



CENTRE FOR
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

IMPACT REPORT

2024-25

WELCOME

Use your cursor to navigate through our report.

WELCOME Click the 'welcome' at the top on any page to return to this page.

Use the arrows at the top of any page to go forwards or backwards through the report.

Use the bottom tabs and the index tabs on this page to navigate directly to a section or page.



The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions gratefully acknowledges the financial and in-kind contributions made by its members and associate members.

We are a not-for-profit, member-based organisation formed to address the impact of invasive plants and animals across Australia.

CISS is governed and managed by Invasive Animals Ltd with an independent skills-based Board of Directors. Bruce M Christie is the Chair of the Board and Shauna Chadlowe is the Centre's Chief Executive Officer.

This report should be cited as: Centre for Invasive Species Solutions Impact Report 2024-25.

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invasives.com.au

ISBN Print: 978-1-922971-89-0

ISBN e-Book: 978-1-922971-88-3

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Design by Hodge Environmental

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) acknowledges the continuing connection of First Nations Peoples to culture, country and community in Australia and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We are committed to protecting Australia's unique biodiversity, landscapes, and cultural heritage from the impact of invasive species. We recognise that First Nations Australians have been the original custodians of Country for over 60,000 years, applying deep ecological knowledge and sophisticated land management practices to sustain ecosystems.



1.1 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The past year has been one of renewal, momentum, and consolidation for CISS. We have continued to evolve as an organisation – strengthening our structure and reaffirming our national role as a trusted convener of innovation, science and collaboration in invasive-species management.

Navigating a year of transition

The last 12 months has been a period of significant change for CISS – a leadership handover, a strategic repositioning, and the ongoing shift to a more diversified business model. I am proud to say this transition has been handled with professionalism, optimism and purpose.

On behalf of the Board, I thank Andreas Glanznig for his many years of leadership, which helped build the foundation on which we now stand, and warmly welcome Shauna Chadlowe as our new CEO. Since joining in December 2024, Shauna has brought focus, energy and a strong sense of direction. She has quickly mobilised the team around shared priorities – strengthening capability, growing our profit-for-purpose business LandSmart, modernising systems, and continuing the national leadership for which CISS is known.



From left: Justin Bellanger, Dr Roslyn Hendriks, Bruce Christie, Dr Adrian Zammit and Robbie Davis.

Delivering national impact

This year saw CISS contract 16 new projects, valued at almost \$10 million, a substantial step up from the year before. These include the Future Drought Fund Weed Biocontrol Network, a \$5.9 million national collaboration that will reshape how Australia releases biocontrol agents at a national scale across jurisdictions.

Our national coordinators and programs continue to connect the dots between science, policy and practice – ensuring that knowledge turns into real-world outcomes. Uptake of CISS's digital tools and platforms, including FeralScan, WeedScan, PestSmart and Weeds Australia, continue to grow, giving communities across the country the ability to monitor, report and manage invasive species more effectively than ever.

At the same time, LandSmart Services is establishing itself as a credible and growing enterprise – delivering on-ground solutions for industry, councils and landholders. Particularly exciting is LandSmart's collaboration with the North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA), which continues to strengthen. Ultimately, LandSmart's success will enable us to reinvest profits into innovation and research that directly benefit Australia's landscapes and communities.

Building for the long term

We are under no illusion that the path to full financial sustainability is short or simple. It is a journey – one we are taking deliberately and confidently.

This year's planned deficit reflects strategic investment in people, systems and growth. With careful governance and oversight, we are positioning CISS to diversify income through memberships, competitive grants and project partnerships, commercial services and philanthropy. The Board remains committed to supporting management as we embed this new model and strengthen the organisation's long-term foundations.

Importantly, these changes are not just about revenue – they are about relevance. CISS's ability to convene across jurisdictions, sectors and disciplines is more valuable than ever as Australia faces increasingly complex biosecurity and environmental challenges.

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Our people and partnerships

As always, our greatest strength lies in our people and partners. I am immensely proud of the CISS team, whose professionalism, adaptability and good humour have carried the organisation through a year of change.

This year we farewelled Board member Jan Fergusson, who has served CISS with wisdom, generosity and deep commitment over many years. We thank her sincerely for her contribution and stewardship. Looking ahead, Board member Robbie Davis will step down at this year's AGM, and I also extend heartfelt thanks for her service and dedication to CISS's mission. We also look forward to welcoming new Board members following completion of the current nomination process, bringing fresh perspectives and experience to guide CISS's next phase of growth.

I also thank our members and partners across government, research, industry and community. Your trust, engagement and collaboration underpin everything we do.

Looking ahead

The year ahead promises continued growth and consolidation. We will strengthen national RD&E coordination, expand the reach of our digital surveillance tools and continue advancing new biocontrol agents and technologies to tackle priority invasive species.

CISS will build on its role as a trusted source of best-practice knowledge, helping to grow social licence for humane and effective invasive species management. At the same time, we will increase efforts to secure competitive grants, diversify funding through LandSmart Services and foster new philanthropic partnerships.

By building on the strong momentum of this past year, we are creating a resilient, collaborative and forward-looking entity that continues to deliver national impact.

As Chair, I remain confident that CISS is on the right path – one of responsible growth, strategic renewal and enduring purpose. We are shaping a modern, collaborative and sustainable organisation that continues to deliver for Australia's environment, agriculture and communities.

To Shauna, our dedicated staff, the Board, and all who contribute to our shared mission – thank you. It is a privilege to work alongside you as we guide CISS into its next chapter.

Bruce M Christie
Chair



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1.2 MEMBERS

Members



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Associate Members



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1.3 CEO'S SNAPSHOT

When I joined CISS in December 2024, I found an organisation that had already achieved so much – and one ready to take its next leap forward. This year I've had the privilege of leading CISS through a period of renewal, focus and connection – strengthening how we deliver, deepening partnerships and clarifying our path ahead.

Soon after commencing, I set out on a national 'listening tour' with Chair, Bruce M Christie, meeting partners across every jurisdiction. We heard a clear message: CISS plays a vital national role in connecting science, government, industry and community to deliver practical outcomes.

Common themes emerged: the importance of CISS's leadership in collaborative research, development and extension; the national value of our vertebrate pest coordinators; the need for a trusted, independent home for knowledge and data sharing; the growing reach of our digital platforms; and the need for an independent voice to build social licence for invasive species management. These conversations have refined our strategic priorities and reaffirmed that our strength lies in collaboration, credibility and responsiveness.

While the past year has been one of transition, it's also been a year of progress. CISS contracted 16 new projects valued at \$9.7 million, including the \$5.9 million Future Drought Fund Weed Biocontrol Mass Rearing and Release Network project – a landmark investment to strengthen Australia's biocontrol capability and drought resilience. Alongside the National Weed Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy, CISS continues to provide the glue that helps drive national innovation forward.

A major focus this year has been rabbits – among Australia's most damaging invasive species. Working with CSIRO, Rabbit-Free Australia, Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board and the Invasive Species Council, as well as Australia's first National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator, Heidi Kleinert, CISS is helping to raise awareness about the rabbit problem and the urgent need for coordinated action – from practical control measures now through to investment in new biological control agents.

Throughout the year, our National Vertebrate Pest Coordinators continued to bring jurisdictions, researchers and communities together – building alignment, sharing knowledge and promoting best-practice approaches to pest management across Australia.



Digital tools and innovation

CISS's digital innovation continues to grow, with new and enhanced tools in development including:

- ▶ WeedScan 2.0 which will deliver improved weed recognition, functionality and image quality when it launches.
- ▶ WeedRemeed which is progressing through trials that demonstrate the potential of AI to detect and manage weeds at scale.

Use of tools such as [FeralScan](#), [PestSmart](#) and [Weeds Australia](#) continues to rise, reinforcing their value as trusted, science-based resources. FeralScan remains a key system for tracking pest activity and enabling coordinated community and agency responses. Together, these tools embody shared responsibility – giving communities the knowledge and confidence to take action against pests and weeds.

This year CISS added two new digital platforms to its national suite:



Weed Risk Australia, providing a framework for assessing and comparing weed risks across jurisdictions, improving transparency and consistency.



Digital Illegal Wildlife Trade, delivering advanced monitoring and analysis to track and disrupt illegal animal and plant trade, supporting enforcement, policy and prevention.

Together, these platforms further strengthen Australia's biosecurity architecture – enabling data-driven management and nationally consistent decision-making.

Profit-for-purpose business

Our LandSmart Services profit-for-purpose business unit also grew this year. New partnerships – including with Australian Pork Limited, Santos and others – show how applied science and technology can deliver tangible biodiversity and biosecurity outcomes. While LandSmart continues to grow, our focus remains on collaborative RD&E and the delivery of trusted national services.

Investing in people

CISS's strength lies in its people. We have welcomed Dr John Virtue as Director of RD&E, Maree Wright as National R&D Coordinator and Sean Freney as Business Development Manager for LandSmart, while farewelling Dr Tony Buckmaster, Principal RD&E Manager, whose contribution leaves a lasting legacy. We're proud that our culture remains collaborative, pragmatic and forward-looking, a fact that was recognised through the ACT Healthier Work Gold Award.

Championing integration and innovation

Beyond the reporting period, a personal highlight was supporting the Environment & Invasives Committee's (EIC) Forward Work Plan Planning Day in August 2025. CISS has since been invited to support the EIC 2025-27 work plan, focusing on developing national biocontrol tools, harmonising pest-management standards and expanding citizen science. This reflects CISS's growing recognition as a connector across science, technology and policy – bridging innovation with practical action on the ground.

Looking ahead

The year ahead will focus on strengthening our service model and diversifying revenue, including new philanthropic and fundraising streams. Support from MacPac Fund for Good and early philanthropic gifts is encouraging and signals growing confidence in CISS's mission.

While we're still on our journey toward full financial sustainability, our direction is clear and our foundations strong. With capable people, collaborative partners and an expanding portfolio of impactful programs, CISS is well positioned to deliver outcomes that protect Australia's environment, agricultural productivity and communities.

