



Department of
Primary Industries



CENTRE FOR
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

Peri-urban deer management challenges and opportunities

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Local Land
Services
South East



Local Land
Services
Greater Sydney



Peri-urban deer management: WHY?

Social and economic impacts

Public nuisance, road and rail hazard

Damage to gardens and bush regeneration



Deer smashes through windscreen in horrific smash

A truck driver is lucky to be alive after a deer smashed through his windscreen in a frightening crash in the Yarra Ranges.

Source: Herald Sun 30 March 2023



Peri-urban deer management: challenge



Source: The Conversation



Mount Kembla®

<https://anigorotodyssey.blogspot.com/>



Peri-urban deer management: How?

Fencing



Asset protection

Vehicle-deer collision

Trapping



Low flexibility

Community acceptance

Peri-urban deer management: How?

Vehicle-based professional ground shooting for peri-urban deer

- Good animal welfare outcomes
- Safe for shooters and community
- Training for shooters



Peri-urban deer management: Case studies

Western Sydney Deer Control trial

2021-2023

200 fallow deer

170 km²



Local Land
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Greater Sydney

Illawarra Wild Deer Management Program

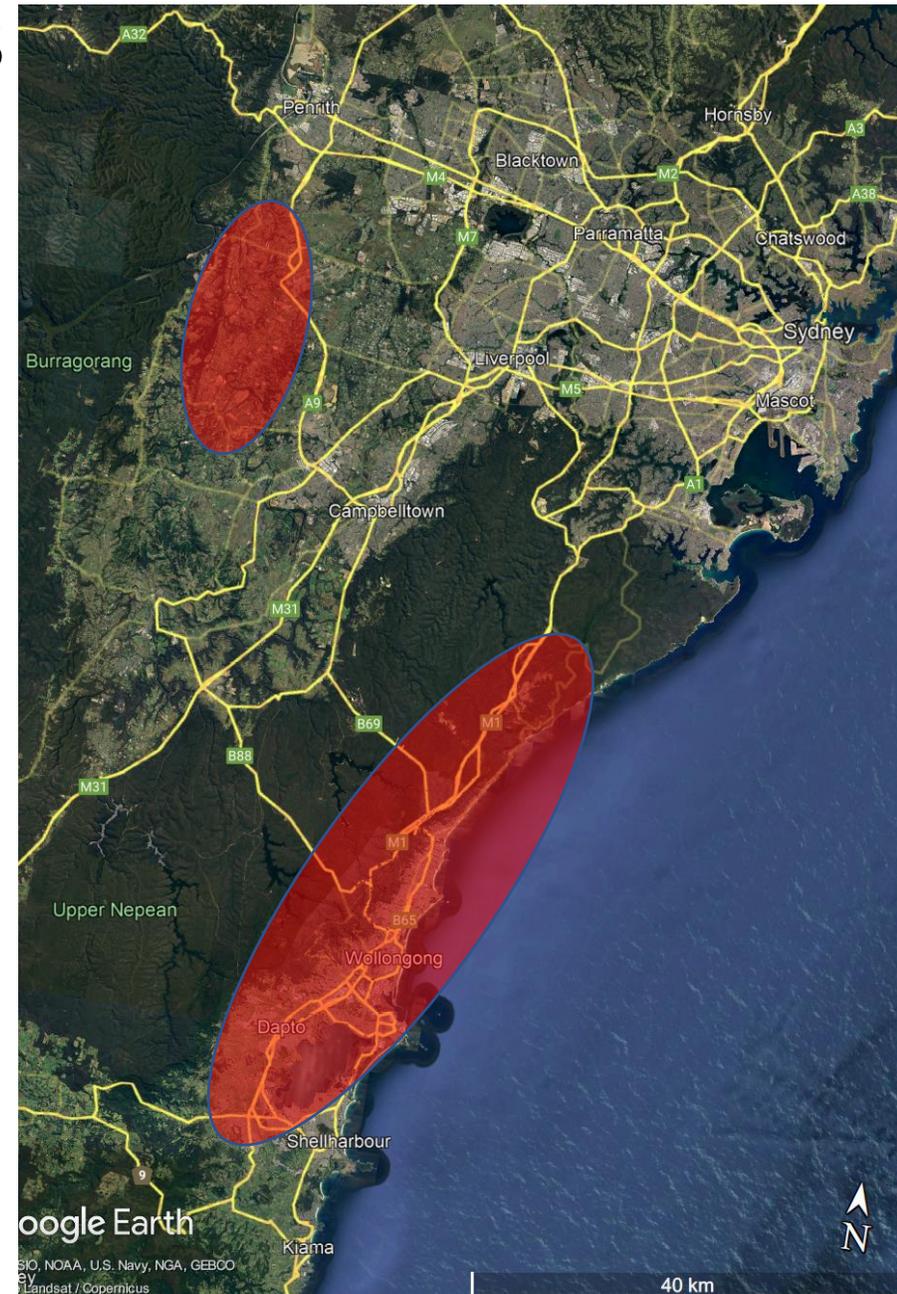
2011-2022

4700 rusa deer

680 km²



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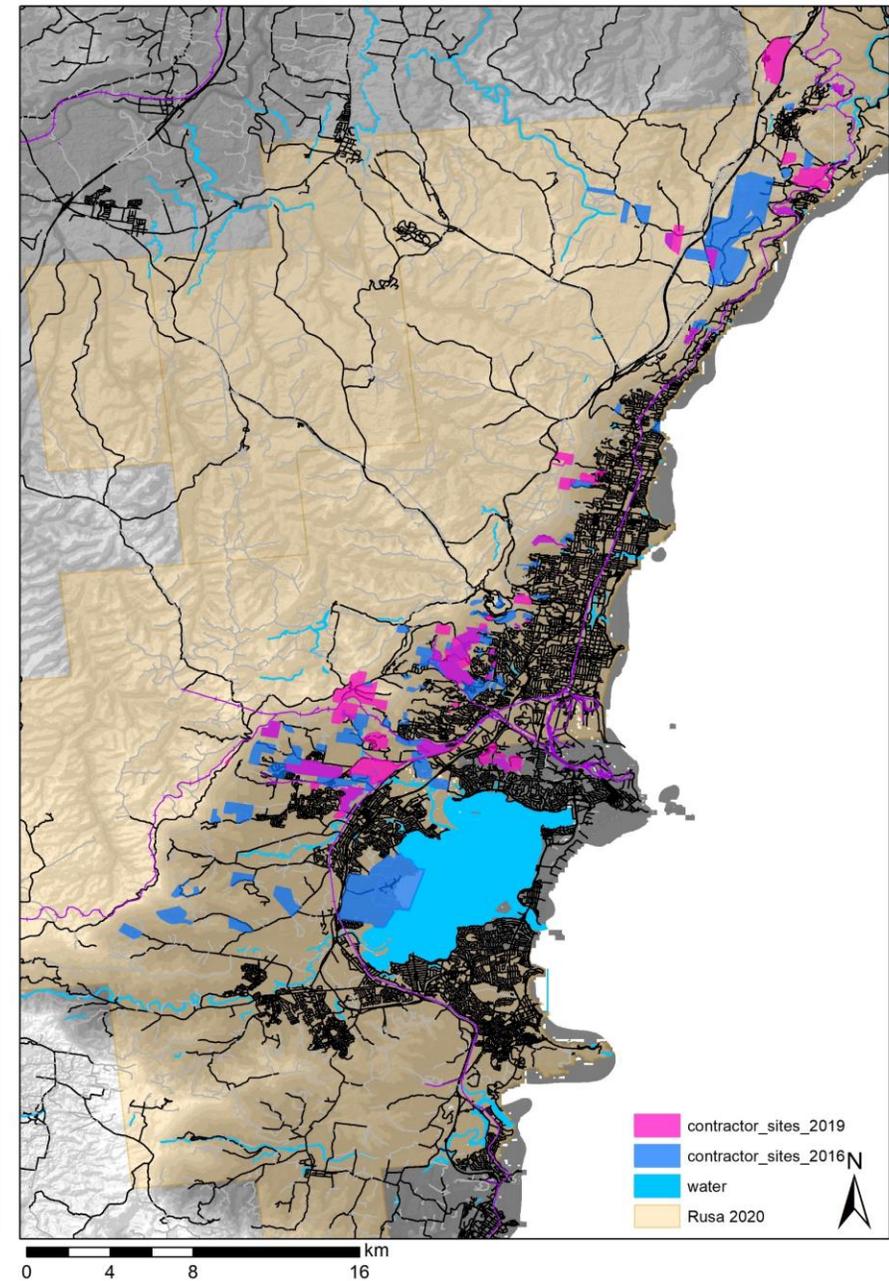
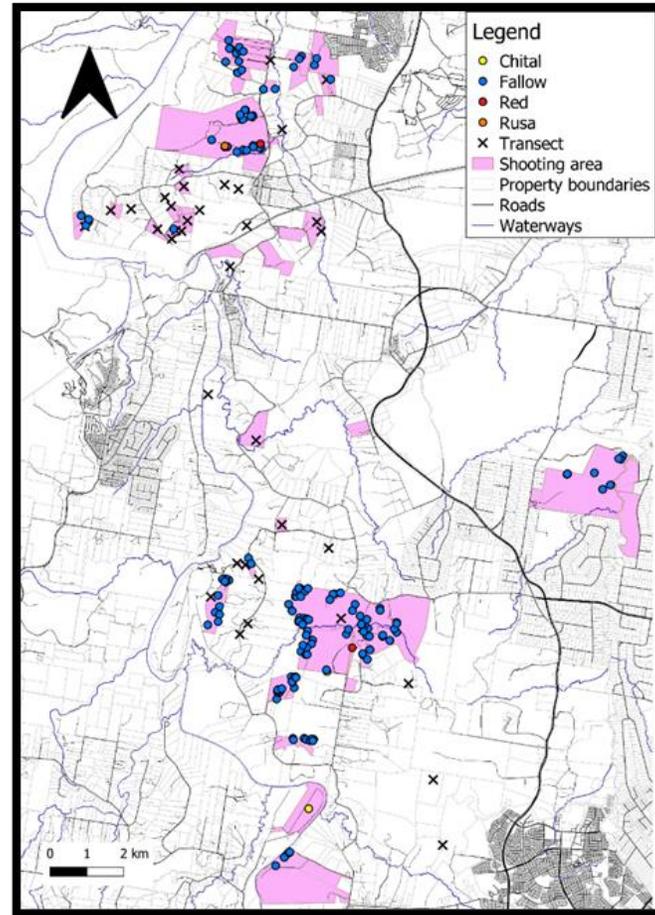
Peri-urban deer management: where?

