

2025

NSW VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

21 - 23 October 2025

Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour, NSW

www.vpmsymposium.com.au

PROGRAM

(subject to change)

PROGRAM - Day 1

Tuesday 21st October

8.00am Registration

Session 1

- 9.00am **Welcome to the NSW Vertebrate Pest Management Symposium**
- 9.10am **Welcome to Country**
- 9.20am **Official Opening**
- 9.30am **Keynote Address**
Jack Gough, CEO and Advocacy Director, Invasive Species Council
- 10.00am **Questions**

10.20am Morning Tea & Trade Exhibition

Session 2

- 11.00am **Case Study: Landholder versus Government pig control – Northern Tablelands LLS region**
Elli Keyte, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services
- 11.15am **Using Artificial Intelligence to Auto Govern Feral Pig Traps**
Paul Meek, NSW DPIRD
- 11.30am **Adapting and embracing new approaches to feral pig Management**
Heather Channon, Australian Pork Limited
- 11.45am **"Seed Money" a Success: Integrated Feral Pig Management**
Amanda Turner, Central Tablelands Local Land Services
- 12.00pm **PIGCOUNT– a monitoring method to measure population change following feral pig control**
Deane Smith, NSW DPIRD
- 12.15pm **Usage of the FeralScan platform by communities and pest controllers in NSW**
Peter West, NSW DPIRD

12.30pm Lunch & Trade Exhibition

Session 3

- 1.30pm **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
- 1.45pm **Beyond the Crosshairs: A Systems Engineering Perspective on Risk, Responsibility and Redress**
Nigel Matthews, AEVPMS
- 2.00pm **Investigations into aerial shooting approaches to achieve rapid removal of invasive animals**
Tarnya Cox, NSW DPIRD
- 2.15pm **Feral Animal Ammunition Assessment Trials (FAAAT): Field testing performance of lead-free projectiles**
Rob Hunt, NSW National Parks
- 2.30pm **Welfare assessment of aerial shooting methods for pigs**
Tarnya Cox, NSW DPIRD

2.45pm Afternoon Tea & Trade Exhibition

Session 4

- 3.15pm **A comparison of vertebrate pest management regulation across Australia**
Nathan Cutter, NSW Department of Primary Industries
- 3.30pm **Engaging Landholders at Scale: Regional Model for High-Participation Pest Animal Programs**
Scott Schlunke, Local Land Services
- 3.45pm **Pigs Out, Community In: Tackling Feral Pigs Together**
Annaliese Geddes, Greater Sydney Local Land Services
- 4.00pm **Enhancing vertebrate pest management: NPWS new approach**
Matthew Hall, NSW National Parks and Wildlife
- 4.15pm **Day One Discussion Forum**
- 4.45pm **Close of Day One**
- 7.00pm - 10.00pm **Symposium Dinner**
Charlie's Decks, Pacific Bay Resort

PROGRAM - Day 2

Wednesday 22nd October

8.15am Registration

Session 5

- 8.45am **Keynote Address**
38 years of vertebrate pest management and other mistakes!
Linton Staples, Managing Director, Animal Control Technologies (Australia)
- 9.15am **Feral cat response to aerial detection with drone - not what we thought!**
Guy Pitchford, NSW National Parks
- 9.30am **Evaluating camera trap allocations for density estimation of a feral cat population**
Annalie Dorph, University of New England
- 9.45am **Building operational confidence with Eradicat Feral cat bait**
Rachel-Ann Wilcher, NSW National Parks
- 10.00am **Making the link between vertebrate pests and One Health**
Joanne Walker, Wildlife Health Australia

10.15am Morning Tea & Trade Exhibition

Session 6

- 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 Lunch & Trade Exhibition

Session 7

- 1.15pm **Going with the Flow: Cane Toad Dispersal via River Systems**
Bec Lipscombe, Local Land Services
- 1.30pm **Hop Nation: The Science of Slowing the Spread**
Lisa Wellman, NSW DPIRD
- 1.45pm **Population dynamics of house mice in New South Wales pasture-cropping systems**
Dave Forsyth, NSW DPIRD
- 2.00pm **Exploring the habitat and spatial ecology of European hares in forest ecosystems**
Rebecca Stone, University of New England
- 2.15pm **Parrots, Pythons & Public Posts: Tracking Australia's Non-Indigenous Invaders**
Victoria Greentree, NSW DPIRD

2.30pm Afternoon Tea & Trade Exhibition

Session 8

- 3.00pm **Managing total predation pressure and total grazing pressure for landscape benefit**
Peter Fleming, NSW DPIRD
- 3.15pm **Wild dog population changes over time**
Guy Ballard, NSW DPIRD
- 3.30pm **Spatiotemporal Effectiveness of Aerial Baiting for Wild Dog Control: A Bayesian Analysis of Landscape-Scale Management in New South Wales**
Steven McLeod, NSW DPIRD
- 3.45pm **A review of fox management at Booderee National Park**
Hugh Davies, University of New England
- 4.00pm **Fate of aerially deployed Doggone baits**
Elly Gooch, University of New England
- 4.15pm **Exhibitor talks**
- 4.45pm **Day Two Discussion Forum**
- 5.15pm **Close of Day Two and Walking Tour - Deer**

PROGRAM - Day 3

Thursday 23rd October

8.15am Registration

Session 9

- 8.30am **Keynote Address:**
National Coordination of Invasive Species Solutions
Shauna Chadlowe, Chief Executive, Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
- 9.00am **Aerial catch and release of Sambar deer - without becoming a rodeo clown**
Rob Hunt, NSW National Parks
- 9.15am **Wallis Lake Feral Deer Program**
Tim Heffernan, MidCoast Council
- 9.30am **Urban and Peri-Urban Feral Deer Trapping - Evolving Traps**
Michael Elliott, Local Land Services
- 9.45am **Deer in the headlights: Chital deer roadside use and roadkill observations in northern Australia**
Matthew Quin, James Cook University
- 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

- 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**
TBA, NSW Department of Primary Industries
- 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**