

# Wild Horse Management on the North Coast: From Pest to Pet

2023 Vertebrate Pest Management  
Symposium

Dubbo, New South Wales

October 2023

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## Warning

This presentation does contain pictures of dead horses

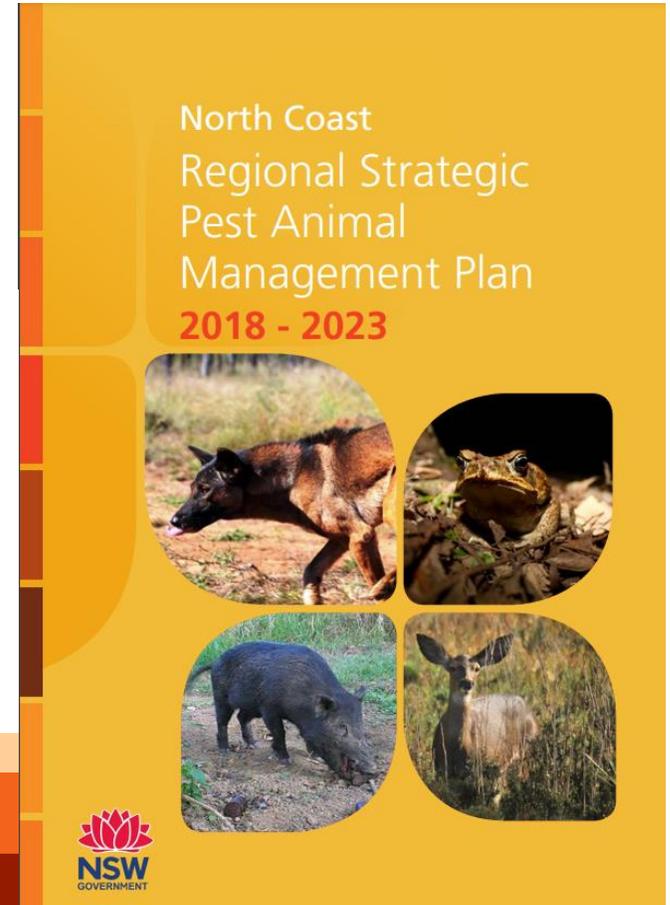
# Background Information

- Present for over 20 years
- Suspected origins of escaped domestic horses
- Listed as a regional pest in North Coast Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan 2018-2023
- Local Wild Horse Management Plan developed in 2023

