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Primary Industries

RHDV Boost Community participation on a national scale

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Releasing K5



- Maximise the distribution of RHDV K5
- Create awareness and ownership of pest rabbits
 - Promote integrated management

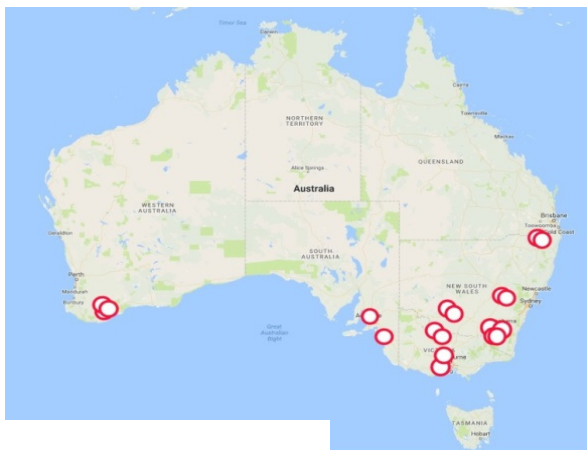


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The Plan...

K5 distribution

- 9/18 paired sites
- 3/6 WA sites
- 600 community sites



Free vials of virus in exchange for data



Expression of Interest form

- Personal and site details
- Site type (Broadscale or Release)

RHDV K5 Release: Expression of Interest

Contact Details

Full Name *
First Name Last Name

Phone Number *
Area Code Phone Number

E-mail * ex: myname@example.com

Your location

State *

Town *

GPS Coordinates
Enter Latitude and Longitude GPS coordinates of the site

Find the GPS Coordinates of your site location at: <http://mygeoposition.com/>

Release site information
Number of hectares on release site, other site features



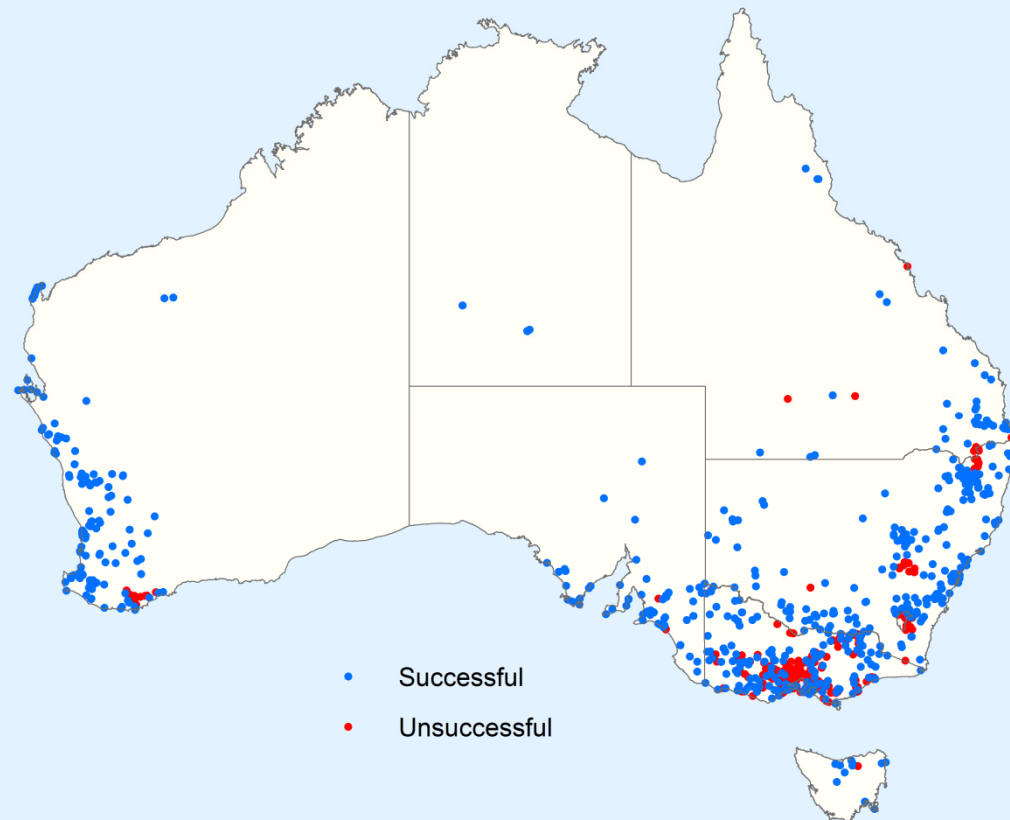
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The Interest

