

CENTRE FOR
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

IMPACT REPORT 2025-26

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2 STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS
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4 TRAINING AND ADOPTION
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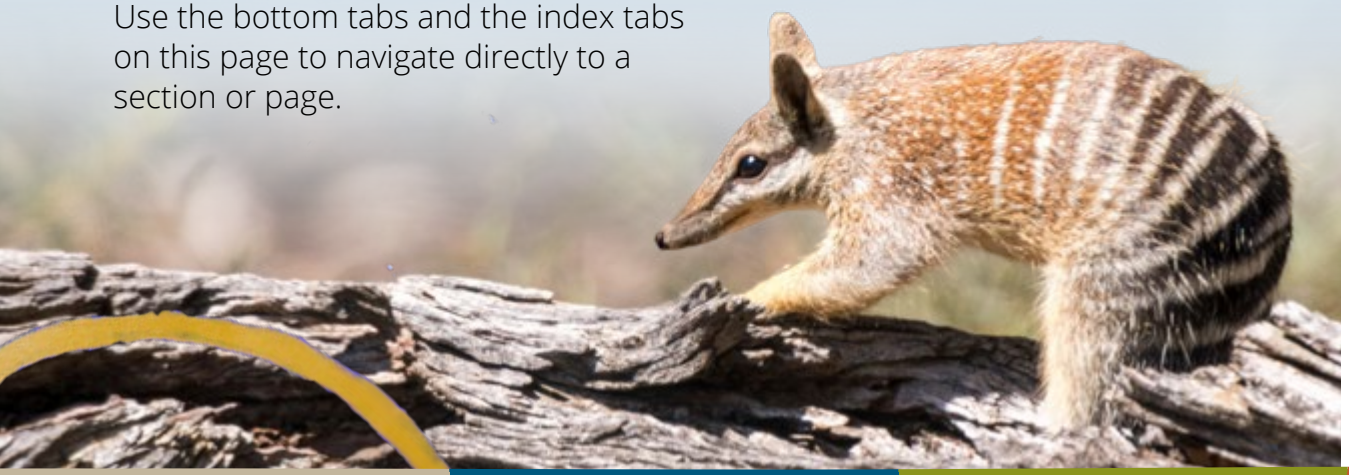
WELCOME

Use your cursor to navigate through our report.

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

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The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) gratefully acknowledges the financial and in-kind contributions made by its members, associate members, partners and supporters.

We are a not-for-profit, member-based organisation formed to address the impact of invasive plants and animals across Australia. CISS (Invasive Animals Ltd, ABN 33 114 965 276) is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

CISS is governed and managed by Invasive Animals Ltd with an independent skills-based Board of Directors. Adrian Zammit is the Chair of the Board and Shauna Chadlowe is the Chief Executive Officer.

Donations supporting CISS's work are received through the Invasive Species Solutions Trust (ABN 58 144 836 077), our dedicated donation vehicle and an ACNC-registered charity. Donations of $2 or more are tax deductible.

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Design by Hodge Environmental

Front cover: NSW DPIRD's David Officer checks water quality at Nana Glen while assessing cabomba biocontrol weevil establishment and impact. Future Drought Fund's Weed biocontrol network for drought resilience project, January 2026.

Image: Fritz Heystek.

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5.1 BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Acknowledgement of Country

The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to culture, Country and community in Australia and pays respect to the Elders past, present and emerging.

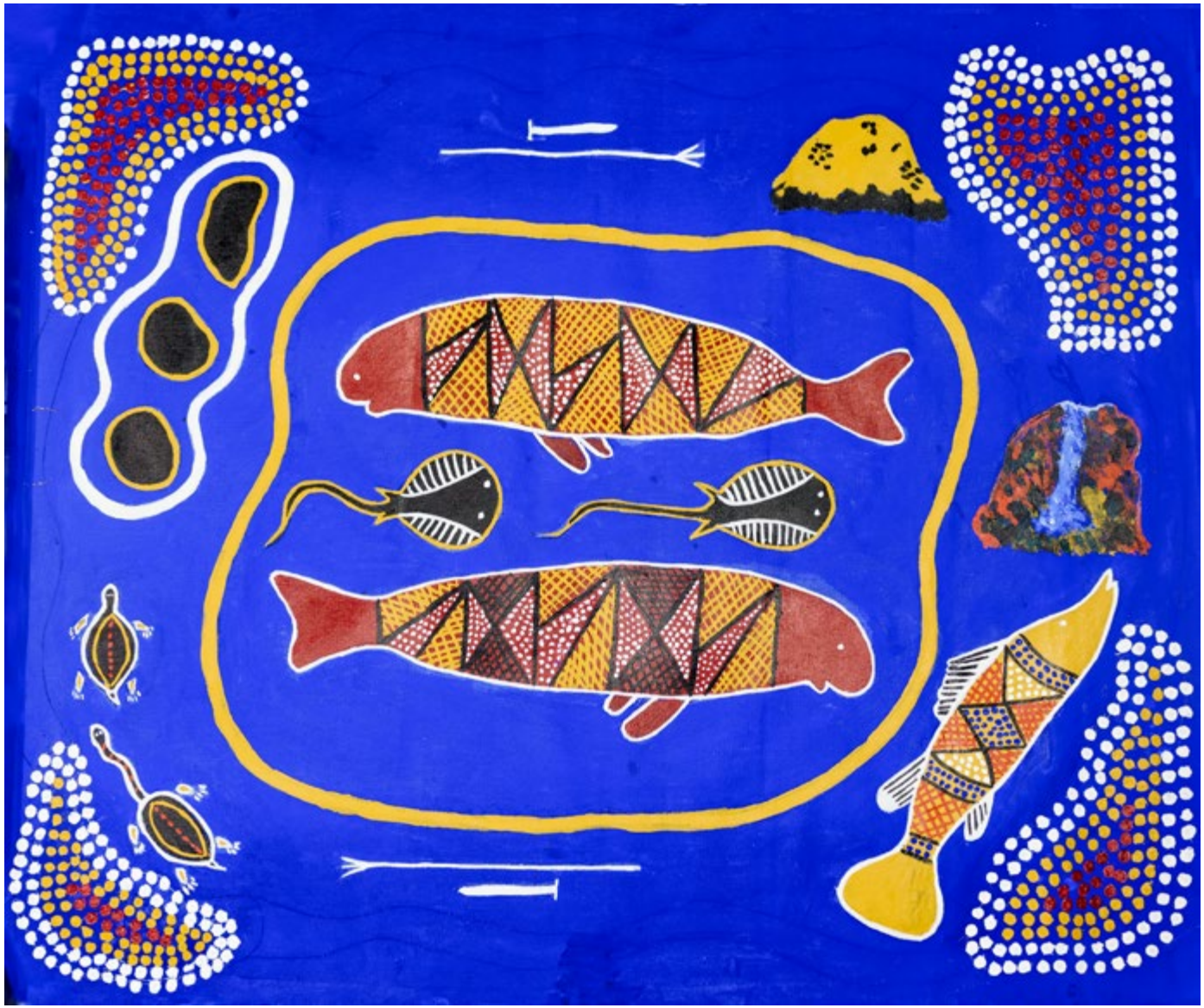
We are committed to caring for Country by protecting Australia's unique biodiversity, landscapes, and cultural heritage from the impact of invasive species. We commit to including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as the Original Custodians of Country and holders of deep ecological knowledge and sophisticated land management practices in our efforts to sustain Australia's landscapes and ecosystems.