To our members, partners and friends – thank you for your trust and confidence. Together, we are building a connected, sustainable Centre – one that turns science into action and delivers tangible results for the nation.

Shauna

Shauna Chadlowe
Chief Executive Officer

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1.4 2024-25 AT A GLANCE



1080 [media release](#) confirms its vital place in invasive species management



Roadshow: New CISS CEO completes in-person and virtual engagement with all jurisdictions and key industry bodies



27 March 2025

DEER BREEDING SEASON TRIGGERS CALL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

Joint [media release](#) on rabbit biocontrol pipeline funding with Rabbit-Free Australia and the Invasive Species Council

APRIL

JANUARY – MARCH

MARCH

[Media release](#) put spotlight on feral deer spread and shared responsibility for control



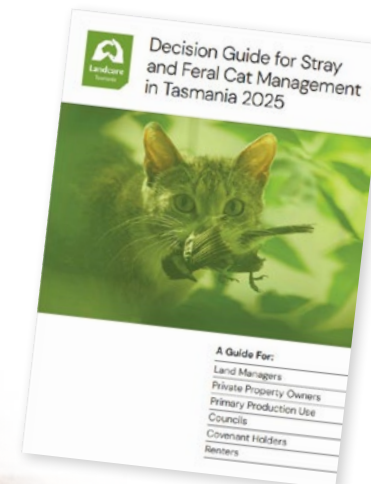
Photo: Clement Tang

MAY

The National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordinator partnered with Landcare Tasmania to produce a [decision guide](#) for stray and feral cat management

JUNE

Partnering with the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group to protect Australia from these invasive birds



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1.5 INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS TRUST

The Invasive Species Solutions Trust is being revitalised to drive strategic fundraising, grow a strong donor base for CISS and attract new philanthropic support.

This renewed approach is already gaining momentum, with generous philanthropic support reflecting clear confidence in our important work.

A recent MacPac Fund for Good grant, alongside other philanthropic contributions, has helped the Trust to support [WeedScan](#) – Australia's first computer vision-powered weed app – get even better.

The next iteration of WeedScan will almost double the number of species included to more than 950 and introduce new features and usability improvements. Extensive user testing in May 2025 identified that accuracy remains a key priority. In response, CISS has mined more than 900,000 images to train and strengthen WeedScan's AI recognition system, supported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and MacPac, to deliver greater reliability for land managers across Australia.

Philanthropic investment is also helping CISS build long-term financial sustainability. Work is now underway to establish the key foundations for fundraising, including an integrated Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to support future campaigns. These systems will be tested over Christmas in preparation for a series of targeted fundraising initiatives in 2026.

We're proud to keep our Trust expenditure low: 81% of donations go to protecting Australia from invasive species.



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1.6 STRATEGY AND APPROACH

VALUES Transformative ... Collaborative ... Bold ... Ethical ... Trusted

VISION An invasive species free Australia

PURPOSE STATEMENT Together, create and deliver valued invasive species solutions for primary industries, the environment and communities

CISS is a national leader and coordinator of invasive species solutions. We:

- ▶ develop and deliver solutions to important problems
- ▶ drive innovation to enhance integrated landscape management
- ▶ accelerate building and strengthening of community biosecurity networks and surveillance systems
- ▶ advance outcomes through the application of digital tools and management systems
- ▶ build efficiencies and critical mass, brokerage and capacity
- ▶ plan for and create long term outcomes in a changing environment

Strategic Priority Areas and how we will achieve them:

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Strategic collaborations and Revenue Growth

Partnerships and collaborations to leverage, lead and amplify outcomes

- ▶ Provide national leadership and coordination advice and expertise
- ▶ Broker and secure new national and international collaborations to magnify outcomes across systems
- ▶ Grow capacity through relationships and opportunities with aligned organisations
- ▶ Grow, diversify and leverage income, and our member base

Strategic shifts we seek:

- ▶ Growth across national and global collaborations
- ▶ Creation of critical mass for greater impact



Integrated solutions

Research, development and engagement (RD&E) to advance large-scale coordination and breakthroughs

- ▶ Set and drive the long-term collaborative RD&E agenda to meet member priorities
- ▶ Deliver and service our RD&E collaborations to increase impact
- ▶ Accelerate adoption of solution based research and innovation
- ▶ Evaluate, synthesise and share performance and impact of programs and projects

Strategic shifts we seek:

- ▶ Translation of technologies across species
- ▶ Scaling solutions and impact



Capability and adoption

Acceleration of best practice management adoption to build communities of impact

- ▶ Build capacity and accelerate adoption of best practice integrated land management and surveillance
- ▶ Influence behaviour through improving education and communications that motivate action, and enrich social licence
- ▶ Facilitate knowledge exchange and build the capacity of researchers and leaders

Strategic shifts we seek:

- ▶ Increased land manager and community engagement
- ▶ Increased adoption of cross-tenure and landscape scale management



Efficient and effective

Internal governance and operations, financial management, effective communication and skilled staff

- ▶ Govern and manage the company and ISS Trust effectively
- ▶ Maintain strong working relationships with members and partners
- ▶ Attract and retain skilled staff

Strategic shifts we seek:

- ▶ Longevity of investment across sectors
- ▶ Enhanced recognition of our brand value

2.1 'PROFIT FOR PURPOSE' LANDSMART SERVICES – A YEAR OF GROWTH

Now in its second year, LandSmart Services has continued to grow as CISS's profit-for-purpose business unit, delivering practical on-ground outcomes while generating new revenue streams to reinvest in invasive species research, development and engagement.

This year, CISS executed nine LandSmart contracts with partners including the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI), Western Downs Regional Council, Australian Pork Limited (APL), Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, and Pest Animal Management Control Australia. These projects are providing valuable insights into feral pig movements, disease transmission risks, and strategies for improved control. On-ground management is also advancing with Santos, APL and the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA), with the latter focussed on training and capacity building.

Further expanding its services, LandSmart supported industry preparedness by developing a feral pig biosecurity plan template for APL. This work demonstrates LandSmart's growing role in strengthening biosecurity resilience and delivering tailored solutions across sectors.

Feral pigs at a water source on Cape York.

landSMART 

Tackling African Swine Fever risks



Livestock in a domestic piggyery.

In partnership with QDPI, LandSmart has been advancing understanding of the potential transmission risks of African Swine Fever (ASF) between feral and domestic pigs. The project deployed 24 GPS collars across two sites in Queensland's Western Downs region, capturing feral pig movement data to guide control programs and inform emergency disease preparedness.

A tailored community engagement plan ensured consistent communication and local buy-in, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in addressing high-risk biosecurity challenges. This project exemplifies LandSmart's capacity to adapt, problem-solve and deliver solutions that strengthen both national and regional resilience.

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2.2 LANDSMART TEAM – TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION

The LandSmart team continues to grow, combining deep expertise with practical experience to deliver real biosecurity outcomes across Australia.

Business Development Manager **Sean Freney** has played a key role in expanding [LandSmart's](#) reach this year, developing a feral pig biosecurity plan template for Australian Pork Limited and showcasing CISS's innovative WeedRemeed technology at national forums. "LandSmart's strength lies in turning research and innovation into practical outcomes," Sean says. "Whether it's a feral pig biosecurity plan or new drone technology, we focus on solutions that help landholders and industry prepare, respond and stay resilient."

With more than 20 years' experience in natural resource management, **Darren Marshall** leads our Feral Animal Projects with a strong focus on feral pigs. His work combines biophysical research with on-ground control, and he is widely recognised for his collaborative approach. "The real impact happens when people have the knowledge and confidence to take action," Darren says. "Working alongside landholders, industry and First Nations partners to turn research into practical tools is what drives me – it's how we create lasting change on the ground."

Complementing the team is **Lachlan Marshall**, whose background in feral animal research and community engagement strengthens delivery across multiple regions. "Our success depends on trust," he explains. "By working closely with landholders and regional partners, we can tailor solutions that work locally and make a difference nationally."

Together, the LandSmart team is helping ensure that knowledge doesn't stay on paper – it's applied where it matters most.



From left: Darren Marshall, Sean Freney and Lachlan Marshall.



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3.1 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN BIOCONTROL

CISS continues to build on its proud legacy of leadership in weed and rabbit biocontrol – proven, science-driven approaches that protect Australia's landscapes, agriculture and biodiversity.

Weed biocontrol coordination

Weeds cost Australia an estimated **\$5 billion every year**, degrading ecosystems, choking waterways and reducing agricultural productivity. Weed biocontrol offers a powerful long-term solution to this national challenge – using nature's own checks and balances to restore landscapes at scale.

CISS's national coordination efforts are helping shape the future of weed biocontrol research, development and engagement in Australia. A newly-announced project will see CISS lead a coordinated national effort to identify, test, release and monitor biocontrol agents to tackle some of Australia's most damaging weeds.

National Weed Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy (NWBPS) | Initial Stage

This landmark project unites Australia's leading experts in weed biocontrol prioritisation, digital monitoring and stakeholder consultation through a purpose-built collaborative network.

This year the project delivered several key milestones:

- ▶ **National Weed Biocontrol Prioritisation Framework** - a staged methodology endorsed by the EIC in November 2024, that assesses weeds for impact, invasiveness and biocontrol potential.
- ▶ **National Weed Biocontrol Priority Results** - a major output identifying where investments in biocontrol will deliver the greatest return. The report highlighted the top 20 high-impact weeds with strong prospects for successful biocontrol.
- ▶ **National Weed Biocontrol Investment Report** - a five-year, \$38 million investment pipeline outlining 18 projects targeting 20 priority weed species, including 11 Weeds of National Significance. The plan charts a pathway for progressing biocontrol candidates – natural enemies from a weed's home range – through four key phases: exploration, risk assessment, release and long-term monitoring.