757 EOI submissions

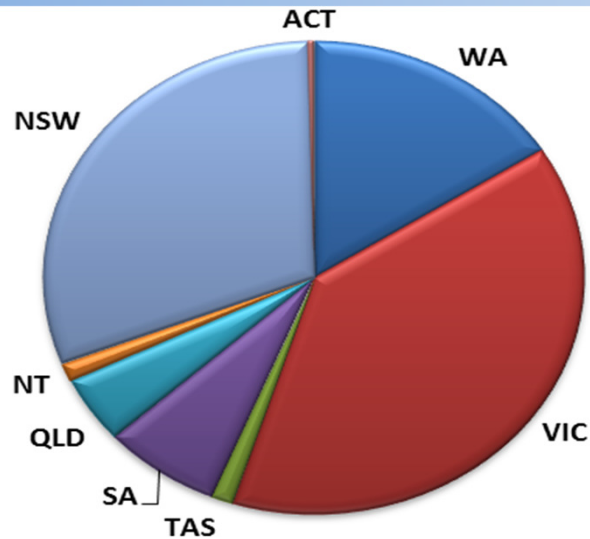
Over **1047** sites

745 successful EOI sites





EOI Selection

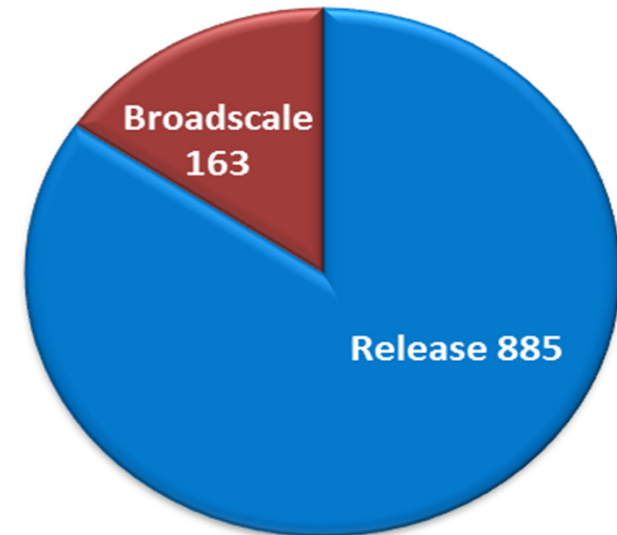


STATE CRITERIA

- Maintain community goodwill and participation.
- Encourage adoption of rabbit control programs.
- Ownership of positive outcomes.
- Improved knowledge and understanding of rabbit management.
- Maximise distribution and priority rabbit populations and assets of greater risk.

NATIONAL CRITERIA

- Proximity to other sites (50km buffer).
- Areas of rabbit proneness.
- Groups rather than individuals.
- RHDV K5 is a restricted chemical product. Access to an authorised officer for all states and territories (except Vic).





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Data Entry- Rabbitscan

Easy to use
(designed by
landholders for
land holders)