Read our *Reconciliation Action Plan* launched during Reconciliation Action Week in June.

BUBUJUUNJUWARRA
Bubu = homeland

"'Juunju + Warra' is Junnju, meaning Country, and Warra, meaning people. Juunjuwarra is not Juunjuwarra unless Juunju and Warra are together."

Nana Norma Jacko



Nana Norma Jacko is a proud Juunjuwarra Elder and Indigenous artist.

This work celebrates the natural wonders found on Juunjuwarra Country, including some of the largest surviving turtle and dugong populations in Australia.

1.1 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This year, CISS has strengthened its position as Australia's national coordinator for invasive species solutions. Significant partnerships, growing member confidence and a clear strategic direction give us good reason to look ahead with optimism.

In our member survey, every respondent agreed that CISS plays an important national leadership role in collaborative invasive species research, development and engagement. National collaboration depends on trust, and this endorsement gives us both the confidence and the responsibility to focus collective effort where it can deliver the greatest benefit.

The $4 million Future-proofing Rabbit Biocontrol partnership demonstrates that role. Bringing governments, industry and researchers together behind a shared priority requires scientific credibility, sustained engagement and effective coordination. Alongside the national weed biocontrol network supported through the Future Drought Fund, it shows what we can achieve together, mobilising expertise and investment for work beyond the reach of individual organisations.

Our Strategy for 2027–2030 builds on these strengths. Developed with member input, it sharpens our focus on national priorities, practical innovation and adoption at scale. It also recognises that enduring impact requires strong partnerships, capable people and a financially resilient organisation. Our developing portfolio approach will help translate shared priorities into coordinated investment and delivery.

Welcoming New Zealand's Bioeconomy Science Institute as our first international member opens new opportunities. By connecting complementary expertise across the Tasman, we can make better use of investment and accelerate progress on common challenges.

A return to surplus this year is encouraging. Sustaining that progress will require financial discipline, a broader revenue base and careful investment in capability. Growth in LandSmart Services and nurturing new shoots in philanthropic support is helping us to build those foundations.

This year, our Board has also changed. We thanked Robbie Davis for her valued service and warmly welcomed Roz Hendriks and Bronwyn Venus. As we farewell Bruce Christie at the end of his final term, we thank him for his exceptional contribution, including as Chair. His thoughtful leadership and commitment to CISS have helped guide the organisation through significant change.

I thank Shauna Chadlowe and our team for their professionalism, energy and dedication. Our first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan marks an important commitment to stronger relationships with First Nations peoples, whose knowledge and leadership are essential to caring for Country.

To our members, partners and supporters, thank you for your confidence and contributions. CISS enters its next chapter with a clear purpose and stronger foundations. On behalf of the Board, I look forward to building on this momentum together, protecting the landscapes, livelihoods and wildlife that make Australia so special.

Adrian

Dr Adrian Zammit
Chair



CISS Board members from left: Dr Adrian Zammit, Bruce Christie, Bronwyn Venus, Dr Roslyn Hendriks and Justin Bellanger.

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1.2 CEO'S SNAPSHOT

My first full financial year as Chief Executive has reinforced what our members, partners and supporters have told me: Australia needs an organisation that brings people together around invasive species challenges, stays with the work of finding solutions and helps get them adopted at scale.

This year, we've seen what we can achieve together. Governments and industry have backed the next chapter of rabbit biocontrol. Researchers and communities are expanding weed biocontrol nationally. Partnerships are building local capability, while new technologies are helping people detect and manage invasive species.

I am proud of our progress and grateful to our members, partners and supporters.

Backing the next generation of biocontrol

The $4 million Future-proofing Rabbit Biocontrol partnership is a powerful example. Rabbit numbers are recovering as existing viruses lose effectiveness, putting decades of agricultural and conservation gains at risk.

Following extensive engagement, including the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's national Wild Rabbit Roundtable, all Australian governments and Meat & Livestock Australia committed to the partnership. CISS leads the collaboration, with CSIRO leading the research.

The project aims to accelerate laboratory development of future virus variants. A substantial scientific and regulatory journey lies ahead, but this investment offers a pathway towards renewing one of Australia's most successful invasive species tools. It demonstrates CISS's contribution: building agreement and securing investment in solutions with the potential for continent-wide impact.

National effort, local action

Our Future Drought Fund-supported weed biocontrol network project is applying that collaborative approach at an unprecedented scale.

With CSIRO and delivery partners in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales, we are accelerating the rearing, release and monitoring of agents targeting seven devastating weeds. Farmers, environmental organisations, First Nations land managers and community groups are central to this effort.

Building local skills and connecting communities with researchers will help sustain biocontrol well beyond the project's life.



Helping people put knowledge to work

National coordination turns science into practical tools and local experience into knowledge others can use. Our National Coordinators, Heidi Kleinert, Yasmin Aly and Greg Mifsud, do this through training, networks and practical guidance, helping communities put effective pest management into practice.

From rabbit management masterclasses to accessible Felixer guidance and wild dog workshops, their work gives people the confidence, connections and practical skills to tackle shared pest challenges across property boundaries.

Better tools, better decisions

Digital innovation matters when it makes someone's task easier or their decisions better.

With 2Pi Software, we improved WeedRemeed's drone-based weed mapping platform and we're working towards making it easier for land managers to build, adapt and share weed detection models and target control efforts more effectively.

WeedScan 2.0 reached controlled operational release in June. Its upgraded AI model covers more than 930 plant species, suggesting likely matches to support weed biosecurity decisions. Further platform improvements lie ahead.

WildlifeTracer helps detect potentially illegal online wildlife trade. FeralScan connects communities through shared pest observations, while PestSmart and Weeds Australia provide trusted guidance for pest and weed problems.

These valuable national resources put practical tools and trusted information in Australians' hands, and we're excited to build on this progress to help more people tackle pests and weeds effectively in the year ahead.

Capability that stays in communities

Our growing relationship with the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) is especially rewarding. Through LandSmart, we support Indigenous-led research and practical Ranger training, combining technical expertise with First Nations knowledge and priorities.

Our first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan strengthens this commitment to listening and working together.

LandSmart is expanding across feral pig research, deer monitoring, camel control and weed technology, building towards future surpluses for reinvestment in research.

Generosity making a difference

Our philanthropic journey has begun, and people are responding generously. Every gift helps turn concern for Australia into practical action. Support through the Invasive Species Solutions Trust helped deliver WeedScan 2.0 and is supporting important feral predator research. These gifts also put better tools in people's hands and help answer questions that shape how we protect wildlife and landscapes. We are grateful for that trust.

Choosing where we can change the outcome

Our 2027–2030 Strategy challenges us to focus on where our collective effort can achieve the biggest positive impact. Together with our members and stakeholders, we are identifying pressing invasive species priorities where coordinated research and investment could change outcomes across Australia.

Our developing portfolio of projects connects those priorities with expertise, partners and pathways to adoption. We are ambitious about what we can achieve: reducing the damage caused by invasive species, protecting native wildlife, restoring landscapes and helping agriculture and communities to thrive.

Thank you to Adrian and the Board, our team, members, partners and supporters. Your knowledge, commitment and generosity give us so much to build on. We are committed to turning that support into more effective protection for the places, wildlife and livelihoods we all care so much about.

Shauna

Shauna Chadlowe
Chief Executive Officer

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1.3 INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS TRUST

Growing generosity, lasting impact

Every gift to the Invasive Species Solutions Trust helps turn a shared concern for Australia's productive landscapes and biodiversity into practical action.