Weed biocontrol investment enables Australia to protect its natural and productive landscapes while delivering outstanding value for money. A CSIRO review found that biocontrol provides an impressive 23:1 return on investment, generating annual benefits of \$95.3 million from an average annual investment of just \$4.3 million.



Invasive weeds degrade Australia's environment – but biocontrol helps nature fight back.

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Future Drought Fund

Nation-wide Weed Biocontrol Mass-Rearing and Release Network for Enhanced Drought Resilience in Australia's Agricultural Landscapes

CISS is leading this five-year, \$5.9 million project, funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund in collaboration with CSIRO, Queensland's Department of Primary Industries, Agriculture Victoria and NSW's Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

For the first time, this national consortium will fast-track delivery of weed biocontrol agents across jurisdictions through an Australia-wide network of coordinated release sites. This will enable many weed biocontrol agents to be distributed at the same time. Target species include African boxthorn, prickly acacia, horehound, various opuntoid cacti species and three aquatic weeds – cabomba, sagittaria and salvinia. Six of the target species are Weeds of National Significance.

The project will deliver lasting outcomes including:

- ▶ improved landscape function and resilience
- ▶ demonstrated biocontrol effectiveness in building drought resilience
- ▶ increased farmer participation and uptake of weed biocontrol tools
- ▶ strengthened national-scale collaborative networks and First Nations' partnerships.



Releasing the sagittaria fruit-feeding weevil at the first nursery site in Victoria in 2022. From left: Danielle McMillan (Goulburn Murray Water) and Agriculture Victoria research scientists Raelene Kwong and Hasan Rahmani. Image credit: Agriculture Victoria.



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Rabbit biocontrol: partnering for success

In April, CISS partnered with the Invasive Species Council and Rabbit-Free Australia in calling for urgent federal support to fast-track the next [rabbit biocontrol virus](#), warning that vital research funding has dried up just as the effectiveness of existing viruses declines.

Rabbit populations are rebounding. This is in part due to genetic resistance to viruses which builds up over time. New rabbit biocontrol agents need to be released every 10-15 years: the last was in 2017.

In a co-signed letter sent to key MPs and Senators, the consortium urged the Australian Government to invest at least \$15 million over five years to help fund the nationally endorsed [Rabbit Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy](#).

Drawing on our long history of successful collaboration in rabbit biocontrol, CISS and CSIRO are pursuing two complementary initiatives:

Developing a proposal to optimise ongoing RHDV-K5 impacts, using advanced genetic techniques to map virus prevalence and identify the optimal timing for K5 – helping reduce variability in knockdown rates and strengthen control outcomes nationwide.

Securing funding for the Rabbit Biocontrol Accelerator Project to keep Australia ahead of the virus-resistance curve and safeguard decades of biocontrol progress in agricultural productivity and biodiversity protection.

By investing now, Australia can curb the impacts of the next wave of rabbits – safeguarding our landscapes, wildlife and rural livelihoods for years to come.

Rabbits remain Australia's most costly and destructive vertebrate pest, inflicting an estimated \$200 million in annual agricultural losses and threatening more than 300 native flora and fauna species (including 24 critically endangered species).



Image credit: Anne Young.

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3.2 DIGITAL INNOVATION

WeedRemeed – Harnessing AI for mapping weeds at scale

CISS's [WeedRemeed](#) project continues to show potential as a drone-based AI/ML platform for detecting, mapping and managing invasive weeds at scale using colour or shape and texture.

Utilising a machine learning model to process the Wheel cactus survey at the Buckrabanyule site, we achieved a strong 84% detection rate.

For more diffuse or smaller species, performance varied depending on image resolution, survey consistency, and annotation quality – identifying key areas for further refinement, model development and user training.

For example, datasets with species obscured by other vegetation (such as *Solanum adoxum*) could not be processed. These findings highlight the importance of high-resolution imagery, consistent drone flight heights, clearly defined species and large sample sizes (minimum ~2,000 instances). Annotation remains labour intensive, but the roadmap for stronger models is becoming clearer.

Despite this variability, the findings reaffirmed that WeedRemeed's greatest strength lies not in weed detection alone, but in its powerful cloud-based platform for large-scale data and image processing. The system enables users to build their own AI/ML weed models, securely store and manage data, and collaborate across organisations – accelerating innovation in weed mapping and monitoring.

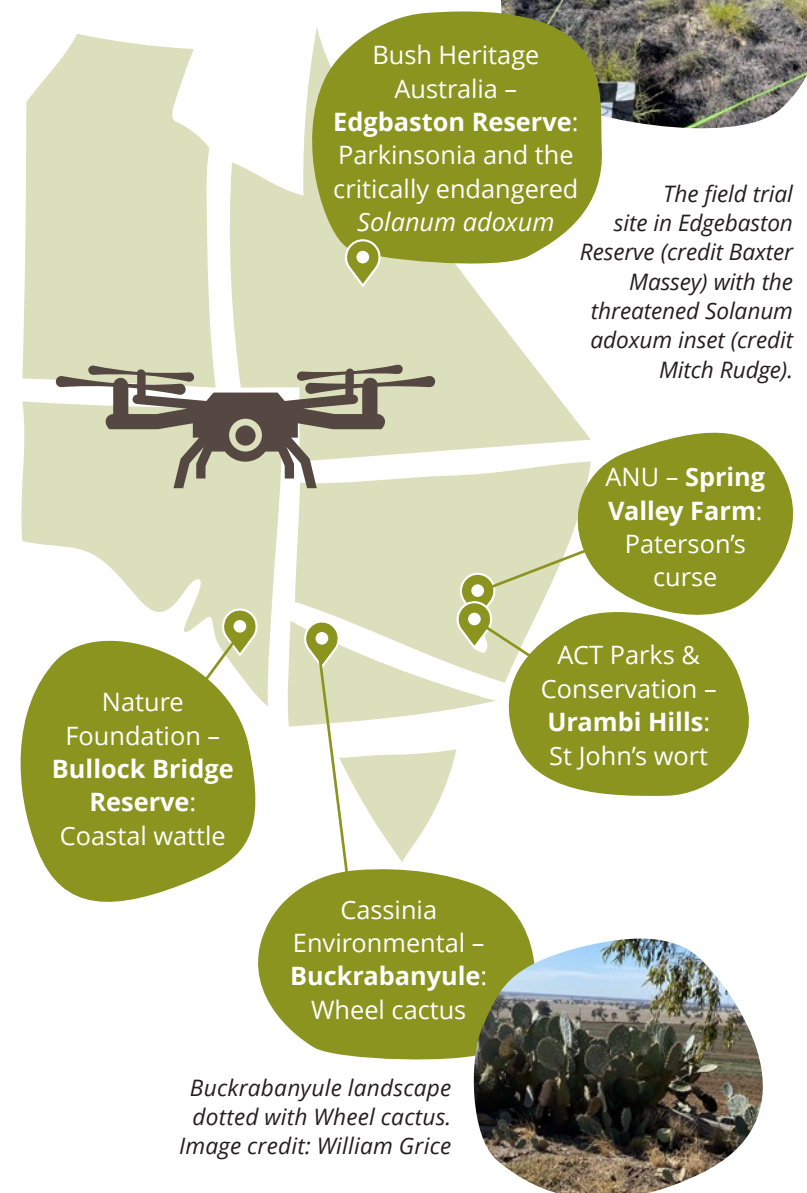
Currently best suited to professional practitioners, WeedRemeed will be supported by a comprehensive user manual. The project is progressing towards commercialisation, with proof-of-concept projects, usability updates, training resources and marketing plans underway. Ongoing engagement with First Nations partners will ensure the platform evolves as a secure, collaborative and scalable tool for use across Australia's diverse and remote landscapes.

As WeedRemeed continues its journey towards market entry in 2026, the immediate focus is on testing the technology at larger scales through proof-of-concept projects, delivering system updates to enable self-service usability, and showcasing the platform's potential at industry forums.

WeedRemeed is funded by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the Saving Native Species Program (Threat Innovation Grants).

Look for
launch
details in
2026

Trial site locations



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WeedScan: Progress towards 2.0

WeedScan is Australia's first AI-powered citizen science app that helps people identify, report and manage priority weeds – empowering communities to better target and coordinate their weed control efforts.

Building on the learnings from WeedScan 1.0, CISS has improved the app's functionality – resolving issues such as image shredding – and mined more than 900,000 images across 950 plant species, nearly doubling the species coverage for version 2.0.

While adding more species helps train the app's AI, it's even more critical to increase the number of images per species to ensure it is trained across the life stages and each plant's distinctive features. It's a complex, time and labour-intensive process.