Vehicle-based professional ground shooting
for peri-urban deer

Challenges

Limited site accessibility

Western Sydney <10% of the area
Illawarra <3% of LGA



Peri-urban deer management: When?

Vehicle-based professional ground shooting for peri-urban deer

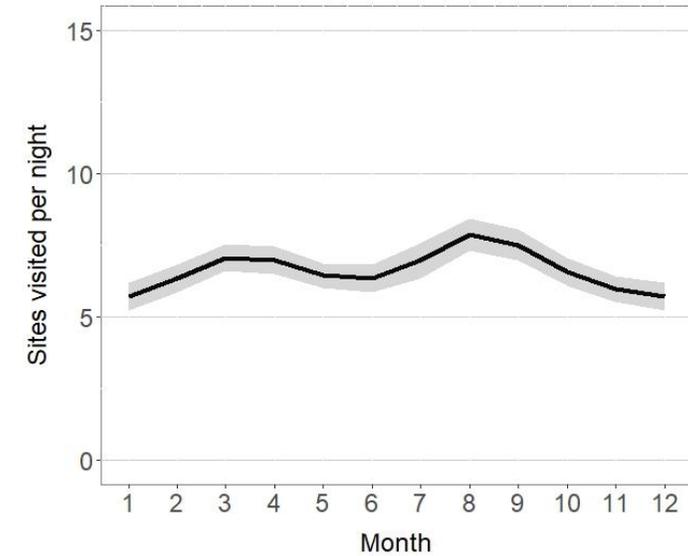
Challenges

Limited site accessibility

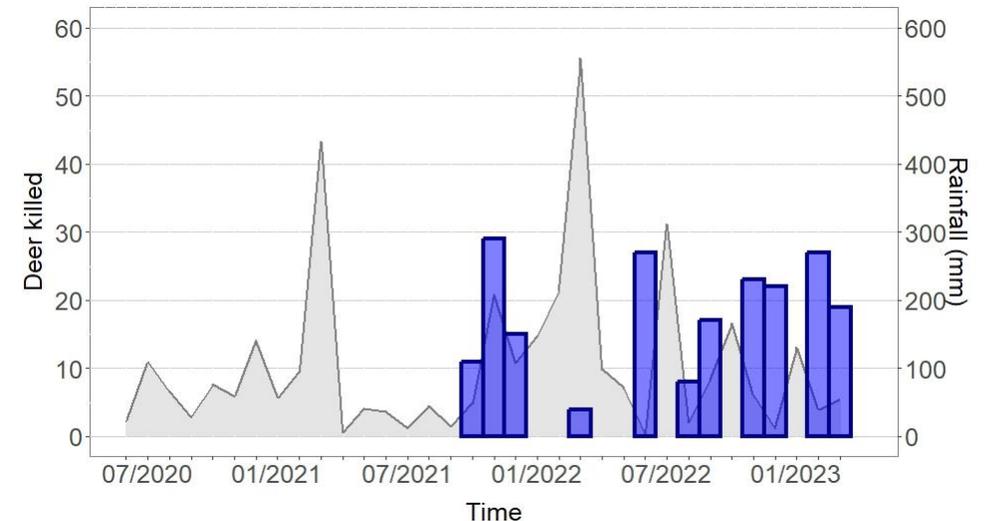
No shooting weekend and school holidays

Season / weather dependent

Rusa deer in Wollongong



Fallow deer in Western Sydney



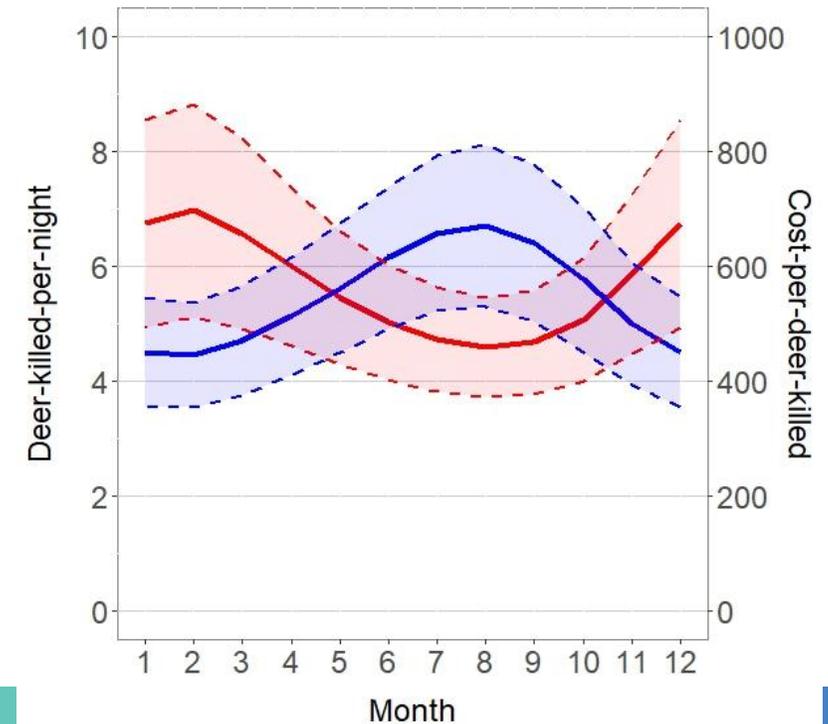
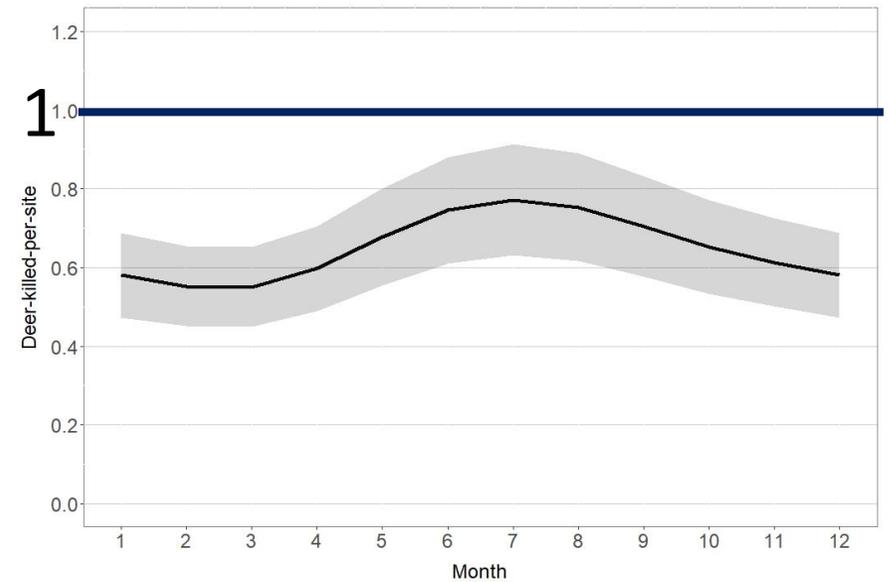
Timing of operations is important