Our philanthropic journey is gathering momentum, with individuals and foundations responding generously through the Trust. Their support is helping deliver better tools for pest and weed biosecurity and nationally important research, complementing member investment and opening new possibilities for the work ahead.

One tangible outcome is WeedScan 2.0. Support from the Macpac Fund for Good and generous donors, alongside Australian Government investment, helped transform nearly a million images into a quality-assured training dataset of around 600,000 images. The upgraded tool now recognises more than 930 plant species, nearly doubling its original coverage and helping users identify and report weeds with greater confidence.

Support from the Wild Country Environmental Fund is helping address another important question: what happens to fox and feral cat diets when rabbit numbers decline? A review of existing research will help clarify concerns about predators switching to native wildlife and inform practical advice for land managers.

We also upgraded our donation platform, trialled Christmas and bilby-themed Easter campaigns, and progressed systems to build lasting relationships with supporters.

Together, these steps are growing the Trust's reach and its potential to support work that might otherwise remain unfunded. We are grateful to every supporter whose gifts, large and small, help make this possible. For those who share our commitment to protecting Australia's extraordinary biodiversity and productive landscapes, the Trust offers a practical way to make a lasting difference. Every donation over $2 to the Invasive Species Solutions Trust is tax deductible.

Invasive Species Solutions Trust | ABN 58 144 836 077



We're proud to keep our Trust expenditure low: 82% of donation revenue is invested in protecting Australia from invasive species.

Purple-crowned Fairywren. Image: Geoff Jones/Barraimaging

1.4 2025-26 AT A GLANCE

JULY

CEO Shauna Chadlowe highlighted Australia's invasive species challenges at the Australian Committee International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Symposium

AUGUST



Sharing best practices globally: our webinar events attracted over 2,000 live attendances and views from around the world



Image: Craig Steel

CISS CEO contributed to the national Invasive Fauna Roundtable at Parliament House hosted by Senator David Pocock and the Skip Foundation



SEPTEMBER



Image: Arthur Chapman

CISS released its position statement supporting evidence-based 1080 use

OCTOBER

Dr John Virtue, Research, Development and Engagement Director, contributed expert insights at the National Invasive Ant Symposium in Brisbane



NOVEMBER



CEO Shauna Chadlowe championed community action in her Indian Myna Action Group keynote, and cross-sector collaboration at the Australian Government's Environmental Biosecurity Roundtable

DECEMBER

CISS strengthened national coordination, welcoming National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordinator, Yasmin Aly



Image: Kym Bradley



JANUARY

'Hop to it' feral rabbit social media campaign encouraged action on invasive rabbits in the new year



FEBRUARY

#WeedyWednesday's #ValentinesDay glow-up highlighted how well-intended garden gifts – like gazania – can escape into our environment

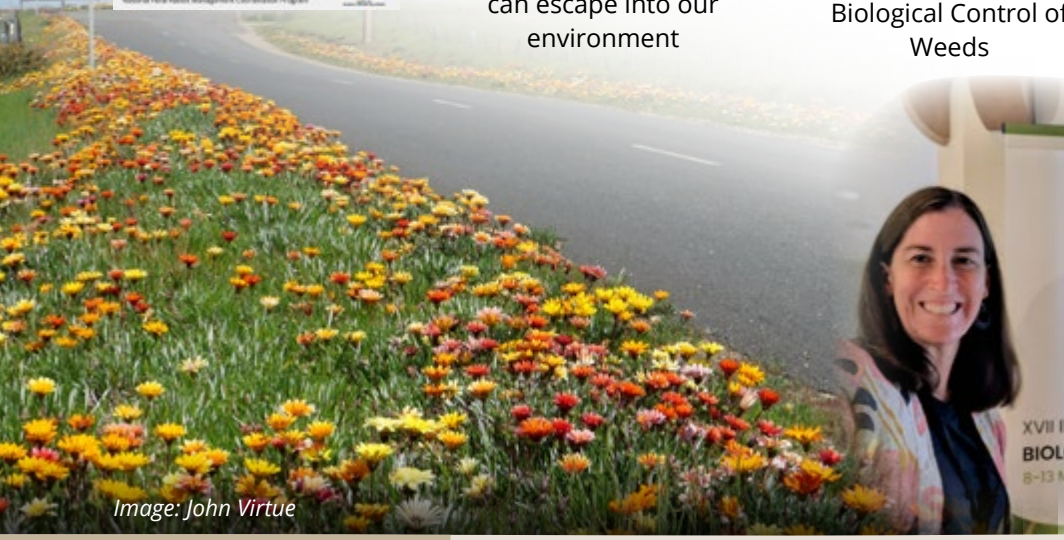


Image: John Virtue

MARCH

Future Drought Fund's Weed biocontrol for drought resilience project captures worldwide attention at the XVII International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds



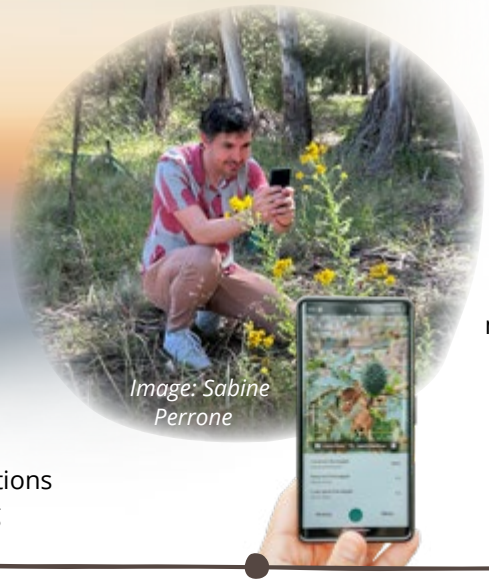


Image: Sabine Perrone

APRIL

LandSmart First Nations Ranger training

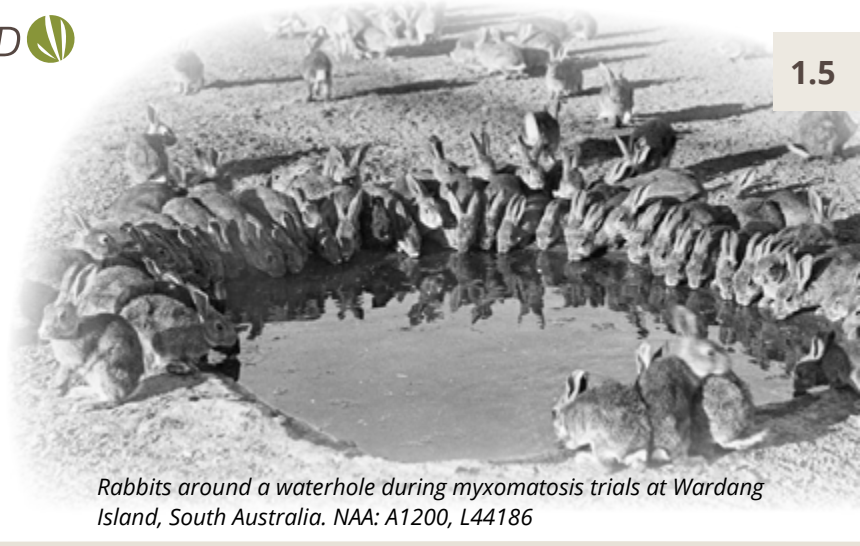
New WeedRemeed AI/Machine Learning drone-based weed detection and mapping platform delivered

MAY

WeedScan 2.0 digital biosecurity decision-support tool for priority weeds delivered

JUNE

CISS secures $4 million government, industry and CSIRO partnership to future-proof rabbit biocontrol



Rabbits around a waterhole during myxomatosis trials at Wardang Island, South Australia. NAA: A1200, L44186

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1.5 STRATEGY AND APPROACH

2027–2030 Strategy

VISION An Australia where our environment, economy and communities are not threatened by invasive species.

