

**2025****NSW VERTEBRATE  
PEST MANAGEMENT  
SYMPOSIUM****21 - 23 October 2025**

Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour, NSW

[www.vpmsymposium.com.au](http://www.vpmsymposium.com.au)**PROGRAM**

(subject to change)

**PROGRAM - Day 1****Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October****8.00am Registration****Session 1****Chair: Mal Leeson**

- 9.00am **Welcome to Country**
- 9.10am **Welcome to the NSW Vertebrate Pest Management Symposium**
- 9.30am **Keynote Address**  
Jack Gough, CEO and Advocacy Director, Invasive Species Council

**10.00am Morning Tea & Trade Exhibition****Session 2****Chair: Jake Tanner**

- 10.30am **Case Study: Landholder versus Government pig control – Northern Tablelands LLS region**  
Anthony Elliott & Michael Smart, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services
- 10.45am **Using Artificial Intelligence to Auto Govern Feral Pig Traps**  
Paul Meek, NSW DPIRD
- 11.00am **Adapting and embracing new approaches to feral pig Management**  
Heather Channon, Australian Pork Limited
- 11.15am **"Seed Money" a Success: Integrated Feral Pig Management**  
Amanda Turner, Central Tablelands Local Land Services
- 11.30am **PIGCOUNT – a monitoring method to measure population change following feral pig control**  
Deane Smith, NSW DPIRD
- 11.45am **Usage of the FeralScan platform by communities and pest controllers in NSW**  
Peter West, NSW DPIRD
- 12.00pm **Discussion Forum**

## 12.15pm Lunch & Trade Exhibition

### Session 3

Chair: Lisa Wellman

- 1.15pm **How Many Chances Should You Get? A Study of Shooting Tests and the Critical Role of Attempt Limits in Maintaining Standards**  
Steven McLeod, NSW DPIRD
- 1.30pm **Beyond the Crosshairs: A Systems Engineering Perspective of Vertebrate Pest Management**  
Nigel Matthews, AEVPMS
- 1.45pm **Investigations into aerial shooting approaches to achieve rapid removal of invasive animals**  
Tarnya Cox, NSW DPIRD
- 2.00pm **Feral Animal Ammunition Assessment Trials (FAAAT): Field testing performance of lead-free projectiles**  
Rob Hunt, NSW National Parks
- 2.15pm **Welfare assessment of aerial shooting methods for pigs**  
Tarnya Cox, NSW DPIRD

## 2.30pm Afternoon Tea & Trade Exhibition

### Session 4

Chair: Ben Russell

- 3.00pm **A comparison of vertebrate pest management regulation across Australia**  
Nathan Cutter, NSW Department of Primary Industries
- 3.15pm **Engaging Landholders at Scale: Regional Model for High-Participation Pest Animal Programs**  
Scott Schlunke & Rachel Elliot, Local Land Services
- 3.30pm **Pigs Out, Community In: Tackling Feral Pigs Together**  
Annaliese Geddes, Greater Sydney Local Land Services
- 3.45pm **Enhancing vertebrate pest management: NPWS new approach**  
Matthew Hall & Michael Phelan, NSW National Parks and Wildlife
- 4.00pm **Discussion Forum**
- 4.30pm **Close of Day One**
- 7.00pm - 10.00pm **Symposium Dinner**  
Charlie's Decks, Pacific Bay Resort

## PROGRAM - Day 2

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

**8.30am Registration**

### Session 5

**Chair: Tarnya Cox**

- 9.00am **Keynote Address**  
**38 years of vertebrate pest management and other mistakes!**  
Linton Staples, Managing Director, Animal Control Technologies (Australia)
- 9.30am **Feral cat response to aerial detection with drone - not what we thought!**  
Guy Pitchford, NSW National Parks
- 9.45am **Evaluating camera trap allocations for density estimation of a feral cat population**  
Annalie Dorph, University of New England
- 10.00am **Making the link between vertebrate pests and One Health**  
Joanne Walker, Wildlife Health Australia