Vehicle-based professional ground shooting for peri-urban deer

Opportunity

Winter = longer nights

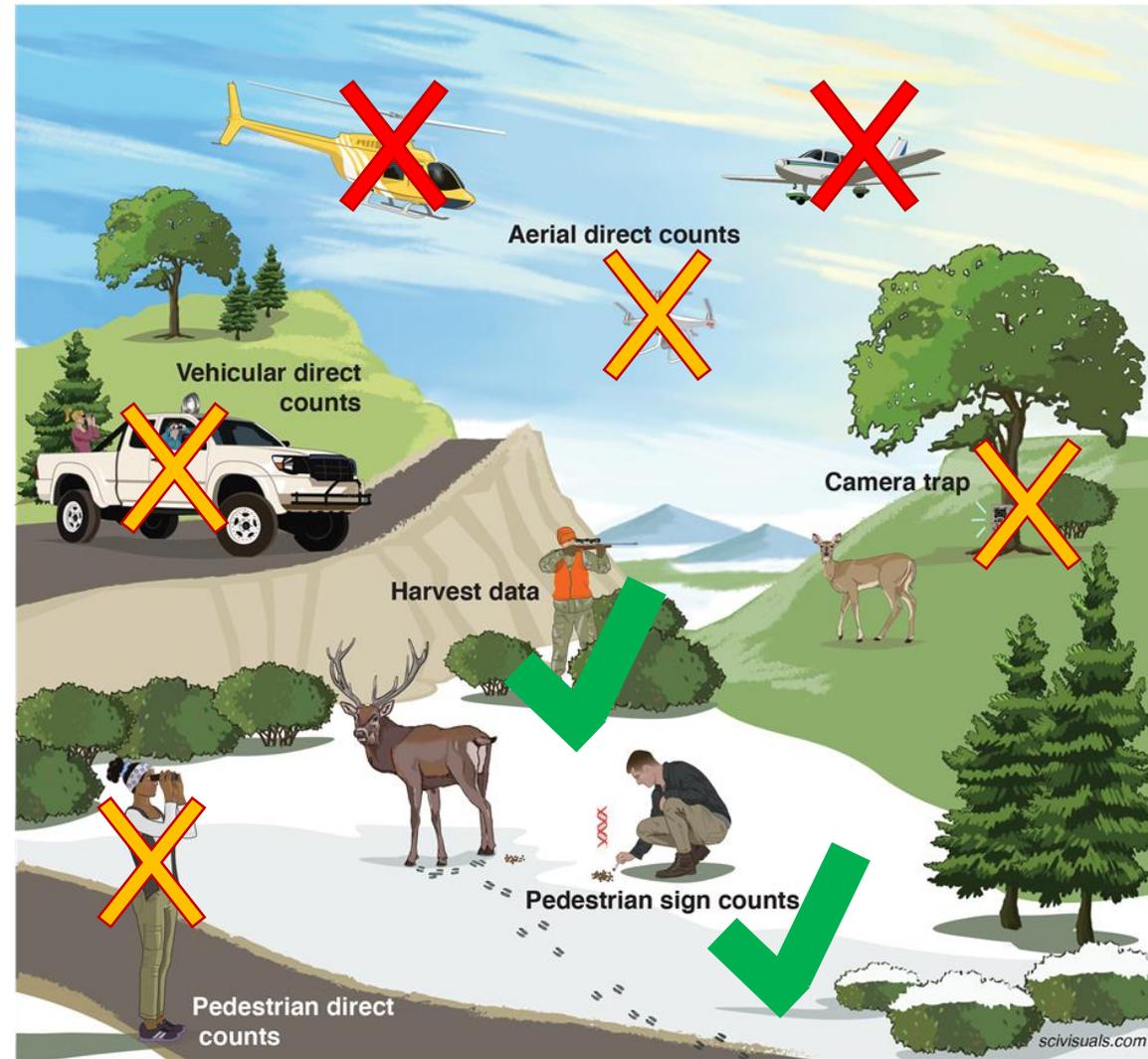
=> more opportunities to visit sites



Peri-urban deer management: Where?