PURPOSE STATEMENT To accelerate the discovery, adoption and scaling of innovative solutions that protect Australia from invasive species.

STRATEGIC PROMISE We connect science, technology, investment and partnerships to accelerate innovative invasive species solutions that deliver national impact.

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Strategic Priority Areas and how we will achieve them:

1. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP & INFLUENCE

Lead national action on Australia's highest-priority invasive species challenges

- **Lead** national priorities through trusted leadership and evidence-based advice
- **Convene** members, governments, First Nations, industry, philanthropy and communities around shared priorities
- **Mobilise** investment to accelerate nationally significant initiatives
- **Influence** policy, partnerships and investment to deliver national impact

Success by 2030: Led national action on Australia's highest-priority invasive species challenges.

2. RESEARCH, INNOVATION & SOLUTION DEVELOPMENT

Transform science into practical, scalable solutions

- **Target** Australia's highest-priority invasive species challenges
- **Innovate** practical, scalable and commercially viable solutions
- **Accelerate** development, commercialisation and adoption
- **Demonstrate** measurable environmental, economic and community outcomes

Success by 2030: Accelerated a portfolio of innovative solutions from research to national adoption.

CONTINUE

OUR VALUES Transformative Collaborative Bold Ethical Trusted

3. ADOPTION & IMPACT AT SCALE

Accelerate adoption and deliver measurable national impact

- **Accelerate** implementation pathways that increase adoption of proven solutions
- **Scale** evidence-based solutions through members, governments, industry and communities
- **Sustain** long-term impact through capability, digital systems and a strong biosecurity culture

Success by 2030: Delivered evidence-based solutions adopted at scale across governments, industries, landscapes and communities.

4. PARTNERSHIPS & COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Multiply national impact through strategic partnerships

- **Connect** members, science, government, industry, environment, First Nations, philanthropy and communities
- **Collaborate** to co-design and deliver nationally significant solutions
- **Leverage** complementary capability, investment and influence
- **Strengthen** Australia's national and international invasive species network

Success by 2030: Built enduring collaborative partnerships with governments, First Nations, industry, environment, philanthropy, communities and international organisations.

5. REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION & FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Build a resilient organisation capable of sustained national impact

- **Diversify** revenue through memberships, government, industry, philanthropy and commercial activities
- **Leverage** investment by demonstrating measurable value and impact
- **Sustain** long-term resilience through strong financial stewardship and strategic reserves

Success by 2030: Diversified revenue with reduced reliance on any single funding source and strong financial reserves.

6. ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE & FUTURE CAPABILITY

Build a high-performing organisation ready for tomorrow's challenges

- **Enable** an agile, entrepreneurial and accountable culture
- **Develop** exceptional capability across science, digital assets, commercialisation and coordination
- **Future-proof** the organisation through technology, data and continuous improvement

Success by 2030: Built high-performing, entrepreneurial organisation recognised as a national innovation partner of choice.

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2.1 LANDSMART SERVICES

Growing capability, expanding possibilities

CISS's LandSmart Services is growing and diversifying, bringing practical research, technology and management guidance to partners across Australia. Its 'profit-for-purpose' vision is to generate sustainable revenue and, over time, reinvest surpluses into invasive species research, development and engagement.

This year, the team secured nine new vertebrate pest management contracts supporting:

- community capacity to control feral pigs;
- understanding disease-transmission risks between feral and domestic pigs; and
- Indigenous-led research and building First Nations Ranger capability across northern Australia.

Our growing relationship with the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) is especially important. LandSmart supports Indigenous-led research and practical training that equips Rangers with the skills and confidence to manage invasive species on Country. Combining LandSmart's and NAILSMA's technical expertise with First Nations knowledge and priorities, this collaboration builds lasting capability in communities.

LandSmart also expanded into weeds, adding the AI-enabled WeedRemeed platform, developed with 2Pi Software.

Combining drone imagery, AI and machine learning, WeedRemeed turns aerial images into detailed weed maps, helping land managers target their control efforts and track results across large landscapes. Our ambition is for users to build, adapt and share detection models, making weed mapping more accessible and affordable.

WeedRemeed is commercially available through a bureau service, or a self-service system for organisations with in-house technical capability.

Together, these services are expanding LandSmart's reach and building the foundations for future reinvestment.



landSMART

Tracking deer, targeting action

This year, working with New South Wales North Coast Local Land Services (NC LLS), CISS's LandSmart team extended its feral pig GPS collaring expertise to deer, building evidence for more targeted management.

The project tracked fine-scale rusa deer movements, habitat use and home ranges around Port Macquarie's peri-urban areas. GPS collars record nearly 300 locations per animal daily, revealing how deer use the landscape, including road crossings and interactions with residential areas.

Early analysis indicates several small deer populations with minimal interaction. This insight could help managers target individual populations more effectively, while movement data will inform strategies to reduce deer impacts on communities and the environment.



Collared deer in the NC LLS Port Macquarie Deer project. Image: NC LLS

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2.2 LANDSMART'S GROWING REACH

Going global

LandSmart's expertise in feral pig behaviour, community engagement and field research gained international recognition this year.

CISS Lead Feral Animal Researcher, **Darren Marshall**, and Senior Technical Officer, **Lachlan Marshall**, travelled to Croatia as guests of Lotek to share their work at the 14th International Symposium on Wild Boar and Other Suids.

Darren and Lachlan have fitted more than 500 feral pig GPS collars across Australia. Behind that milestone are years of on-ground research in remote and challenging landscapes, working with communities to understand feral pig behaviour and turning that knowledge into more effective management.

In Croatia, the team shared techniques developed through LandSmart's fieldwork, including demonstrating safe, humane GPS collar deployment to international practitioners tackling their own wild pig challenges.

Meanwhile, Business and Science Portfolio Manager, **Sean Freney**, showcased LandSmart's capabilities across Australasia, including at the 2026 Australian Cotton Conference, the International Mining and Resources Conference and the 2026 Australasian Weeds Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand.

These engagements opened doors to sharing Australian-developed invasive species solutions internationally, supporting LandSmart's growing services across feral pig and deer research, strategic pest animal guidance and the WeedRemeed platform.







3.1 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE

CISS is uniquely placed to lead national action on Australia's highest priority invasive species challenges, bringing governments, researchers, industry and communities together around shared priorities and practical solutions.

Engaging nationally through EIC

Mobilising and influencing leaders to protect Australia from invasive species

4 agenda papers

1 discussion paper

Supporting the Environment and Invasives Committee and its working groups

CISS sits as an observer on the intergovernmental Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC). In August, the CISS CEO facilitated a workshop with the EIC Chair on its forward workplan, helping shape priorities for collective action.

In addition, CISS is a member of EIC's five working groups:

- Weeds Working Group
- Terrestrial Vertebrates Working Group
- Terrestrial Invertebrates Working Group
- Freshwater Vertebrates and Invertebrates Working Group and
- Environmental Biosecurity Advisory Group.



Dr John Virtue, RD&E Director and Chair of the Carp Virus Implementation Planning Advisory Group (IPAG).