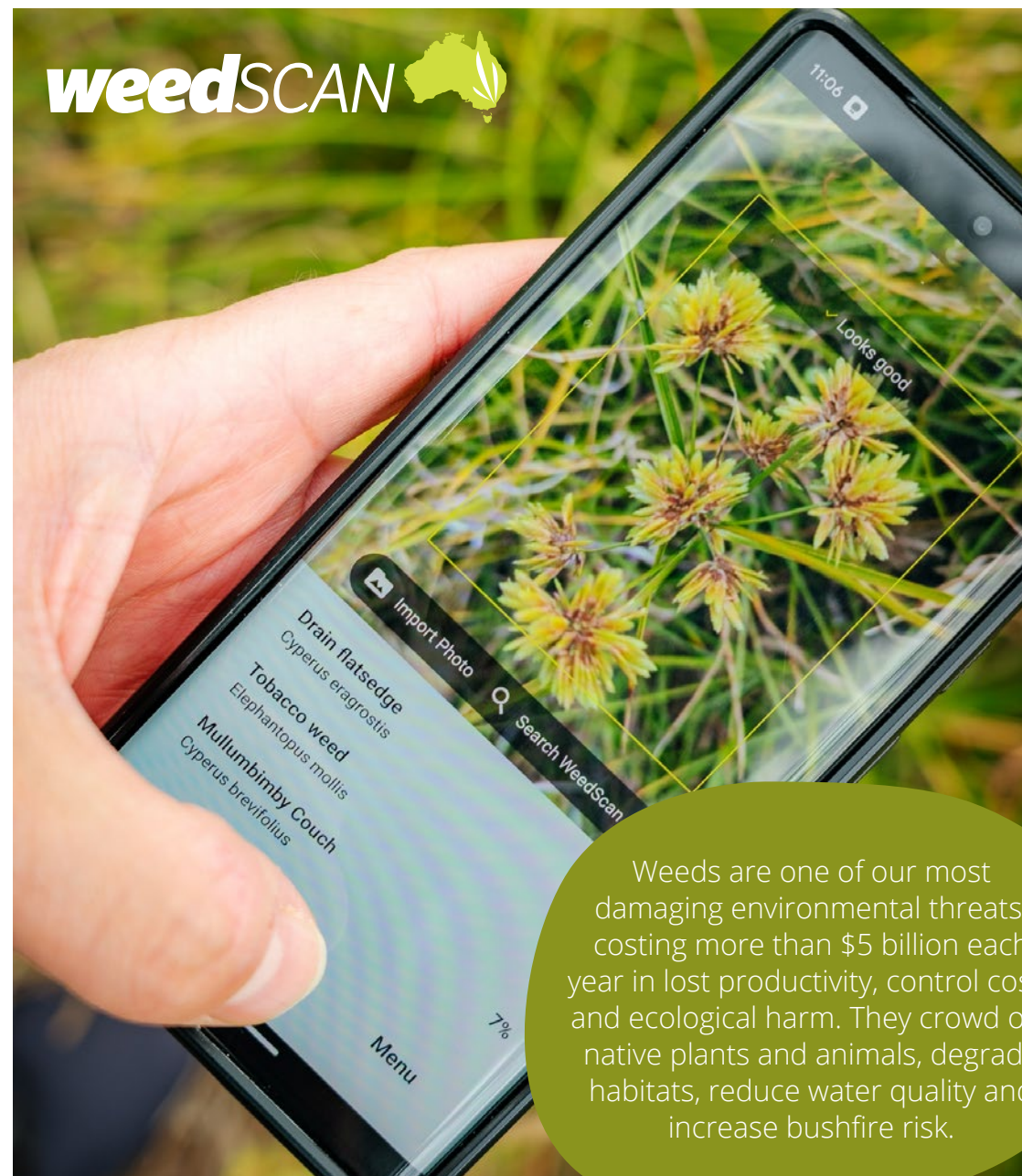
To ensure quality, we've engaged one of Australia's leading taxonomists and QA experts to audit the species listings and selectively review images – because even small data inconsistencies can affect model performance. Once the audit is complete, the verified data will be uploaded to train the app.

This stage is followed by thorough User Acceptance Testing (UAT) across three phases including the app and website, the iOS version and the Android version.

The app is free and allows users to record a suspect weed for expert verification, share observations with a group to strengthen control efforts, and access tailored weed biology and management advice based on your location – all from the web or your mobile.

Since its launch in December 2023, WeedScan has been downloaded more than 31,000 times across Apple and Android devices, with over 3,000 registered web users by June 2025 – reflecting growing national interest in this Australian-made app.

If you'd like to lend a hand during UAT – and get an exclusive sneak peek of WeedScan 2.0 before its public release – please get in touch with us at weeds@invasives.com.au



Weeds are one of our most damaging environmental threats, costing more than \$5 billion each year in lost productivity, control costs and ecological harm. They crowd out native plants and animals, degrade habitats, reduce water quality and increase bushfire risk.

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3.3 NEW AND ONGOING CONTRACTS IMPLEMENTATION

2025 Invasive species projects

Our innovations help protect Australia from invasive species. Our project portfolio is centred on collaboration and technological innovation to tackle invasive pests and weeds at landscape scale. [View all our research projects.](#)



Genetic technology for mouse management

Exploring innovative gene drives for species-specific suppression

PARTNERS: CSIRO, NSW DPIRD, University of Adelaide



Feral pigs, deer and other vertebrate pests

GPS tracking to study deer behaviour and validate aerial shooting.

PARTNER: NSW DPIRD



Developing a risk-based surveillance system of wildlife disease in NSW

Testing and improving surveillance of Emergency Animal Disease (EAD), such as Foot and Mouth disease in wild animals.

PARTNER: NSW DPIRD



WeedRemeed™

Applying AI/Machine Learning and colour-swatching technologies to map weeds at scale.

PARTNERS: 2pi Software, Bush Heritage Australia, Cassinia Environmental, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Nature Foundation



WeedScan 2.0

WeedScan 2.0 is on its way, extending coverage to around 950 species and introducing smarter functionality to improve weed identification and minimise false positives.

PARTNERS: DAFF, MacPac Fund for Good



Analysis of fox impacts

Identifying residual agricultural losses from foxes and identifying mitigations.

PARTNER: DAFF



CoPs and SOPs for feral cat and fox management

The National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordination Program is reviewing and updating the national Codes of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures for the effective and humane management of feral cats and foxes.

PARTNER: Terrestrial Vertebrate Working Group



Integrated weed management

Assessing invasive grass management approaches to prevent herbicide resistance for effective control.

PARTNER: NSW DPIRD



Nation-wide Weed Biocontrol Mass-Rearing and Release Network for Enhanced Drought Resilience in Australia's Agricultural Landscapes

Support the identification, testing, release and monitoring of nine biocontrol agents targeting some of Australia's most destructive weeds.

PARTNERS: DAFF, CSIRO, QDPI, Agriculture Victoria, NSW DPIRD



National Weed Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy | Initial Stage

Assessing and prioritising candidate weeds for biocontrol RD&E investment.

PARTNERS: DAFF, CSIRO, Agriculture Victoria, NSW DPIRD, QDAF, Wild Matters, Atlas of Living Australia

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The [Integrated Weed Management](#) project tackled tough weeds with smart science. Over four years, this project trialled 140+ herbicide combinations to crack control of African lovegrass, serrated tussock, and Chilean needle grass. It uncovered resistance trends, refined pasture integration strategies, and delivered practical solutions straight to landholders through hands-on field days. Plus, a Best Practice Manual on Blue Heliotrope now arms communities with proven management tactics.



Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences estimates foxes currently cost agriculture \$198 million each year. The **Analysis of Fox Impacts Project**, funded by DAFF, will identify the regions and industries most affected, assess gaps in current support for landholders, and recommend the most practical ways to reduce fox damage.



The [Genetic Technology for Mouse Management](#) project, in partnership with the University of Adelaide, NSW DPIRD and CSIRO, explored the feasibility of novel genetic biocontrol strategies targeting invasive mammals. It also developed in silico modelling platforms to assess gene drive eradication potential. While technical hurdles remain the integration of experimental and modelling approaches has provided a robust framework for future research. Continued development and refinement of gene drive constructs, informed by ecological and genomic data, will be critical to realising the potential of this transformative technology.



Photo: Jessamy Frost

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2025 LandSmart projects

This year, we expanded our suite of [LandSmart Services](#) across Australia.



Bunya Mountains Feral Pig Project

The project monitored the movement of 19 feral pigs across multiple private and public lands with the aim of understanding how the local population spatially uses the Bunya Mountain region.

PARTNER: Western Downs Regional Council



National Feral Pig Farmer Plan Template

Identifying transmission pathways to inform management of vector-borne diseases

This project is based in Victoria and aims to monitor feral pig movement to understand disease transmission risk to domestic pigs, and other livestock species while building landholder awareness and capability to control feral pigs.

PARTNER: Australian Pork Limited



North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd (NAILSMA) Ranger training and extension project

The Feral Animals Project team has been working directly with Indigenous Rangers to control and monitor feral pigs. The project focusses on training and aims to give Indigenous Rangers further skills and information to help control feral pig populations on country. This project will contribute data to better understand control efforts in the wet tropics and feral pig movement patterns in the wet season.

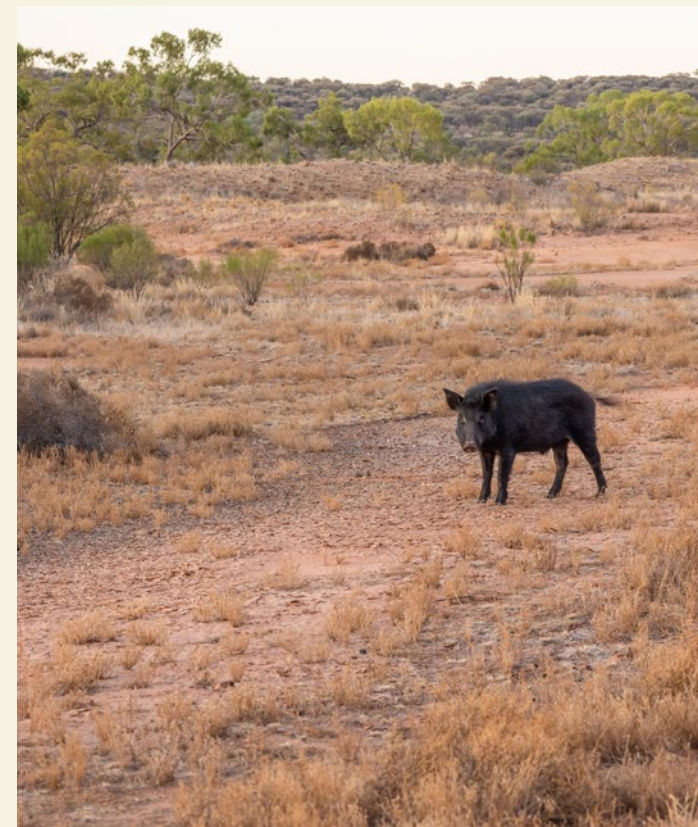
PARTNER: NAILSMA



Pest animal management and monitoring

The Feral Animals Project team is delivering best practice pest animal management and monitoring across six properties. This project focuses on protecting environmental areas from the impacts of a variety of pest animals.

