



Vertebrate Pest Conference

Dubbo 17-19 October 2023



TRAPPED IN THE PAST
– DON'T BE

INSTEAD, **LEARN FROM IT.**

Terry Korn PSM

Injection of meat baits

An example of a short-term issue



Source: Dept Ag & Food.
WA Govt

The tumble-mixing techniques produced baits which averaged 91% retention of the nominated (3.3 mg) dose, and contained 1.3-6.1 and 1.2-5.3 mg 1080, respectively. Two lots of injected baits retained averages of 90% and 97% of the nominated (6 mg) dose, with ranges 3.4-6.8 and 4.5-6.6 mg of 1080, respectively. Both tumble-mixing (either sprinkled or sprayed) and injection can give good average retention of 1080 in meat baits, but tumble-mixing appears to produce baits with a wider range in 1080 content than does injection. (Korn & Livanos 1986)

Lessons from the meat bait injection experience

- Field test a theory **before** making it policy
- Ensure you can measure what you are doing
- Consult with and involve in field testing those whom the policy will affect both directly and indirectly (landholders, animal welfare, conservation)
- A cock-up can (and should) lead an improved system
- So – look for continual improvement
- AND – it helps immensely if you have the Director- General in your corner

LEG HOLD TRAPS

An example of a long-term
issue

How did we get to
this?



WESTERN
TRAPPING
SUPPLIES

<https://www.trapping.com.au/store/traps/victor-soft-catch-3.html>



- From This!

Source: RSPCA NSW

Lessons from the 20-year steel jaw trap experience

- Many behaviours are strongly entrenched, contentious issues have multiple components, take time to work through and the multiple components have to act in concert before success, so:
- Be persistent
- Manage your patience, frustration and sometimes, anger
- network widely
- Actively enlist the support of key bodies or individuals
(use Braysher 2017 as a guide - engagement Vs consultation)

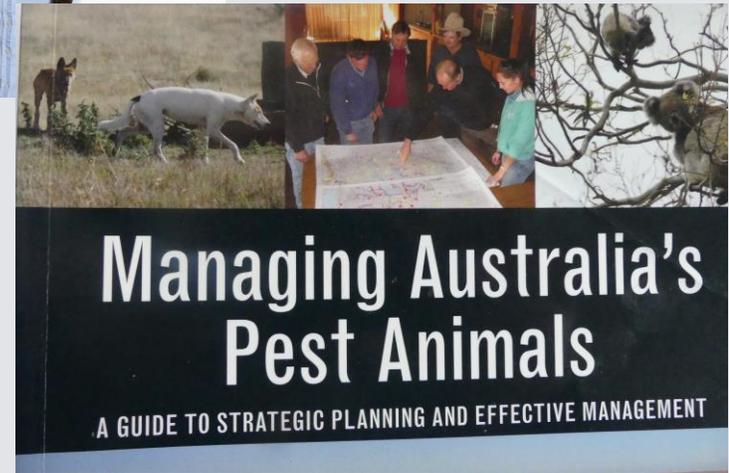
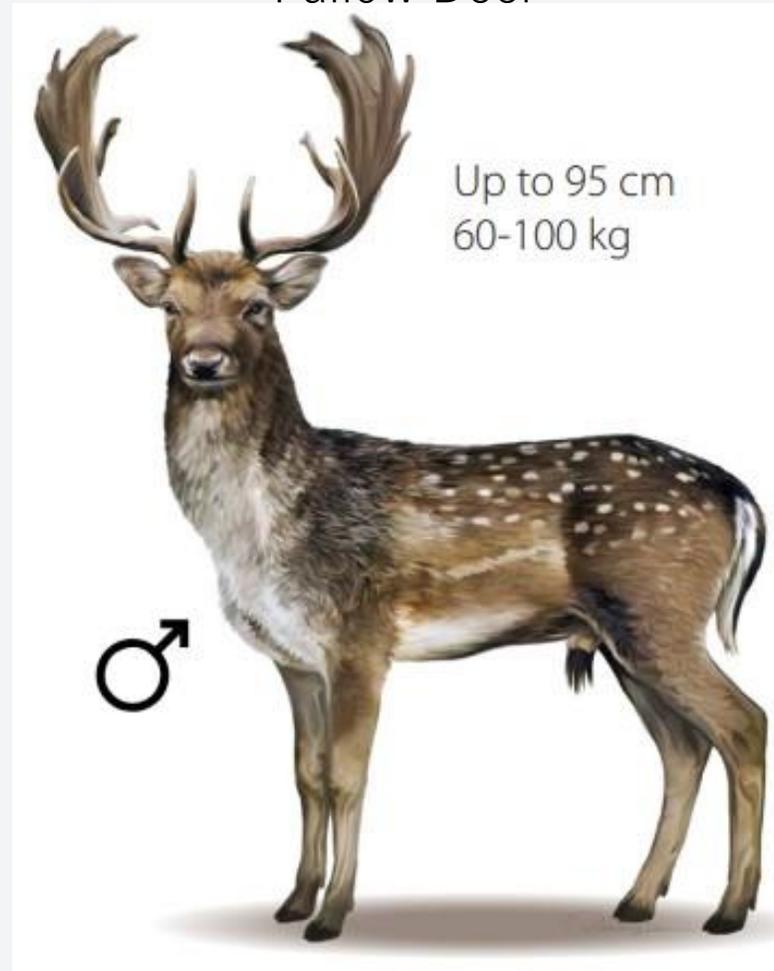


Photo: Dave Worsley

DEER – A political experience



Fallow Deer



Lessons from the Game Council Experience

- Politics will win almost every time over good advice
- ✓ It will always trump science **
- ✓ It rarely takes into account unintended consequences (did the Greens understand what they were doing by allowing Tingle the vote, rather than them?)
- ✓ It often takes a short-term view (Did Premier Bob Carr understand what he was unleashing in the long-term?)
- Recreational hunting failed dismally to control deer – beware how it is used as a pest control tool.

Future Scan – Planning considerations:

- Properties will be larger
- There will be fewer land managers – therefore fewer feet on the ground
- Land managers will be better educated but increasingly time poor
- There will be improved communication/surveillance systems in place – verbal, digital platforms and social media management, remote surveillance on properties
- Artificial Intelligence will play a bigger role (but how?)

Future Scan – Planning considerations:

- Technology application will be more diverse e.g. drone usage for pest control, remote back to base cameras on properties, satellite surveillance systems
- Climate change will impact production systems, pest species distribution and abundance and change windows of opportunity for control
- Increasing awareness of the importance of the environment as we continue to pollute
- Increasing divide in understanding between urban and rural/regional as cities grow and regional/rural populations shrink – associated peri-urban pest control issues
- **Don't ever forget that you will always be dealing with the most difficult animal of all – Humans. The human dimensions of vertebrate pest management is critical**