Image: Peter West

Growing national biocontrol leadership

Biocontrol is a significant, growing area of CISS's national leadership, spanning pipeline strategies, research partnerships and on-ground delivery. Our expanding role includes leading the $4 million Future-proofing Rabbit Biocontrol Phase 1 project in partnership with CSIRO and leading the Future Drought Fund-supported Weed biocontrol network for drought resilience project with four delivery partners. In addition:

- CISS provides support for the Weed Biocontrol RD&E Alliance, which oversees the implementation of the National Weed Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy.
- CISS CEO, RD&E Director and National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator joined CSIRO to advance rabbit biocontrol discussions at the 2026 Wild Rabbit Roundtable hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).
- CISS was appointed to chair the Carp Virus Implementation Planning Advisory Group (IPAG). DAFF established this group to provide independent scientific, operational, technical and policy advice on the potential deployment of the carp virus (Cyprinid herpesvirus-3) as a biological control agent for European carp. The group includes representatives from Australian, state, territory and local governments, research organisations, First Nations representatives, industry, community organisations and recreational fishing groups.

3.2 BIOCONTROL LEADERSHIP ACCELERATES

CISS is bringing together leading researchers, governments, industry and communities to advance biocontrol solutions for some of Australia's most destructive pests and weeds.

These collaborations are opening new frontiers in rabbit biocontrol, expanding weed biocontrol at an unprecedented scale and assisting carp biocontrol implementation planning through chairing a national advisory group.



European rabbits devastate landscapes. Image: James Doube

Future-proofing Rabbit Biocontrol Phase 1

CISS has brought governments, industry and researchers together in a new $4 million partnership to help future-proof rabbit biocontrol in Australia. CISS leads the collaborative project, with CSIRO leading the laboratory research, alongside our major investment partners including the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), all state and territory governments and Meat & Livestock Australia.

The partnership builds on extensive government and industry engagement, including DAFF's national Wild Rabbit Roundtable, where CISS and CSIRO jointly presented on progress towards implementing Australia's Rabbit Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy.

Rabbit biocontrol has been one of the country's great conservation success stories, but its effectiveness fades over time as rabbit populations develop resistance to existing virus strains. The last rabbit biocontrol virus, RHDV-K5, was released in 2017.

Now, in a world-first approach, the four-year project aims to accelerate the discovery and development of future rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV) variants in the laboratory, using rabbit organoid cell cultures, rather than relying on the chance emergence of new virus variants overseas. The project will undertake planning for national approval processes needed before any future release.

Subject to Phase 1's success, the second phase will investigate virus efficacy and epidemiology, vaccine development, risk assessment and release planning to support future regulatory approvals. This aims to build a pipeline of RHDV biocontrol options that can be released periodically as existing viruses lose effectiveness.

"CISS is proud to lead the national coordination of this groundbreaking work to help Australia stay ahead of one of our most destructive invasive pests."

Shauna Chadlowe, Chief Executive



A rabbit-shaped liver organoid: a tiny model enabling big advances in rabbit research. Image: Dr Egi Kardia, CSIRO

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Future Drought Fund

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

CISS is leading a national weed biocontrol initiative on a scale never before attempted in Australia to tackle seven of our most devastating rangeland and aquatic weeds.

The Weed biocontrol network for drought resilience project is a five-year, $5.9m effort fast-tracking biocontrol rearing, release, monitoring and evaluation, putting science into action through community engagement. African boxthorn, horehound, prickly acacia, several opuntioid cacti species, cabomba, salvinia and sagittaria are the priority targets.

As lead partner, CISS coordinates overall delivery and reporting, bringing together weed biocontrol experts from CSIRO, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Agriculture Victoria and the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

4
delivery partners

7
of Australia's most damaging weeds

$11 MILLION
total investment with additional financial and in-kind partner support

The project supports sustainable land management across more than 10 million hectares throughout Australia. By reducing the burden of these weeds, it aims to improve landscape function and ecosystem services, helping farms and landscapes become more drought-resilient.

Combining cutting-edge science, national coordination and local action, the project aims to build the capacity of farmers, First Nations land managers and community groups to implement weed biocontrols on their lands. Their involvement is central to turning these scientific advances into lasting improvements on the ground.

Now into its second year, the project is gaining momentum. Community engagement is growing while early monitoring of biocontrol agent establishment and impacts is delivering encouraging results at sites around Australia.



Members of the Australian delegation at the XVII International Symposium on the Biological Control of Weeds in Rotorua, New Zealand.

Work is also underway to develop a data system to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of biocontrol releases. Standardised data collection templates, a mobile app and workflows for publishing and analysing data will help partners track progress and assess results.

Capturing international attention



The project's early milestones were presented at both the XVII International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds and the 2026 Australasian Weeds Conference, bringing this ambitious Australian initiative to international and regional audiences.

From left: Kelli Murree, John Virtue, Jens Froese, Rae Kwong, and Kumaran Nagalingam at the 2026 Australasian Weeds Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Putting weed biocontrol on the map

A representative sample of some of the project's work so far.

African boxthorn

Ravensthorpe
An important partnership: African boxthorn has become commonplace in this corner of Western Australia.


The West Australian

Shire of Ravensthorpe partners with CSIRO to combat invasive weed

Rust fungus plan curb invasive weed

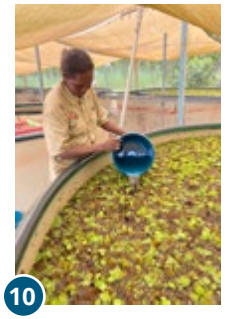
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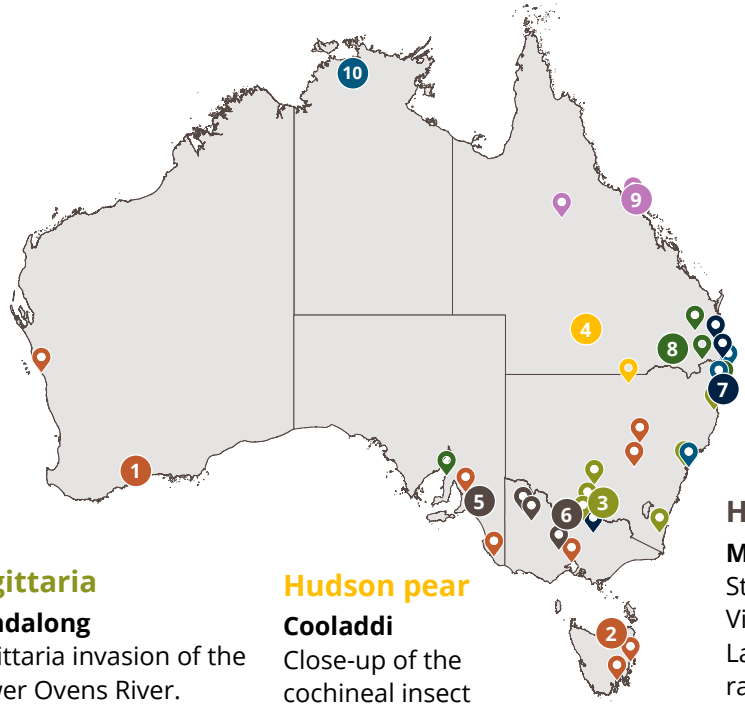
Low Head
CSIRO's Dr Ben Gooden demonstrates the release of the rust fungus at a Landcare workshop.
Image: CSIRO


2

Salvinia

Kakadu
The Northern Territory (NT) Government is working closely with the Djurrubu Rangers to improve salvinia weevil rearing, support ranger training and capacity building, refine monitoring methods and plan implementation of release and monitoring activities across priority wetlands.
Image: NT Government


10



Sagittaria

Bundalong
Sagittaria invasion of the Lower Ovens River.
Image: R. Kwong, AgVic


3

Hudson pear

Cooladdi
Close-up of the cochineal insect infesting the Opuntioid cacti, Hudson pear.