PARTNER: Santos



The Feral Animals Project Team of Darren and Lachlan Marshall contributed to the **Queensland Feral Pig Plan Working Group** in September 2025. Together with other feral pig management experts, our team joined the Working Group in developing a framework to develop and implement Queensland's new feral pig management plan.

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4.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION

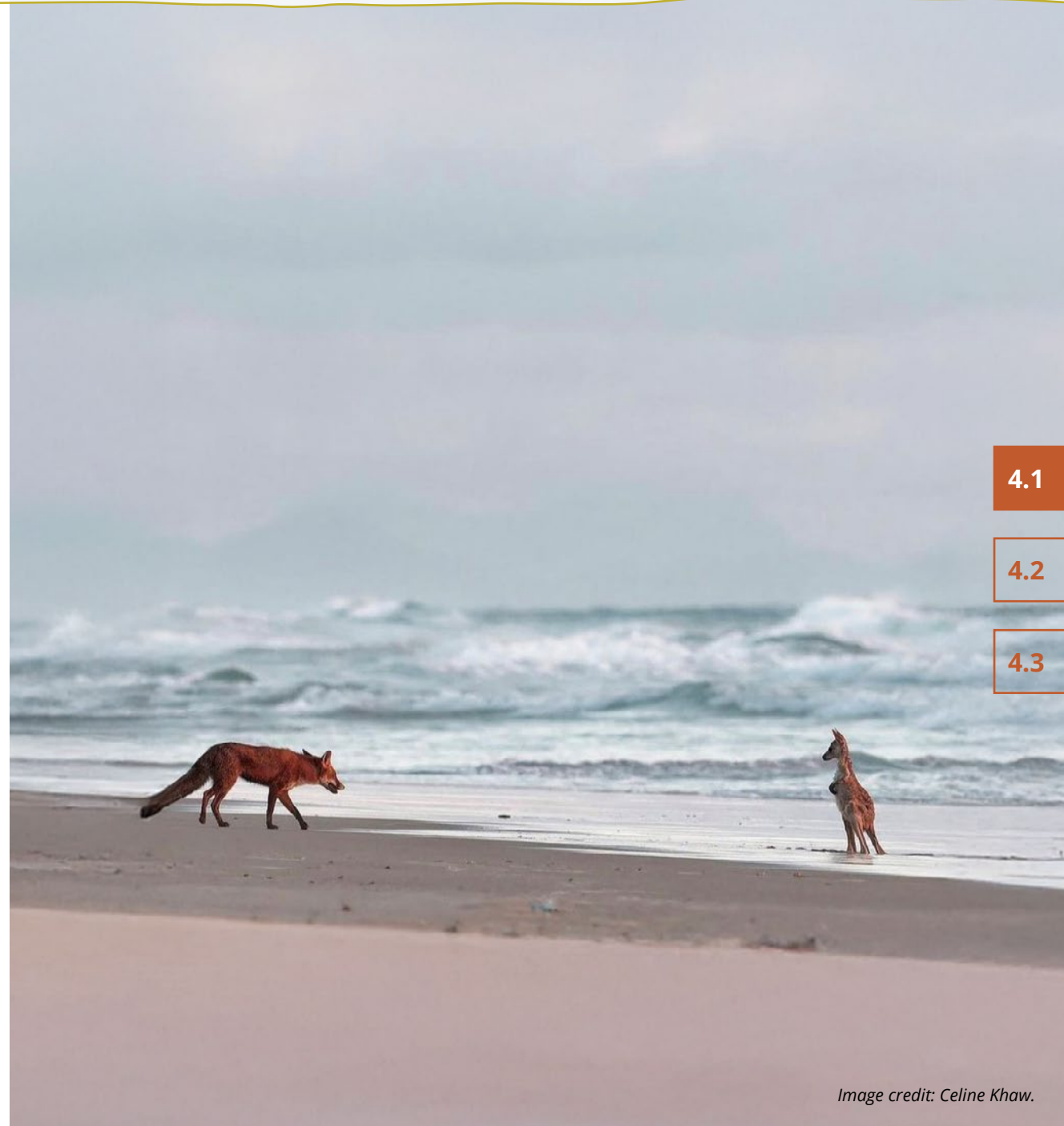
At CISS, National Coordination is at the heart of how we turn research into real-world impact. Through a network of partnerships, programs and passionate people, this model ensures that innovation doesn't stop in the lab – it reaches the landscapes, communities and industries that need it most.

The National Coordination model protects Australia from invasive species by:

- ▶ increasing community awareness of invasive species and their impacts
- ▶ facilitating and strengthening on-ground community efforts
- ▶ fostering the adoption of support systems and tools like [PestSmart](#) and [FeralScan](#).

Together, these efforts help land managers, community groups, and policymakers work towards a shared goal: a coordinated national approach to reducing the damage caused by invasive species.

Our three National Coordinators, **Gillian Basnett** – National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordinator, **Heidi Kleinert** – National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator and **Greg Mifsud** – National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, lead this effort. They develop nationally-endorsed management plans, connect science with policy and practice, and promote humane, evidence-based approaches that make a measurable difference on the ground.



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Image credit: Celine Khaw.



National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator

Community engagement, March, Pinjarra

Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group hosted a screening of ABC's *Eat the Invaders* with input from the National Coordinator.



1

Field trip, June, ACT

Collecting rabbit samples in efforts led by Parks ACT and CSIRO.



2

Field trip, Murrumbateman, June

Researchers from the Spanish National Research Council see rabbit impacts.



3



National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordinator



1 Project Platypus workshop, May, Minyip

National Coordinators supported a focus on feral cats, foxes and rabbits.



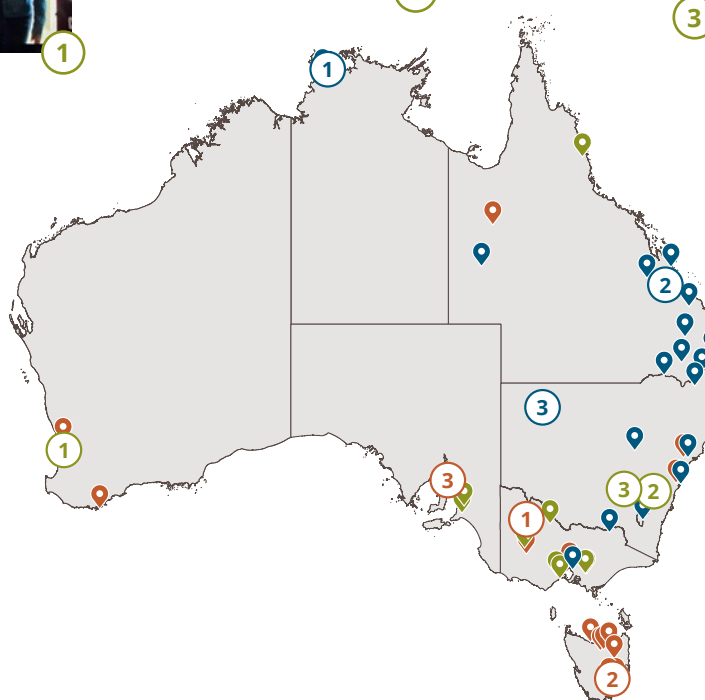
2 Information event, August, South Arm

Community members and agencies developed a cooperative approach to cat management on the peninsula.



3 LambEx24 Conference, August, Adelaide

Delegates learned about best practice control for foxes, feral cats and wild dogs to improve lambing outcomes and industry resilience.



National Wild Dog Management Coordinator

Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Conference, March, Darwin

Engaging with cattle producers at the event.



1

Presentation and tour, June, Biloela

Presented to the Barfield Road Producer Group and toured the Teys meat processing facility.



2

Wild dog control workshop, April, Cawnalmurtee

Partnering with NSW Western LLS to support livestock producers.



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NATIONAL FERAL CAT AND FOX MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Since its establishment in 2021, the National Feral Cat and Fox Management program has led national action to reduce the serious impacts of feral cats and foxes on Australia's wildlife, agriculture, and communities. Funded by the Australian Government and delivered by CISS, the program champions humane and effective management solutions, linking national policy and research with practical outcomes for land managers and community groups across the country.



Image credits from left: John Augusteyn and Mary-Anne Addington.

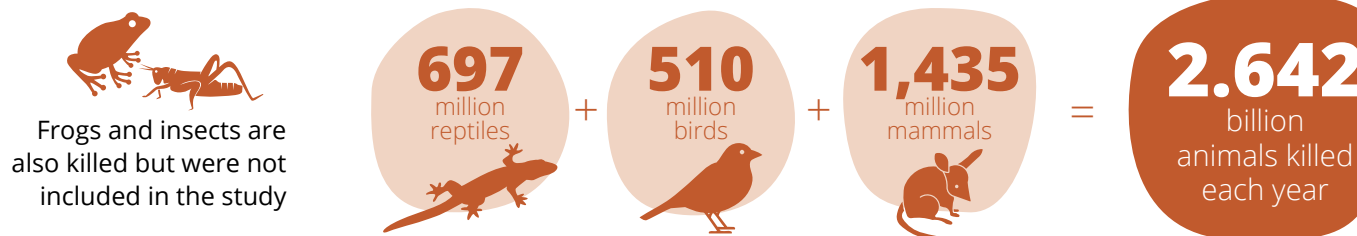
Impact of feral cats and foxes on Australia's native species



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Findings from Stobo-Wilson et al, Diversity and Distributions, 2022

Program highlights



Gillian Basnett presents at the training workshop in Coolup, WA.

'Train the Trainer' Workshops, September 2024

Workshops in Albany and Coolup, Western Australia, brought together more than 70 participants from NRM groups, Indigenous ranger teams, agencies, and Landcare networks. Participants gained insights into legislation, community engagement, and planning, while outdoor demonstrations showcased traps, Felixer® units, baiting tools, and innovative camera systems. These sessions gave local groups the knowledge and confidence to support landholders in implementing effective and humane control programs.

