



Recreational hunting and research on control

State-wide review of pest animal management

Final report



The issue

- Recreational hunting is a legitimate and valuable activity.
- In most cases, recreational hunting alone is not effective in controlling pest animal populations. It can however play an important role in an integrated pest management program.
- The contribution of recreational hunting in controlling pest populations is currently constrained by over-regulation.
- Recreational hunters face different rules for targeting wild deer than with other pest animals. These different rules cause unnecessary confusion, red tape, and costs.
- Wild deer distribution has increased 30 percent across NSW from 2005 to 2009. Without a change in management approach, wild deer populations have the potential to occupy almost the entire state.



Current status

- Recreational hunters require a general game hunting licence to target deer on private property. This licence is not required for other pest species such as wild dogs, foxes or pigs.
- Restrictions on hunting deer constrain effective population control. The process for suspending the restrictions creates an unnecessary burden for both the community and government.
- Recreational hunters are generally not involved in regional pest animal management planning. Opportunities for more effective pest animal control and enhanced recreational hunting opportunities are being missed.
- Programs like Farmer Assist, that link recreational hunters with farmers, are effective but require greater support.



Final report recommendations

The final report recommends:

- Remove the requirement for hunters to obtain a G-licence to target non-indigenous species on private land.
- Require hunters to have an R-licence for targeting native game bird species on private land.
- Promote the use of approved hunting organisations membership and programs to link hunters with landholders.



Image (top): Peter Hayes, courtesy Invasive Animals CRC. Image (bottom): Daryl Panther, courtesy Invasive Animals CRC. Natural Resources Commission, May 2017.