4

Prickly acacia

Bowen
Kunjithapatham Dhileepan and Boyang Shi releasing gall thrips at a release site.
Image: QDPI


9

Opuntioid cacti

Moonie
Prickly pear stemborer, *Lagocheirus funestus*, seen here emerging from its pupal case.
Image: QDPI


8

Cabomba

Bucca
Fritz Heystek, NSW DPIRD, sampling plant biomass and weevil establishment, at a long-term cabomba biocontrol site at a farm dam.
Image: Andrew McConnachie, NSW DPIRD


7

Horehound

Monarto Safari Park
Staff from Agriculture Victoria, Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, and rangers from the Monarto Safari Park, South Australia.
Image: R. Kwong, AgVic


5

Gunbower State Forest
More hands make lighter work: North Central Catchment Management Authority staff help Agriculture Victoria biocontrol scientists set up horehound clearwing moth research sites.
Image: H. Rahmani, AgVic


6

3.3 DIGITAL INNOVATION

WeedRemeed

WeedRemeed uses colour detection, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to detect, map and geolocate target plant species in drone imagery.

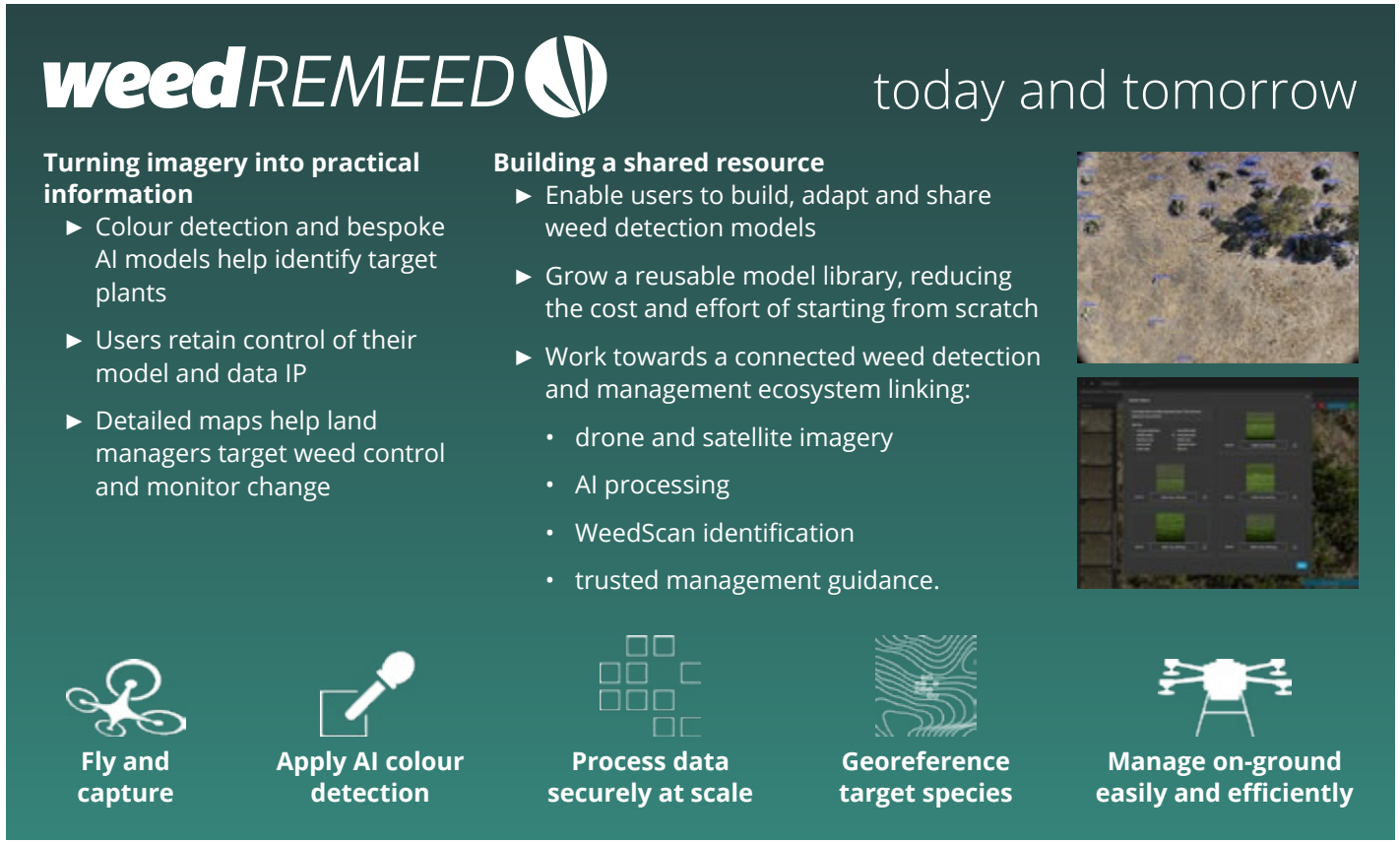
The technology helps land managers target their control efforts and monitor results over time. WeedRemeed can help reduce the need for time-consuming manual field surveys across Australia's large, diverse and sometimes challenging landscapes.

The initial project, funded through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Saving Native Species Program (Threat Innovation grants), was delivered in March in partnership with 2pi Software.

Since then, support from ACEN Australia's Social Investment Program has enabled usability improvements that make preparing imagery and creating colour detection swatches faster and easier.

"The new features allow users to simply create colour detection swatches in minutes. This will significantly improve their experience and enable them to get improved results quickly."

Sean Freney, Business and Science Portfolio Manager



WildSeek partnership detects noxious weed

CISS and Landcare Australia partnered on a Cotton Research and Development Corporation Innovation Call to establish a WildSeek drone hub with the Tamworth Regional Landcare Association.

WeedRemeed was used to detect Noogoora burr, a major agricultural and environmental weed, demonstrating how cutting-edge drone and AI technology is helping land managers find new ways to tackle old challenges.



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WeedScan 2.0

After two years of development, WeedScan 2.0 achieved a controlled operational release in June: a major milestone for this digital weed biosecurity tool.

As Australia's first AI weed ID app, WeedScan 1.0 broke new ground. Now version 2.0 features a substantially larger dataset (nearly double the original), upgraded model architecture and an improved user experience.

The upgraded AI model was trained and delivered, with extensive User Acceptance Testing demonstrating more robust performance. As a probabilistic system, WeedScan suggests likely matches rather than providing definitive identification. Its purpose is to support weed biosecurity decisions, rather than general plant identification.

While the AI model is performing well, further software platform improvements are needed to strengthen stability and make the tool easier to use. Strengthening this is the next development priority.

CISS is taking a staged approach to the WeedScan 2.0 rollout, recruiting volunteer Biosecurity Officers and experienced plant practitioners to evaluate the app in operational settings: their feedback will shape further usability and performance improvements. CISS is also developing reporting protocols to ensure high-priority detections are notified to the appropriate jurisdiction.

CISS thanks DAFF for its investment and support, the Macpac Fund for Good for its generous co-investment, WIRES and the National Weeds Working Group, jurisdictional representatives, technical experts, dedicated volunteers and User Acceptance Testers whose expertise has been instrumental in reaching this milestone.