"...greatly informative...As a rural landholder I understand better what I might be able to do and what I shouldn't waste time on."
- Workshop participant

Feral Cat and Fox Management Forum, August 2025



Hundreds of attendees tuned in from right around the globe for the online forum.

The program's national online forum attracted more than 560 participants across its two days. Australian delegates were joined online by attendees from countries including England, Portugal and Costa Rica.

Thirty presenters shared case studies, technical guidance, Indigenous-led approaches, and new technologies. The initiative demonstrated strong demand for accessible events connecting researchers, land managers, and communities, and highlighted the value of collaboration in tackling shared challenges.

Residual Fox Agricultural Impact Project

In partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), the program has commenced an assessment of fox impacts on agriculture.

Drawing on data from the national Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences pest animal and weed survey, the project identifies which states and NRM regions experience the highest losses, particularly within the sheep meat and wool industries. The project's findings will help shape the next phase of investment by highlighting where targeted fox control can deliver the greatest benefits for producers and biodiversity.



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NATIONAL WILD DO MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Implementing the National Wild Dog Action Plan (NWDAP) through community-driven wild dog management continued to be the focus of the program this year. Activities advanced integrated best practices in wild dog management to mitigate their impacts on agriculture and biodiversity.

1,200+
stakeholders engaged

67
events, field days and meetings

41,000
social media impressions

Program highlights

Case study video: [Ironpot Wild Dog Trapping Syndicate](#)

In this video, Queensland beef producers share how wild dog impacts affect their operations, and how they have banded together with the support of their local council. It has attracted nearly 17,000 views in nine months.

They stress their goal is about sustainability – not eradication – and say the results speak for themselves, with increased saleability of stock, improved calving rates and less damage to breeding stock.

Stills from the video.



Livestock Guardian Animal Forum

Held in Canberra in November 2024, the gathering of over 40 landholders, researchers, veterinarians, dog trainers, and state and federal government agency staff explored the role of guardian animals in managing the impacts of wild dogs and dingoes across Australia.

It provided a platform for sharing knowledge and insights on the practical application of livestock guardian animals across a range of grazing environments, production systems, and landscapes, with the aim of enhancing livestock protection and biodiversity outcomes.



[Click through to view and read the report.](#)

A report capturing the event's key insights has been published, including:

- ▶ livestock guardian animals are one part of an integrated wild dog management strategy
- ▶ proper training is crucial for livestock guardian animals to be effective
- ▶ there is no 'one size fits all' approach to using livestock guardian animals.

"Greatest density of guardian dog and donkey talks I've ever had...really useful."

- Forum participant

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Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Conference

Greg Mifsud met with Paul Holmes à Court, owner of Heytesbury Pastoral, and Rusty Richter, General Manager – Operations at Victoria River Downs Station, at the event in March 2025. Both praised the NWDAP for its practical impact on industry resilience and productivity.



From left: Greg Mifsud, Rusty Richter and Paul Holmes à Court at the event in Darwin.

"The National Wild Dog Action Plan has been invaluable to our cattle operations, providing us with best-practice management advice for wild dogs and dingoes through field days, the use of FeralScan and development of management plans. By using up-to-date control measures, we've been able to improve our targeted management of wild dogs and dingoes to reduce their impacts on our livestock."

Rusty Richter, General Manager – Operations, Victoria River Downs Station

Wild dog control workshops

The project delivered five wild dog management awareness workshops this year across central and southern Queensland and far western NSW. They were staged in collaboration with the Fitzroy Basin Authority, Western Local Land Services and the South Burnett Grazing Network and designed to help land managers reduce the impacts of wild dogs on red meat production.

Participants rated the events and information provided extremely highly. Pre and post workshop surveys showed a change in knowledge of best-practice wild dog management techniques ranging from 38% to 270% for some control tools.

One attendee, Cat Wilson, commented, "A simple hands-on workshop like this gives a farmer confidence in using the tools available to them - the tools are not complicated, but you can gain so much from the little pointers offered on the day".

85% of workshop participants are now confident to implement practice change on farm



Queensland meat producers during a hands-on trapping workshop.

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NATIONAL FERAL RABBIT MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Heidi Kleinert was appointed to the role in November and has moved quickly to progress the program's aims. These include creating a strong collaborative culture across Australia so those impacted by rabbits can successfully manage them locally, creating easy access to information, using best practices and building successful partnerships.

An early output of the program is the [Work Plan 2025-2027](#) which sets out these goals:



National Feral Rabbit Management Coordination Program
Work Plan 2025-2027

01

Raise awareness: Increase community awareness of the damage caused by feral rabbits to the environment, agriculture, cultural heritage and community infrastructure.

02

Increase capacity: Increase capability and adoption of best practice rabbit management by land managers to reduce damage to the environment, agriculture, cultural heritage and community infrastructure.

03

Build partnerships: Connect people to expertise and facilitate collaboration among stakeholders and land managers to deliver coordinated rabbit management programs.

04

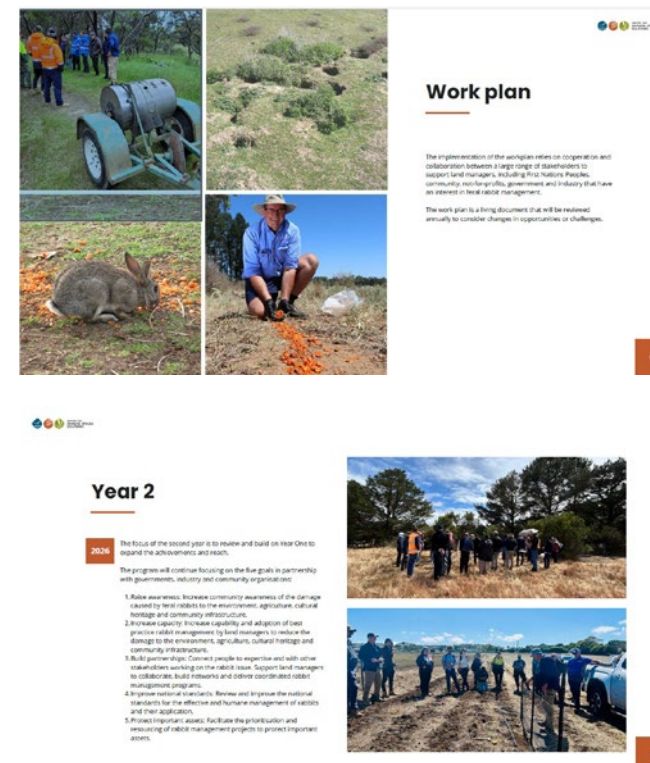
Improve national standards: Review and improve the national standards for the effective and humane management of rabbits.

05

Protect important assets: Facilitate the prioritisation and resourcing of rabbit management projects to protect important assets.

The Work Plan's success relies on strong cooperation and collaboration among First Nations Peoples, community organisations, not-for-profits, government and industry – each playing a role in supporting land managers and delivering local impact.

The project receives funding support from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Rabbit-Free Australia, the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board and NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.



Work plan

The implementation of the strategies relies on cooperation and collaboration between a large range of stakeholders to support land managers, including First Nations Peoples, community organisations, government and industry that have an interest in feral rabbit management.

The work plan is a living document that will be reviewed annually to consider changes in opportunities or challenges.

Year 2

2026 The focus of the second year is to make and build on Year One to expand the achievements and reach.

- The program will continue focusing on the four goals in partnership with government, industry and community organisations:
1. **Raise awareness:** Increase community awareness of the damage caused by feral rabbits to the environment, agriculture, cultural heritage and community infrastructure.
 2. **Increase capacity:** Increase capability and adoption of best practice rabbit management by land managers to reduce the damage to the environment, agriculture, cultural heritage and community infrastructure.
 3. **Build partnerships:** Connect people to expertise and with other stakeholders working on the rabbit issue. Support land managers to collaborate, build resources and deliver coordinated rabbit management programs.
 4. **Improve national standards:** Review and improve the national standards for the effective and humane management of rabbits and their applications.
 5. **Protect important assets:** Facilitate the prioritisation and resourcing of rabbit management projects to protect important assets.



As a living document the Work Plan will be reviewed annually to reflect emerging opportunities, challenges and innovations.

Program highlights

Drought Support Program: South Australia



As drought continues to challenge rural landscapes across Australia, the National Coordinator supported South Australia's Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) in delivering its Drought Support Program in collaboration with local Landscape Boards.

Heidi provided input into the design of the warren ripping element of the program to ensure its effectiveness and provided on-ground support at community meetings in Strathalbyn and Mt Torrens.

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network: Victoria

In May, the National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator, Heidi Kleinert, joined the National Feral Cat and Fox Management team of Gillian Basnett and Thomas Nelson, to host an information stall at Gippsland's first ever Weed and Pest Fest.

Hosted by the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network, the event attracted around 400 people and connected the community with best practice tools and resources for managing invasive pests and weeds.

The Coordinator proudly joined an expert panel for the group's online seminar, *Get the latest rub on rabbits*, featuring leading voices from Landcare, the Victorian Rabbit Action Network and CSIRO. The engaging session explored practical and easy-to-implement strategies for the whole community.

National Coordinators talk cats, foxes and rabbits at the Weed and Pest Fest in Rokeby, Victoria.



4.2 NATIONAL DIGITAL PLATFORMS

Digital assets have earned CISS a strong reputation as the trusted source of best practice information to protect Australia from invasive pests and weeds.

Building on this legacy, CISS is also hosting two new platforms to support surveillance and sharing of best practice across jurisdictions.