Local Land Services

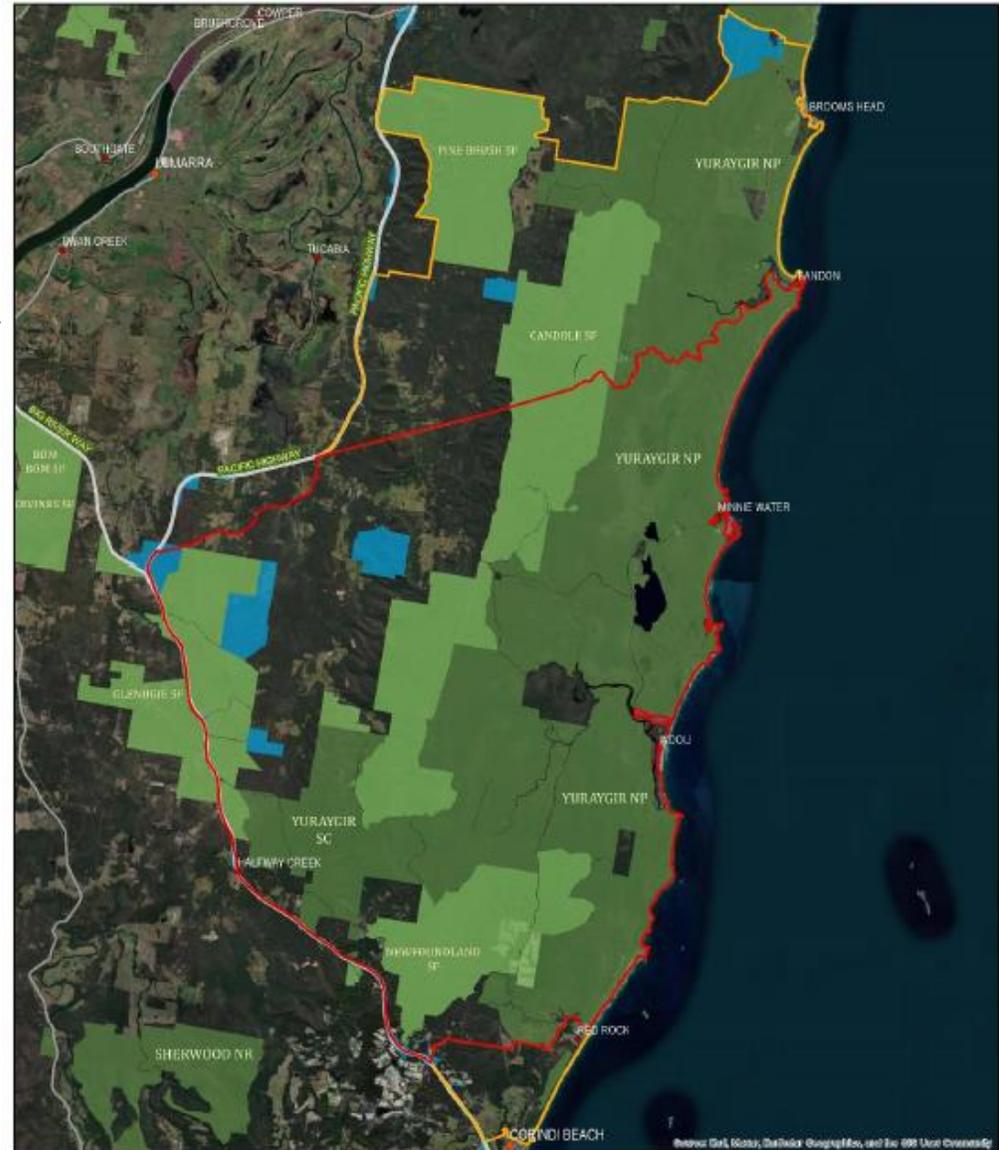
Clarence / Coffs Wild  
Horse Management  
Plan 2023 - 2025

North Coast Local Land Services



# The Plan Area

- Wild horses are present in the eastern side of the M1
- Area is 82,298 hectares
- National Parks and State Forest occupy most of the area
- We are currently working on private properties



# The beginning of control for LLS – Corindi Flood Event 2021



- In Feb 2021, Corindi Beach received over 500mm of rainfall within a few hours
- Wild horses caused havoc on private properties
- 4 out of 9 were sent to rescue

# Road Risks



# Road Risks



# Options for Management



- Very limited
- Community expectations to be considered
- Ground shooting not accepted by members of the public
  - Unless severely injured or deemed aggressive
- Trapping and sending to rescue organisations more accepted



# Trapping Considerations



- Who's who in the group
- Staffing
- Placement of Traps
  - Shade
  - All weather access
  - Flat ground
  - Regular visited sites for wild horses



# Our trapping method



- Phone call/mailout/newspaper advertisement
- Site inspections
- Camera monitoring
- Free feed



# Our trapping method

- Trap construction
  - Figure 8 style
  - Two separate yards
  - Short race for easy loading



# Lessons Learnt



- Trap in smaller numbers
- Look at all potential options
- Free feeding with fresh & attractive feed is critical
- Always make sure you know which foal goes with which mare



# Challenges



- Communication
- Rescue's capacity and ability to rehome
- Resources
- Rapid movements of new groups
- Managing quieter wild horses under different legislation
- Knowing who to talk to in different organisations



# What are we doing now



- General Biosecurity Direction
- In house holding facility
- Expressions of interest from the wider public



# 94 out 100 wild horses have been sent to rescue organisations



# Thank You