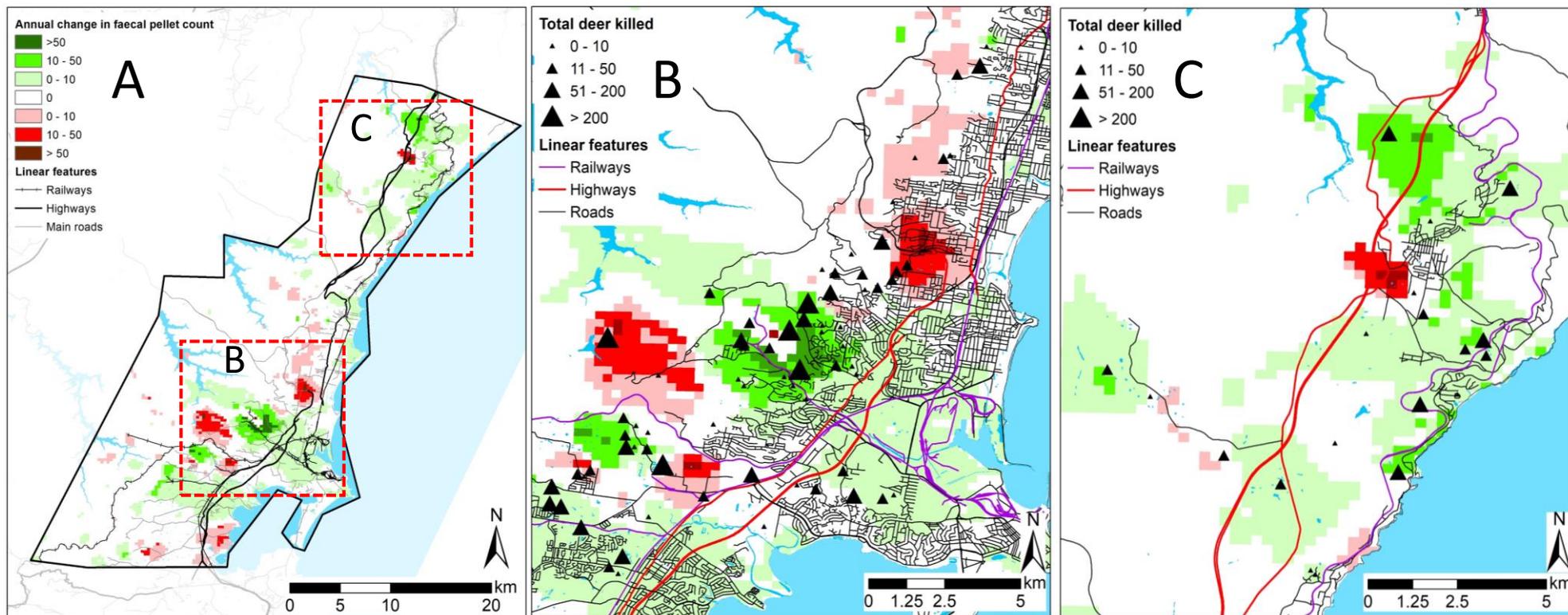
Robust monitoring + reporting
~15% of budget