PestSmart and Weeds Australia are one-stop reference hubs, while FeralScan and WeedScan mobilise communities to monitor and act on invasive species at scale.

weedsAUSTRALIA

pestSMART

weedSCAN

feralSCAN

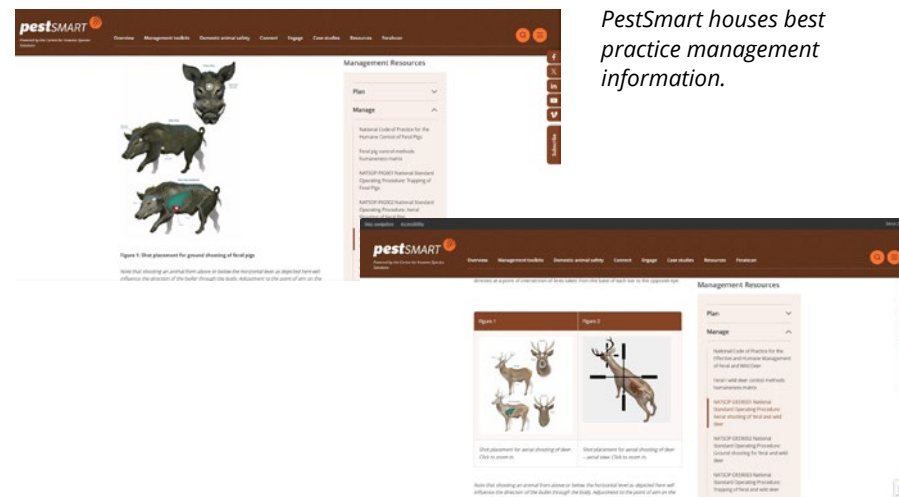
PestSmart: Advancing best practice

PestSmart remains Australia's most trusted source of vertebrate pest management information, with hundreds of thousands of users relying on this valuable resource every year to reduce the impact of invasive animals.

This year, the focus was on keeping PestSmart up to date and easy to use, ensuring land managers can access the latest, evidence-based guidance when they need it. Major vertebrate pest pages, such as European rabbits, were refreshed with clearer content and improved usability, while both the feral pig and feral deer management toolkits were bolstered by the publication of the latest endorsed National Standard Operating Procedures and Codes of Practice.

These updates give land managers confidence that their control programs are underpinned by nationally endorsed, science-based humane methods.

PestSmart's reach extended through social media, partnerships, and national events, with the ABC's Eat the Invaders TV series amplifying its visibility. With 281,301 active users (marginally down from 286,000 in 2023-24) and 475,327 page views (up from 469,000 last year), PestSmart remains a vital reference point for Australia's land managers.



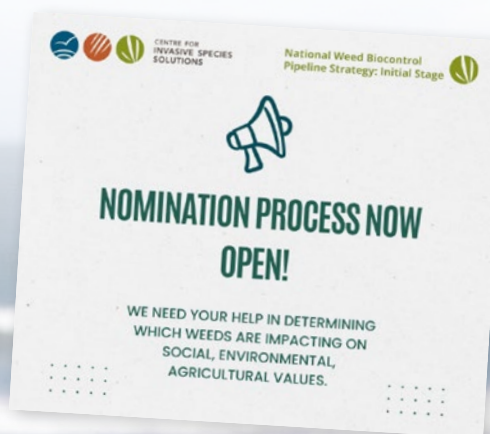
PestSmart houses best practice management information.

Weeds Australia: Scaling reach and adoption

Weeds Australia strengthened its position as the leading national platform for weed management this year, connecting land managers, researchers and policymakers with authoritative guidance. CISS delivered significant improvements to make resources easier to find and apply, including enhanced search functions across profiles and management materials.

New manuals for Weeds of National Significance – Gamba grass, Madeira vine and Cat's claw creeper – were added, alongside the outputs of the National Weed Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy following a national call for weed nominations, also managed from the site.

With 322,513 active users (up from 216,000 in 2023–24) and 649,581 page views (up from 522,000), Weeds Australia's expanding reach demonstrates its growing importance in providing consistent, evidence-based resources to manage one of the most persistent threats to Australia's biodiversity.



Bitou bush, a Weed of National Significance. Image credit: NSW DPIRD.

National Established Weed Priorities (NEWP)

NEWP is a vital mechanism for implementing the Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027 and achieving action under the National Framework for the Management of Established Pests and Diseases of National Significance.

Nominations for newly significant national weeds closed in January, drawing submissions from across Australia's jurisdictions, industries and community organisations.

Social media campaigns promoted the call for nominations for new nationally significant weeds.

The process to determine new national established weed priorities based on this round of nominations continues through an assessment phase before candidates are considered by the National Biosecurity Committee and Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC) and attributed new national established weed priority status.

Nomination process: nationally significant weed

- 1 Expression of interest**
Seeks to avoid duplicate nominations and join up organisations planning to nominate the same weed/group of weeds.
- 2 Nomination process**
Requests supporting information on the weed/groups of weeds against the assessment criteria.
- 3 Assessment**
Involves two stages: preliminary assessment and detailed assessment.
- 4 Review and approval**
Supports a robust review and approval process, with oversight from the cross-sectoral NEWP steering group.

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Community monitoring and management

FeralScan empowers local communities

FeralScan remains a critical national tool in the fight against invasive species, empowering communities across Australia to actively contribute to pest management.

FeralScan has nearly 60,000 registered and private users and 488,000+ pest records.

The platform enables real-time monitoring of pests such as feral foxes, European rabbits, feral pigs, feral cats, pest birds, and wild dogs, among others. Its success lies in connecting landholders, community groups, and government agencies through shared data that informs both local and national control efforts.

By facilitating collaboration and evidence-based decision-making, FeralScan continues to strengthen Australia's collective capacity to manage invasive species and protect native ecosystems.



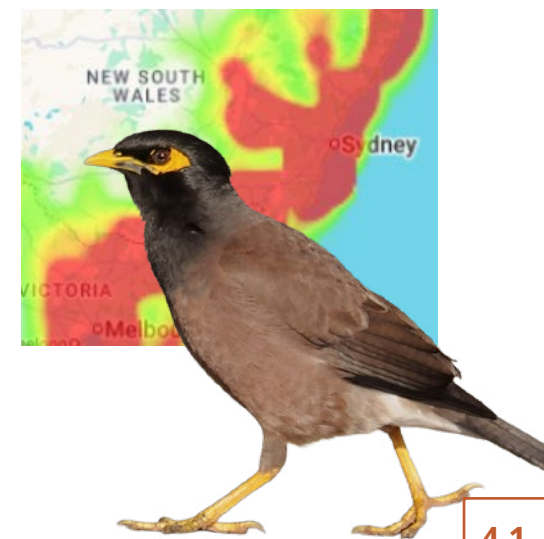
FeralScan is a tool often featured at community workshops. Photo: Judy Dunlop.

Community-led action harnesses MynaScan to reclaim the skies

Across our eastern states, the common myna bird has become a serious pest, displacing native species, damaging crops, and creating a nuisance in towns and cities.

Through MynaScan, part of the national FeralScan program, communities are mapping sightings and coordinating local control programs in partnership with councils and biosecurity agencies. Since 2011, more than 26,000 records have been logged nationally, with over 21,000 mynas removed from the environment.

In NSW, the Goulburn Indian Myna Bird Action Group (GIMBAG) has demonstrated how community leadership can drive local success. Formed in 2024, GIMBAG has used MynaScan to map nesting and roosting sites, raise public awareness, and remove more than 80 birds using humane and approved methods.



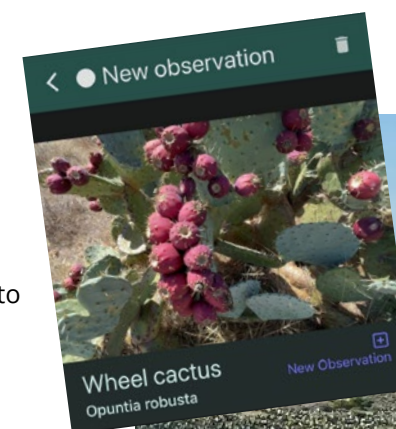
The invasive myna bird. Photo: Fran Tralalon

WeedScan: Strengthening Australia's digital weed response

Launched in December 2023, WeedScan has rapidly established itself as a practical Australian tool for weed identification and reporting, using artificial intelligence to support community-led management.

The WeedScan app has been downloaded 31,000 times since launch.

WeedScan helps users identify weeds in the field and contribute records to support broader management efforts. Its growth demonstrates the value of CISS's digital platforms in strengthening biosecurity responses, providing accessible tools that enable collective action to reduce the impacts of invasive weeds. Development of WeedScan 2.0 is well underway: see [page 19](#) for all the details.



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Surveillance and National Best Practice

Digital surveillance of illegal wildlife trade

The illegal online trade of exotic animals and plants continues to present a significant and growing threat to Australia's biosecurity and biodiversity. To help counter this, CISS has advanced the [Digital Surveillance of Illegal Wildlife Trade](#) (DIWT) platform, developed in collaboration with the University of Adelaide. The system monitors 93 e-commerce platforms in real time, detecting and flagging illegal wildlife and plant trade and equipping biosecurity officers with the intelligence they need to act.

In 2024–25, DIWT achieved nationwide adoption. All Australian states and territories are now actively using the platform, alongside the Commonwealth's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). NSW and SA remain the most active users.

Uptake has grown by 15% since March 2025.

To strengthen its long-term visibility and protection, CISS progressed the IP Australia trademark process, with a refreshed name and brand coming soon. This step will help position DIWT as a cutting-edge digital tool safeguarding biodiversity from the rising threat of illegal wildlife and plant sales in the digital era.



Corn snakes and other exotic vertebrates can be the subject of illegal online trade.

Weed Risk Australia



Weed Risk Australia strengthens Australia's post-border weed risk management system.

[Weed Risk Australia](#) is a nationally endorsed framework providing a consistent, science-based approach to assessing weed risks. Developed with input from all state and territory governments and funded through the Australian Government's Enhancing National Pest Animal and Weed Management program, it supports informed, transparent decision-making and helps align national and regional priorities.

