

What do deer control objectives really mean?



- Deer are spreading in range
- Deer can be locally very abundant (0.3 ha Bengsen)
- Deer are priority species in all 11 LLS Regional Pest Plans
- Get ready for a little tough love

Troy Crittle Invasive Species Officer

Incursion management

- Mapping
- Front of wave
- New reports outside known range
- Detecting at low densities will be key
- Intervention is complex



The “E” word

- Eradication of any pest animal is very difficult
- Deer eradication exponentially more complex (behavioural, social, economic) factors
- Local eradications may be possible (Aust is a bloody big Island)
- Cause for great alarm within interest groups
- Detection at low density crucial



What does containment mean?



- Mapping and delimitation
- High priority areas for reporting
- Targeted surveillance
- Improved understanding of dispersal
- Detection at low densities high priority



What about managing assets?

- Long lasting and significant environmental impacts of deer
- Agricultural impacts of deer are likely to increase
- Meaningful interventions are limited to aerial shooting and fencing (sustained and maintained)
- “Enhanced” ground shooting may be viable at smaller scales but must be sustained

So what then?

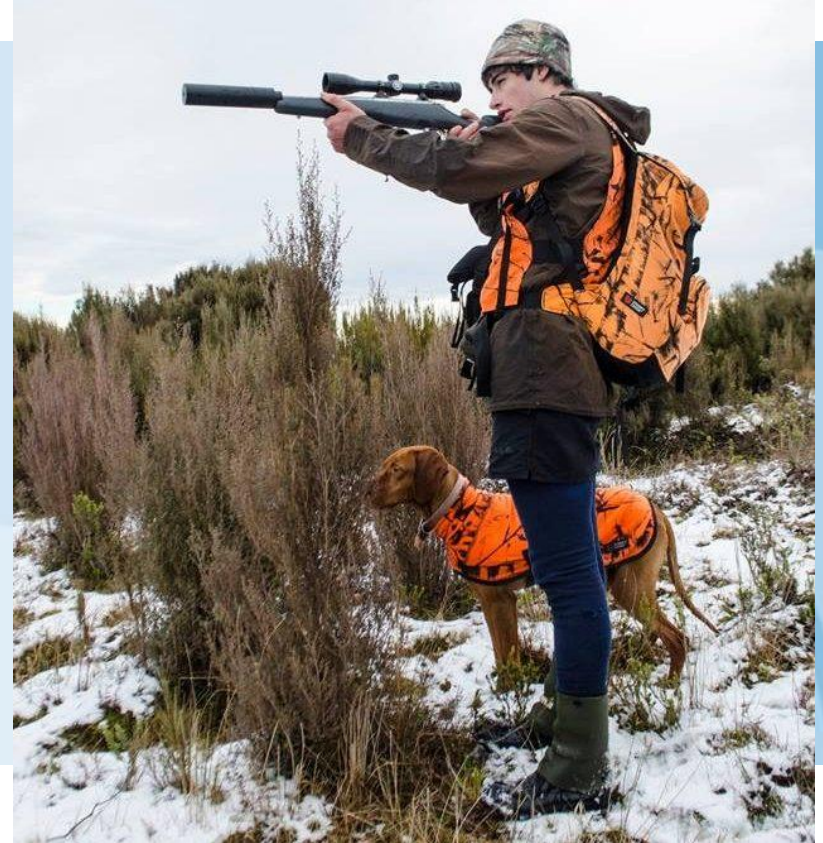
- Enhance industry detection skills
- Improve monitoring capacity
- Monitor strategically and with purpose
- Engage the community to report deer outside known ranges
- Value the data and act accordingly



So what then?

Develop detection techniques and capacity

- Contractors with specific skills
- Detection dogs (sign dogs)
- Camera trap arrays





Simple messaging

Deer management IS emotive

Deer management requires
changing some attitudes

**OPINIONS FORMED
WITHOUT LOGIC ARE NOT
CHANGED BY LOGIC**

Simple messaging across
industry, recreational groups,
landholders



Messaging to landholders

- Talk to your neighbours about the impact deer have on you
- Most times we can't eradicate deer
- There are things we can do to reduce impacts
- There is no evidence that ground shooting reduces deer at a population level or contains spread

Messaging to rec. hunters

- The good old days are now
- Impacts are real and increasing
- Eradication is not possible
- We are not Europe or America
- If your in the boat you'd better paddle like mad

