrol options for carp and rabbits
- Improving control techniques for established species, such as deer and cats



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QUESTIONS?

Shared solutions for improved pest animal management

- Prioritise resources
- Take a cross-tenure approach
- Improve management of risk pathways
- Support and engage all landholders
- Cut back red tape
- Enforceable management across all tenures and industries
- Continuous research
- Adequate and ongoing funding