The new AI model

Trained to recognise

>930 PLANT SPECIES

including Weeds of National Significance, alert and state-declared weeds and common native lookalikes

Trained on

~600,000 IMAGES

drawn from a professional-grade image library of >950,000 reflecting plant growth stages and image variability

FEATURES

- real-time photo framing guidance
- clearer icons
- human verification for triaged high-risk weed alerts
- website tools to support community-based management

Just a few of the species in WeedScan 2.0

Weeds of National Significance

Athel pine
(Tamarix aphylla)



Gamba grass
(Andropogon gayanus)



Invasive native

Cootamundra wattle
(Acacia baileyana)



Declared weeds

Tropical soda apple
(Solanum viarum)



Mother-of-millions
(*Bryophyllum delagoense)*



Canna lily
(Canna indica)



3.4 NEW AND ONGOING CONTRACTS IMPLEMENTATION

Vertebrate pest and wildlife management projects



National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordination Program 2025-2027

Coordinating national action to improve feral cat and fox management and reduce impacts on biodiversity, agriculture, cultural values and communities.

PARTNER: DAFF



Future-proofing Rabbit Biocontrol Phase 1

Laboratory-accelerated natural evolution of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) using a novel cell culture platform. Aiming to select new RHDV variants that will overcome existing rabbit immunity in Australia.

PARTNERS: CSIRO, MLA, DAFF, State & Territory governments



Feral Pig Behaviour , extended to June 2028

GPS tracking and disease surveillance to understand how feral pigs move, interact and respond to aerial shooting, supporting more accurate disease-spread models and better decisions during animal disease outbreaks.

PARTNER: NSW DPIRD



Development of an Integrated Population Model for Kangaroos

Developing an integrated population model for kangaroos using a Bayesian statistical framework that combines aerial and drone surveys, commercial harvester returns and environmental indicators to generate continuously updated estimates of kangaroo abundance, with credible intervals to clearly show uncertainty.

PARTNER: NSW DPIRD



Aerial Kangaroo Surveys

Designing efficient aerial survey methods, training surveyors and developing robust statistical approaches to produce accurate, unbiased population estimates for three commercially harvested kangaroo species in western NSW.

PARTNER: NSW DPIRD

Surveillance and biosecurity preparedness projects



NSW Enhanced Preparedness to Diagnose 200+ Priority Pests and Diseases, extended to June 2027

A five-year project developing rapid, scalable diagnostics and genomic tools for 200+ priority pests and diseases, including new molecular assays for detecting and characterising invasive species such as red imported fire ants.

PARTNER: NSW DPIRD



EAD Tools: remotely triggered invasive animal control tools

Improving Australia's capacity to manage Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) outbreaks involving feral animals, through device blueprints, a smart-camera prototype, activity-analysis models, field trials and deployment recommendations.

PARTNER: NSW DPIRD



FeralScan EAD

Upgrading the national FeralScan website and app so farmers, conservation organisations, landholders and biosecurity agencies can access animal disease advice, report suspected symptoms, share surveillance data and receive real-time alerts.

PARTNER: NSW DPIRD



NSW Surveillance for Wildlife Disease, extended to June 2027

Field testing and refining an active surveillance system for detecting emergency animal disease incursions in wild animal populations and enabling decisive responses.

PARTNER: NSW DPIRD

Weed projects



Upgrades to WeedScan

Delivered WeedScan 2.0, nearly doubling coverage to 933 plant species, with improved AI identification accuracy and functionality. Incremental improvements are ongoing while the next stage of development is scoped.

PARTNERS: DAFF, Macpac Fund for Good, WIRES



Weed biocontrol network for drought resilience

Supporting 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

Strengthening Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) preparedness

Through the Enhanced preparedness to diagnose 200+ priority pests and diseases project, delivered in collaboration with CISS, scientists at the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (NSW DPIRD) have been implementing new molecular diagnostic assays for national biosecurity priorities, including for the rapid detection and characterisation of red imported fire ants (RIFA), one of the world's worst invasive insects.

Project Lead Dr Zoe Spiers says the tools include a species-specific quantitative PCR assay for rapid, sensitive identification of RIFA DNA, and a genotyping assay that distinguishes monogyne colonies (a single queen) from polygyne colonies (multiple queens), information that informs management decisions because the number of queens strongly influences mound density and how far new queens travel to start a fresh nest.

Our innovations help protect Australia from invasive species at landscape scale. View all our research projects.



Images: John Virtue

Tracking feral pig behaviour

This project will improve emergency animal disease planning by providing reliable evidence on the social and spatial behaviour of feral pigs and other ungulates in New South Wales. Researchers will analyse GPS-collar data to estimate contact rates, map movement networks and measure how pigs respond to aerial shooting, including changes in range, activity and refuge use. Disease exposure will also be assessed through blood sampling. Findings will support more realistic disease models, test whether aerial control increases transmission risk and guide outbreak decisions. Outputs include validated models, practical management advice and peer-reviewed publications for modellers and response agencies across Australia.



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2025-26 LandSmart projects

ONGOING

Best practice feral pig management
Researching best-practice feral pig management in northern Australia, delivering ranger-led research and building capacity for First Nations Rangers.

PARTNER: North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd

NEW

APL Domestic-Feral Pig Interface Project
Investigating interactions between domestic and feral pigs in south-west Victoria to inform management and disease-outbreak planning.

PARTNER: Australian Pork Limited (APL)

ONGOING

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

ONGOING

Southern Gulf Feral Pig Monitoring Project
Tracking feral pig movements near Hughenden and sharing findings with the region and community to improve management.

PARTNER: Southern Gulf NRM

ONGOING

Fitzroy Basin Feral Pig Monitoring
Tracking feral pig movements near Stanage Bay and sharing findings with the region and community to improve management.

PARTNER: Fitzroy Basin Association

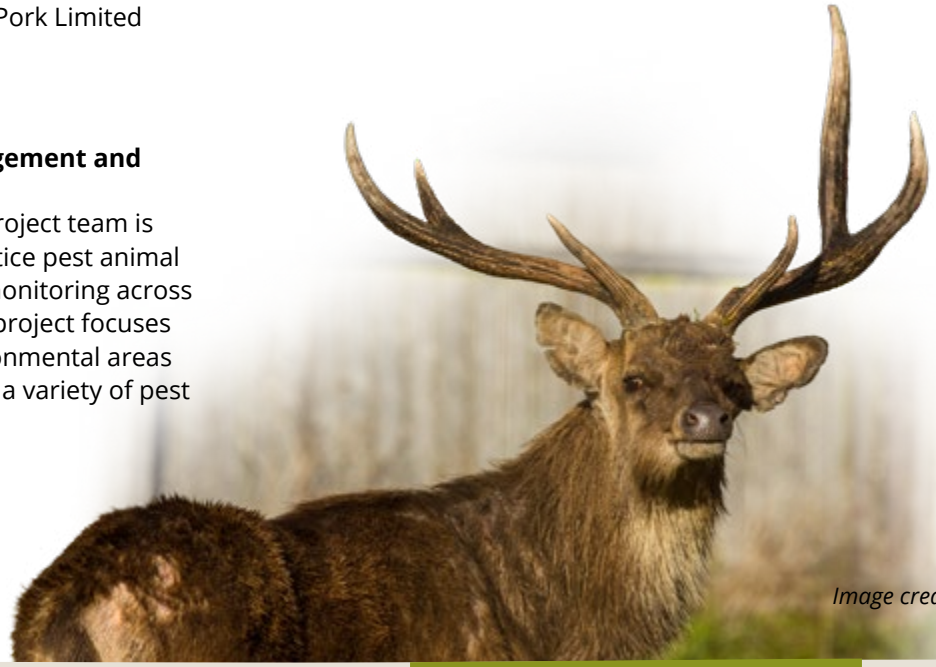


Image credit: Ashley Carlson.