The platform centralises data, reduces duplication, and enables jurisdictions to share information, streamlining assessments of new and emerging weed threats. It ensures governments work from the same trusted evidence base.

While uptake is growing, CISS is encouraging broader adoption to help jurisdictions benefit from the framework's efficiency and consistency.

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4.3 TRAINING AND COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

CISS continues to bring together experts, land managers and communities through national forums, partnerships and online platforms – building shared knowledge, capability and collaboration to tackle invasive species across Australia.

National rabbit forum

CISS partnered with Rabbit-Free Australia again this year to host a national [webinar](#) bringing together Australia's pre-eminent scientists and researchers to explore advances in gene-drive technologies. Speakers from CSIRO and University of Adelaide explained how this emerging science could be applied to rabbits – and outlined the steps needed now and in the near future to responsibly advance this research.



National Feral Deer Action Plan

During the 2024–25 year, the National Feral Deer Action Plan gained renewed and sustained public attention. A CISS-led national [media release](#) ahead of the breeding season encouraged community reporting via [DeerScan](#) to help map deer activity and support targeted control efforts.



Feral pig leadership

CISS's national leadership was showcased by the Feral Animal Projects Team at the 2025 National Feral Pig Conference on the Gold Coast.

Lead Researcher, **Darren Marshall**, presented insights gained across a 12-year tenure controlling, monitoring and researching feral pigs and engaging with communities. He also chaired a panel session where landholders, including First Nations groups and primary producers, shared experiences improving feral pig management across Australia.

CISS's work was referenced in 14 presentations throughout the event.



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Glovebox guides

CISS's suite of Glovebox Guides, Field Guides and Management Guides remain trusted resources supporting pest animal control across Australia. Work is currently underway to update the *Glovebox Guide for Managing Rabbits* ensuring it reflects the latest science and best practice.



Orders for Glovebox Guide resources are managed through [PestSmart](#). Their distribution across the length and breadth of Australia supports the reach and impact of best practice invasive species management.

Research excellence and information hub

CISS continues to contribute high-quality science and collaboration across the sector with an additional two peer-reviewed scientific publications this year.

Bengsen A, Comte S, Crittle T, Holbery S, Marshall D, Marshall L, Parker L, Forsyth D (2025) Aerial shooting is unlikely to cause dispersal or consistent changes in the movements of feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*). *Wildlife Research* **52**, WR25024. <https://doi.org/10.1071/WR25024>

Birand A, Gierus L, Prowse TAA, Cassey P & Thomas PQ (2025) Maximising eradication potential of rat gene drives using a two-target homing rescue strategy: Spatial modelling of empirical data. *Molecular Ecology* **34**: e17777. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.17777>

McFarlane GR, Whitaker K, Plett KL, O'Rourke B & Bogema DR (2025) Optimising guide RNA production for multiplexed Cas9-targeted nanopore sequencing to detect pathogens. *Molecular Biotechnology*, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12033-025-01510-9>

Proboste T, Turnlund A, Bengsen AJ, Gentle M, Wilson C, Harriott L, Fuller RA, Marshall D, Magalhães RJS (2025) Quantifying feral pig interactions to inform disease transmission networks. *eLife* **13**, p.RP102643. <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.102643.2>

Schmidt-Lebuhn AN, Bell M, Eckelmann C, Evans D, Glanznig A, Li R, Mitchell A, Mitchell-Storey T, Newton M, O'Duibhir L, Southerton R, Thomas E, and Wu H (2024) WeedScan, a weed reporting system for Australia using an image classification model for identification. *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, **17**(3), 219–227. <https://doi.org/10.1017/inp.2024.19>

CISS publications (by type):

- ▶ [FeralScan Factsheet](#) – Community Resource
- ▶ [Portfolio No. 1: Publications List](#) – Technical Report
- ▶ [National Weed Biocontrol Prioritisation Framework](#) – Technical Report
- ▶ [National Weed Biocontrol Priority Results](#) – Technical Report
- ▶ [National Weed Biocontrol Investment Report](#) – Technical Report
- ▶ [National Preparedness Plan: Asian Black-spined toad](#) – Technical Report
- ▶ [Proof of concept for genetic biocontrol in vertebrates](#) – Technical Report
- ▶ [Centre's response to nature repair market 2024 Discussion Paper](#)
- ▶ [Assessment of the Biodiversity, Economic and Productivity Gains from Exclusion Fencing: Implications of exclusion fencing for livestock production](#) – Technical Report

View all our publications

Corporate communications

Our 'all invasives' approach elevated national awareness of invasive species through targeted media, social campaigns and position statements highlighting science-based solutions to protect biodiversity and threatened species.

This ensured invasive species remained part of the national conversation, strengthening alignment between CISS's mission and community priorities.

In the media spotlight

Our work attracted strong media coverage across Australia nationally and regionally through 10 planned media releases as well as responses to organic opportunities.

Particular highlights included coverage of the new [National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator](#) which reached as far as Britain's *Financial Times*, while a [joint April release](#) with the Invasive Species Council and Rabbit-Free Australia on the depleted rabbit biocontrol pipeline generated strong national pick-up.

Meanwhile, the launch of the [National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordination website](#) attracted coverage in the *Australian Geographic*.

Coverage was wide-ranging, including topics such as emergency animal disease preparedness, biosecurity and lethal control.

Read more [news](#).

New tool to control feral cats and foxes
The National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordination Program has launched its new website, providing community groups, landowners and the public with the necessary tools and resources to reduce the impacts of these feral predators. Feral cats and foxes kill an estimated 2.5 billion native animals a year (see Dr Karl, page 21) and also transmit diseases such as toxoplasmosis and sarcocystosis to livestock, notably to sheep. This new platform is a one-stop shop for best-practice management strategies for the humane and effective control of these feral predators.
More info: [feralcatandfox.com.au](#)



Our trusted, science-based voice in invasive species management resonated across our channels and beyond.



A glimpse of our social posts: the 1080 explainer received nearly 800 views on X.



Social media

A steady cadence of three to six posts each week strengthened our scientific voice on invasive species issues, deepening public trust and dialogue around evidence-based management.

Consistent, high-quality posts thoughtfully addressed wide-ranging invasive species issues including social licence and lethal control.

High-performing posts included a '[turning point for Kosciuszko](#)' focusing on native species endangered by hard-hooved invasives such as deer, pigs and horses and a '[1080 explainer](#)' post. Campaigns like [Eat the Invaders](#) (rabbit focus) and [#WeedyWednesday](#) engaged new audiences. Posts also supported CISS digital platforms, events and project activities.



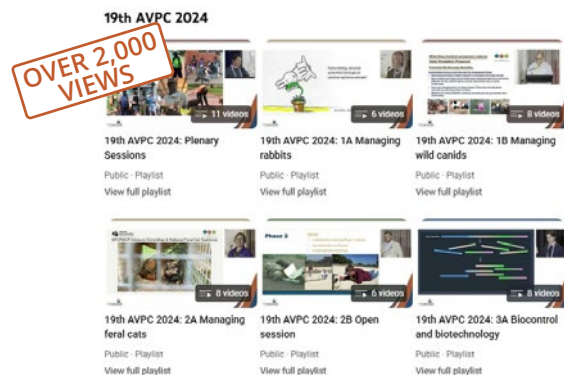
+608% growth in followers over the past four years



98,000+ organic reach with 23% uplift this year

Expanding knowledge sharing through events and digital platforms

The Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference (AVPC) [video playlists](#) were published on the CISS YouTube channel, extending the reach of keynote presentations and panel discussions beyond conference delegates.



The National Weed Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy *e-Update* achieved an exceptional open rate, reinforcing strong stakeholder interest in weed biocontrol research and policy updates.



Our flagship newsletter, the *CISS Chronicle*, was revamped, with four editions now released. Content was streamlined, emphasised visual engagement and rich content, providing seamless access to articles, galleries and videos hosted on the [CISS website](#).



Our new e-newsletter was launched with exceptional results – 45% open rate, and 35% click-through rate, all well above industry benchmarks. Now in its third edition, subscribers have grown by 88%.



Collateral

Our impactful collateral promoted FeralScan, WeedRemeed and LandSmart Services at meetings, events and beyond.



5.1 STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION

This financial year, CISS continued to operate under a 'project-by-project' funding approach and progressed delivery of impactful RD&E outcomes with a balance between invasive vertebrates and weeds.

Total cash and in-kind revenue achieved in the 2024-25 year was \$8.3 million, primarily driven by funding from member (91%) and non-member organisations (9%) including in-kind contributions totalling \$1.8 million.

During this period of transformation, CISS has delivered a consolidated loss of \$219,508 for the year to June 2025. This result was in line with budget and below the prior year surplus of \$5,652, primarily due to the investment in business development, increased spend on digital assets, and business restructuring costs as part of CISS's strategic transformation.

During 2024-25, 16 new projects were contracted totalling \$9.7 million, including the Future Drought Fund Weed Biocontrol Network project of \$5.9 million to be delivered over 5 years. This result was up from 10 projects totalling \$2.2 million the year prior.

CISS will continue to work with members to secure additional funding to support specific member priorities in 2025-26 and beyond.

CISS's supportive workplace culture, fostering an environment in which our team can thrive, again attracted recognition this year. We're proud to report that our ongoing commitment secured an ACT Healthier Work Gold Award.



Healthier
Work.

Healthier
Healthier
Healthier
Places
People
Work

Recognised
Workplace

GOLD

Resources applied 2025

\$million

Governance and Employee Costs*	\$1.1m	13%
Research Projects and Implementation	\$6.9m	81%
Admin, Travel, Meetings, Intellectual Property	\$0.4m	4%
Communications	\$0.1m	2%
TOTAL	\$8.5m	100%

*Includes business development costs.

Operating Summary (million)

Financial year 2024

Financial year 2025

Revenue
(incl. in-kind)

\$8.4m

\$8.3m

Net assets

\$1.9m

\$1.7m

Cash

\$10.3m

\$9.4m

5.1

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