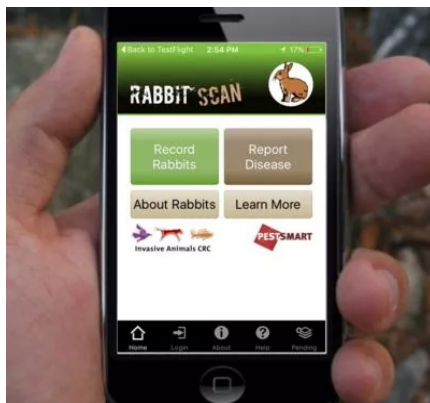
**Submit
spotlight
counts**



**Report
disease**



**Disease
notification**
(land holder,
state lead,
community map)



Cancel Rabbit Sighting Submit

6. Total rabbits counted

Night 1

Night 2

Night 3

7. Spotlight transect length (kilometres)

9. Notes

10. Email address

Home Login About Help Pending

Cancel Rabbit Disease Submit

1. Date observed

2. Your location

Latitude

Longitude

3. What disease do you suspect is present?

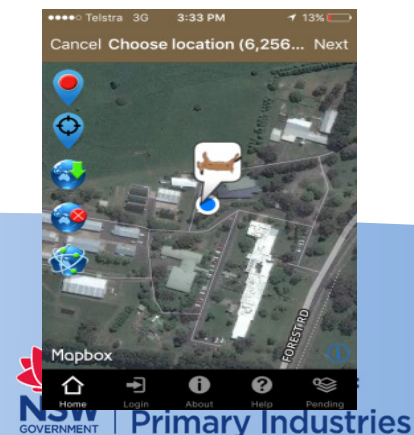
☒ Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV)

☐ Myxomatosis

4. Is this an official K5 release site?

☒ No

Home Login About Help Pending



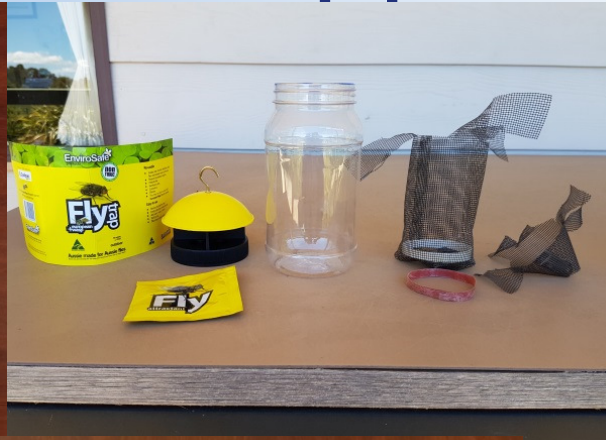


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Release

Site Support

Broadscale





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Overall project results

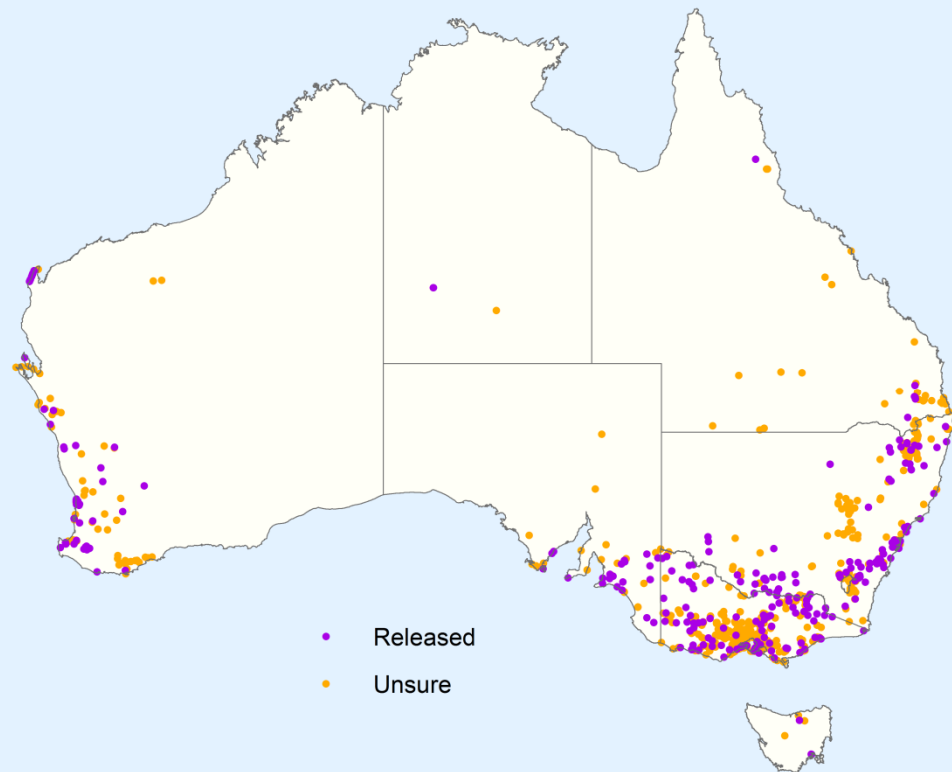
Initial community-led knockdown
38% (we expected 0-40%)

Some site benefits were greater.