Deer abundance index
Faecal pellet counts



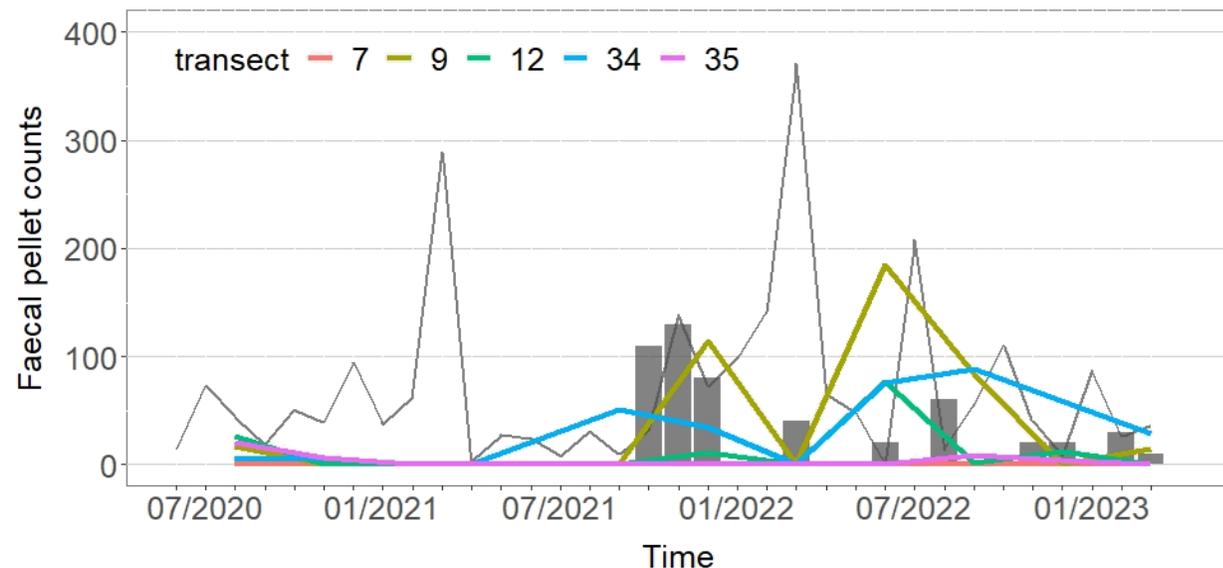