**10.15am Morning Tea & Trade Exhibition**

### Session 6

**Chair: Guy Ballard**

- 10.45am **Keynote Address:**  
**Incorporating outcomes from feral pig field studies into decision support tools for outbreaks of FMD and ASF**  
Richard Bradhurst, Principal Research Fellow & Chief Investigator, Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA); Centre for Environmental and Economic Research (CEER); Australian Animal Disease Spread Model (AADIS); The University of Melbourne
- 11.15am **Feral pig movements near cattle feedlots in NSW**  
Sebastien Comte, NSW DPIRD
- 11.30am **Feral pig activity across Australia for integration into disease spread models**  
Deane Smith, NSW DPIRD
- 11.45am **Targeted Adaptive Surveillance for Exotic and Emerging Pathogens in Feral Pigs**  
Andrew Bengsen, NSW DPIRD
- 12.00pm **Challenges in using environmental DNA for feral pig detection in disease surveillance**  
Fabiola Silva, NSW DPIRD
- 12.15pm **Discussion Forum**

**12.30pm Lunch & Trade Exhibition**

**Session 7****Chair: Quentin Hart**

- 1.30pm **Going with the Flow: Cane Toad Dispersal via River Systems**  
Bec Lipscombe, Local Land Services
- 1.45pm **Hop Nation: The Science of Slowing the Spread**  
Lisa Wellman, NSW DPIRD
- 2.00pm **Population dynamics of house mice in New South Wales  
pasture-cropping systems**  
Dave Forsyth, NSW DPIRD
- 2.15pm **Exploring the habitat and spatial ecology of European hares in  
forest ecosystems**  
Rebecca Stone, University of New England
- 2.30pm **Parrots, Pythons & Public Posts: Tracking Australia's Non-  
Indigenous Invaders**  
Victoria Greentree, NSW DPIRD

**2.45pm****Afternoon Tea & Trade Exhibition****Session 8****Chair: Rob Hunt**

- 3.15pm **Managing total predation pressure and total grazing pressure for  
landscape benefit**  
Peter Fleming, NSW DPIRD
- 3.30pm **Wild dog population changes over time**  
Guy Ballard, NSW DPIRD
- 3.45pm **Spatiotemporal Effectiveness of Aerial Baiting for Wild Dog  
Control: A Bayesian Analysis of Landscape-Scale Management in  
New South Wales**  
Steven McLeod, NSW DPIRD
- 4.00pm **A review of fox management at Booderee National Park**  
Hugh Davies, University of New England
- 4.15pm **Fate of aeri ally deployed Doggone baits**  
Elly Gooch, University of New England
- 4.30pm **Exhibitor talks**
- 5.00pm **Discussion Forum**
- 5.15pm **Close of Day Two and Walking Tour - Deer**

## PROGRAM - Day 3

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

**8.15am Registration**

### Session 9

**Chair: Liv Beggs**

- 8.45am **Keynote Address:**  
**National Coordination of Invasive Species Solutions**  
Shauna Chadlowe, Chief Executive, Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
- 9.15am **Aerial catch and release of Sambar deer - without becoming a rodeo clown**  
Rob Hunt, NSW National Parks
- 9.30am **Wallis Lake Feral Deer Program**  
Tim Heffernan, MidCoast Council
- 9.45am **Urban and Peri-Urban Feral Deer Trapping - Evolving Traps**  
Michael Elliott, Local Land Services
- 10.00am **Access is everything: The critical role of land availability in feral deer control**  
Bernie Lai, NSW National Parks
- 10.15am **Lethal baiting of Rusa deer using a target selective feed structure**  
Rob Hunt, NSW National Parks

**10.30am Morning Tea & Trade Exhibition**

### Session 10

**Chair: Bernie Lai**

- 11.00am **Development of a guided property feral pig assessment methodology for pig producers**  
Heather Channon, Australia Pork Limited
- 11.15am **The Role of the Chemical Regulator in Vertebrate Pesticide – registrations, permits, reconsiderations and research**  
Andrew Woolley, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)
- 11.30am **Leveraging Drones and AI to monitor invasive species in Goulburn's BioBank**  
Andrew Hammond, KJR
- 11.45am **A Sound Strategy: The Efficacy of Monitoring Invasive Mammals Using Acoustic Recorders**  
Jacopo Bartholomew, James Cook University
- 12.00pm **Real-Time Eyes in the Sky: Deploying Defence-Grade, Purpose-Built Drone Platforms for Advanced Pest Animal Surveillance Across Australia**  
Ben Watts, Bralca

12.15pm      **When science meets silicon: how technology might influence the scientific method**  
Paul Meek, NSW DPIRD

12.30pm      **Symposium wrap-up and Discussion Forum**

**1.00pm      Lunch & Close of Symposium**

1.30pm      **Walking Tour - Deer**