No evidence of establishment.

It works- biocide.

Landholders using K5 for follow up
releases (integrated rabbit
management).

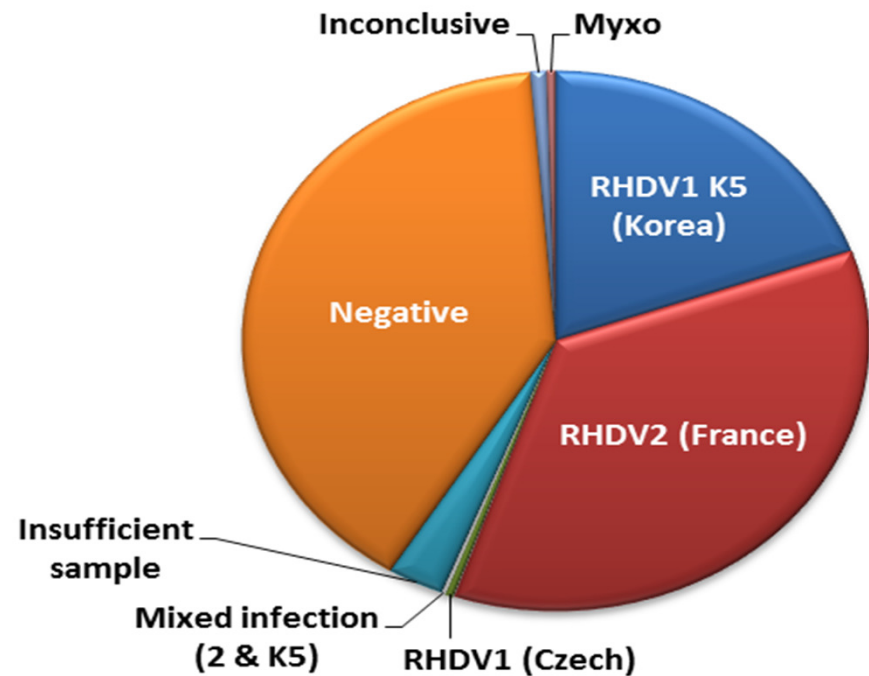




Rabbitscan samples



- 550 Rabbitscan samples in total.
- 261 official sites (Broadscale, Release and long term sites).
- **Dominant strain is RHDV2.**
- Analysis on long term samples being undertake (spotlight and shot samples- reagent hold up).





Considerations

**Other diseases
circulating
(RHDV2)**

**Insect vectors
and
environmental
factors
(temperature,
bait uptake)**

**The way the
information
was collected
(community
science)**

**Serology of
rabbits
(not a naive
population)**





Community Science

WHAT WORKED WELL

- Opportunity for community to link up with government.
- Modification of existing Rabbitscan resource- functional.
- Resources for continued future use e.g rabbit scan.
- Initial level of enthusiasm excellent.

WHAT MAYBE WORKED WELL?

- By the community, for the community- measure?
- Community ownership of data and rabbits management.
- Guidance on best practice.



Community Science

IMPROVEMENTS

Follow instructions!

Greater thought & detail into EOI form.

Individual site numbers for all.

State coordinator access to EOI data.

Collection of post-release data- 'no carrot'.

Mandatory data entry fields e.g transect lengths, 3 night count data.

Close off data entry e.g can only enter pre- and post-release spotlight counts once per site.



Community Science Lessons Learnt

Citizen science
potentially a
valuable tool/
source of info
(people power).

Management of
data collection
requires
considerable
thought to make
it fool proof.

Take a step back
to consider all
possibilities to
reduce the
opportunity for
people to create
error.

Sacrifice gps
accuracy for
data accuracy?





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Acknowledgments



Landholders and government agencies for sample and data collection

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OAI and VPRU team: release kit assembly