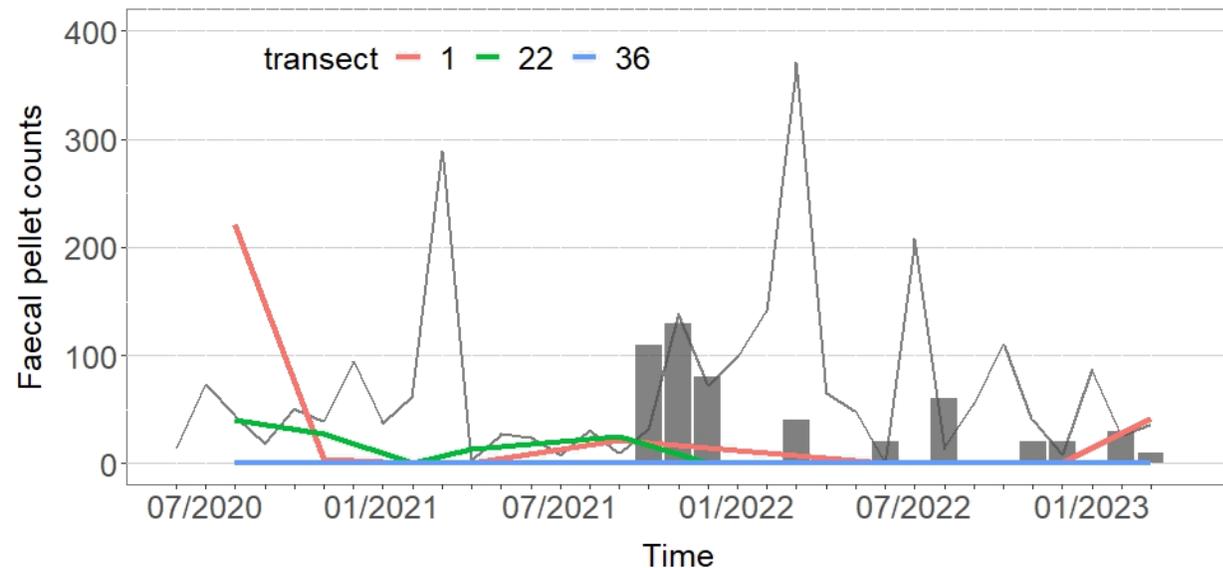
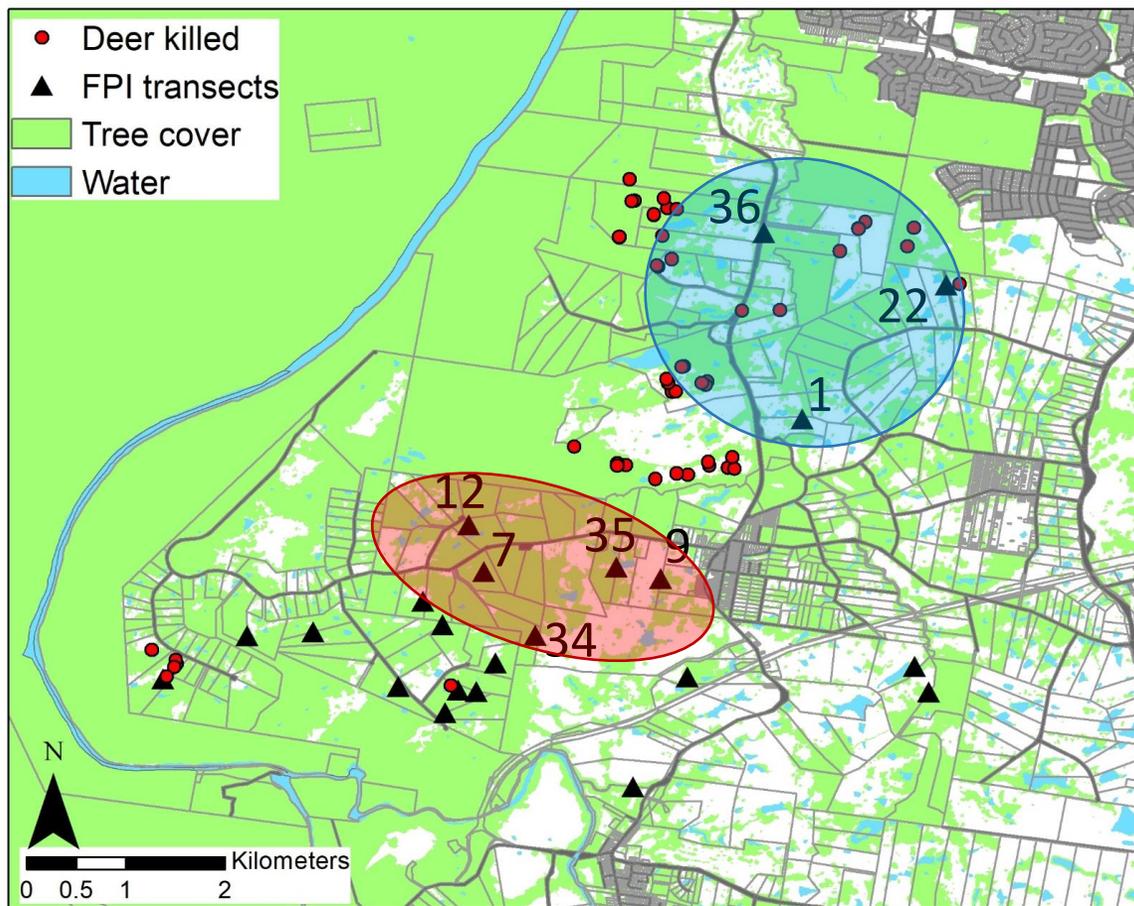
Vehicle-based shooting: localised effect

Changes in deer abundance in Wollongong 2011-2022



Vehicle-based shooting: localised effect

Fallow deer in Western Sydney

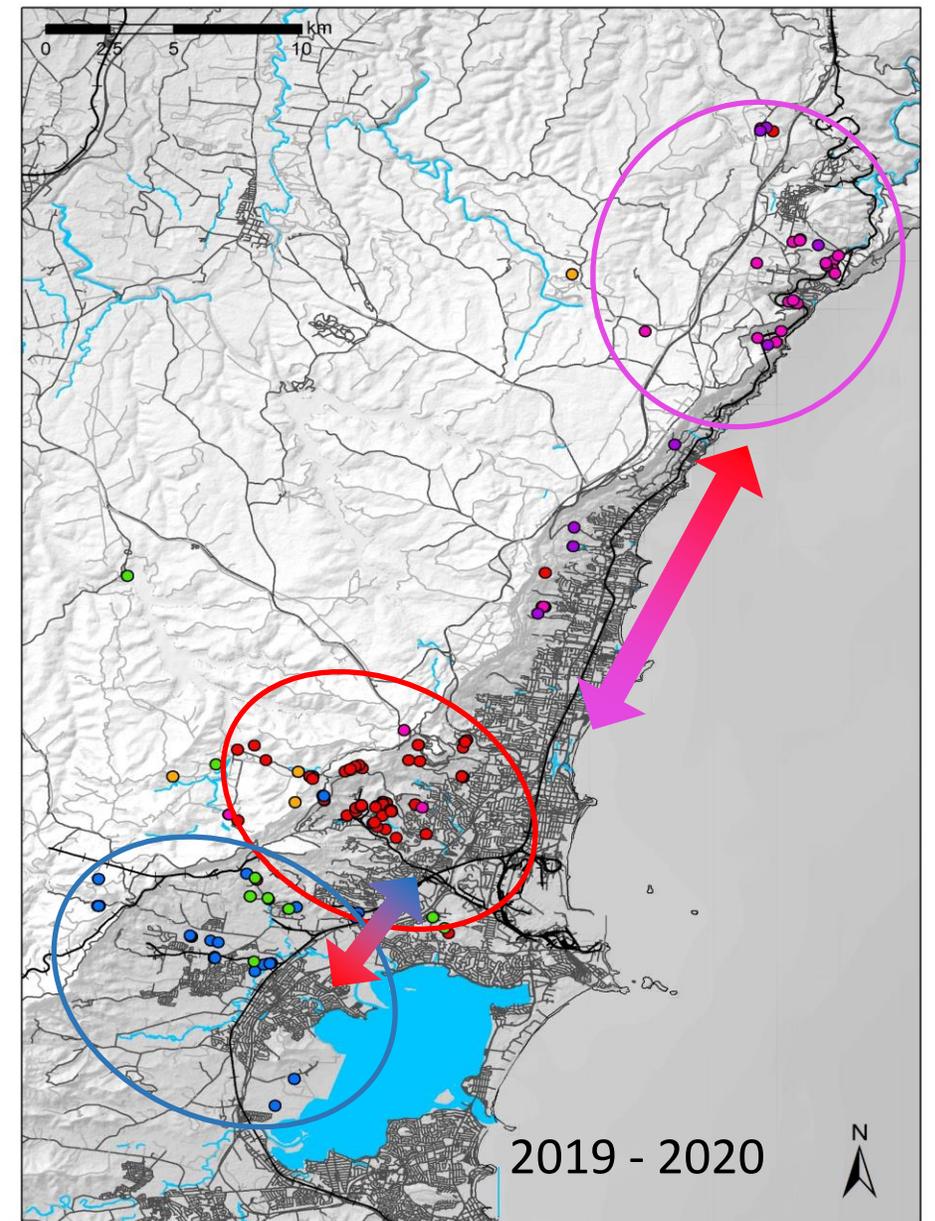


Peri-urban deer management: Where?

Deer tissue samples => DNA

Population structure
Management units

Landscape resistance
Movement corridors/barriers



Collaboration is key to success



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Peri-urban deer management: Where?

Robust monitoring program

Deer impacts

Vehicle collisions

Community complaints

Citizen science