ONGOING

Local Land Services Feral Deer Monitoring Project
Collecting fine-scale GPS movement data on Rusa deer in a peri-urban setting to guide management. This is the first Australian study of its kind.

PARTNER: NSW Local Land Services (North Coast LLS)

weedREMEED
COMPLETED STAGE 1

WeedRemeed
National Usability and Scale-Up Program
Delivering Stage 1 of the WeedRemeed National Usability and Scale-Up Program.

PARTNERS: ACEN Australia, 2Pi Software

NEW

Landcare Australia WeedRemeed
Developing a colour-detection algorithm and machine-learning model for a priority weed near Tamworth, supporting WeedRemeed commercialisation and Landcare training.

PARTNER: Landcare Australia

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4.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION

CISS hosts three National Coordinators: **Yasmin Aly** (National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordinator), **Heidi Kleinert** (National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator) and **Greg Mifsud** (National Wild Dog Management Coordinator).

Their work helps translate invasive species research, development and engagement to on-ground actions in communities right across Australia.

National Coordinators continue to raise awareness of invasive species and their impacts while helping people put effective, humane pest management into practice at national, state and local levels.

Working through a network of partnerships and programs, and alongside passionate people, the team connects directly with communities, sharing best practice advice and helping people use digital resources like PestSmart and FeralScan.

This year, National Coordinators delivered nationally-agreed workplans, connecting science with policy and practice, and promoting evidence-based approaches that make a measurable difference on the ground.



A feral cat stalks a threatened Malleefowl tending its nest in South Australia. For these remarkable mound-building birds, introduced predators pose a deadly threat. Image: Tim Pascoe

National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator

Sharing experiences, February, Sorrento
Mike Norman of Friends of Sorrento Beach & Marmion Foreshore shared his experience in the *Feral Rabbit Newsletter*.



Walking tour, October, Scenic Rim
Exploring the 555km-long rabbit-proof fence with the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board.



Rabbit management masterclass, May, Wagga Wagga
Building momentum for smarter, landscape-scale rabbit control with NSW DPIRD and Local Land Services.



National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordinator

AgFest, May, Carrick
Engaging with the community about how feral cats impact on wildlife and agriculture.

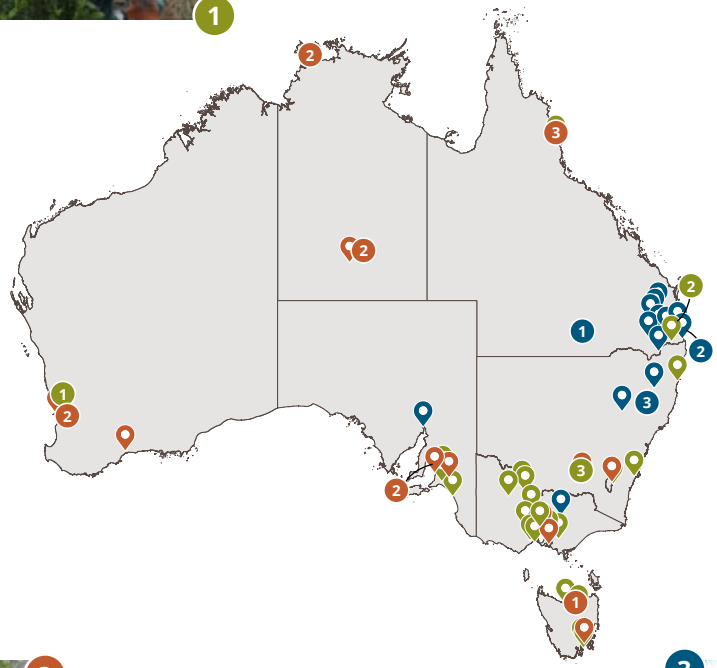


Felixer guide development, February
Working with Indigenous ranger groups across Australia to develop practical guidance.



Wet Tropics – Cat Management Research Program Workshop, March, Cairns
Supporting feral cat management in Australia's wet tropics.
Image: Phil Redpath





National Wild Dog Management Coordinator



Leading Sheep field day, November, Bollon
Sharing practical wild dog management advice at a field day and workshop.



NFF conference, September, Gold Coast
With Romy Carey of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association.



Predator Masterclass, May, Ellerston
Sharing expertise with NSW Government forestry and conservation staff.

NATIONAL FERAL CAT AND FOX MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

The National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordination Program turns collaboration into practical action, guided by its Activity Work Plan 2025–2027 and a new team: **Yasmin Aly** joined as National Coordinator in December, bringing project management expertise and decades of natural resource management experience across state government agencies. New Project Officer, **Dr Sara Balouch**, brings a background in ecology and wildlife conservation.

Program highlights

Agricultural impact of foxes

Last year we reported on the devastating impact of foxes on Australia's wildlife. This year the *Agricultural Impact of Foxes in Australia* report revealed where foxes have the greatest impact on Australia's agricultural productivity, particularly for sheep producers.

Developed in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the report explored fox impacts on productivity and the challenges landholders face in managing them effectively on private land, and opportunities to work together across property boundaries and landscapes.

"...it took just 60 years for foxes to colonise Australia, which is not a lot of time when you think about the size of our country..."

Yasmin Aly on ABC Radio Canberra, December



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Pictorial guide a gamechanger

An innovative, two-page visual guide is supporting Indigenous ranger groups manage the devastating impact of feral cats on Australia's threatened wildlife by making the Felixer grooming trap technology more accessible in the field.

It's the practical result of an exciting collaboration between the program, the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA), the Central Land Council (CLC) and Thylation, the maker of the Felixer unit.



Yasmin Aly says the guide will help land managers care for Country.

dedicated program website attracted **14,000 USERS**

10 NEWSLETTERS reached nearly 1,000 subscribers

social media posts attracted over **10,000 IMPRESSIONS**

Practitioner Group convenes

Quarterly Practitioner Group meetings give people working in the field a chance to discuss practical issues, identify common barriers and explore solutions for better management at both local and landscape scales.

Sharing what works helps practitioners strengthen and sustain their feral cat and fox management efforts.



Building networks: practitioners share knowledge, experience, successes and challenges.

Baseline survey tackles management barriers

A national baseline survey will explore what stands in the way of effective feral cat and fox management and provide an evidence-based foundation to inform the program's future priorities.

This survey will draw on the insights and experiences of land managers, practitioners and communities to identify where support is needed most.



Feral cat control can be challenging in rural and regional Australia.

"The National Feral Cat and Fox Coordinator role plays an important part in connecting government, industry, environment and pest management stakeholders across Australia. Through our engagement, Yasmin has facilitated important introductions, shared practical expertise, and strengthened collaboration across regions, helping drive more coordinated and effective pest animal management outcomes nationwide."

Leigh Pronk, Animal Control Technologies Australia

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NATIONAL FERAL RABBIT MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

With rabbit numbers increasing across many parts of Australia and a new biocontrol solution up to a decade away, effective rabbit management requires action now and investment in future solutions.

National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator, **Heidi Kleinert**, bridges this gap by strengthening on-ground capability and adoption while communicating the advanced science needed for future rabbit control.

Program highlights

Strengthening local connections

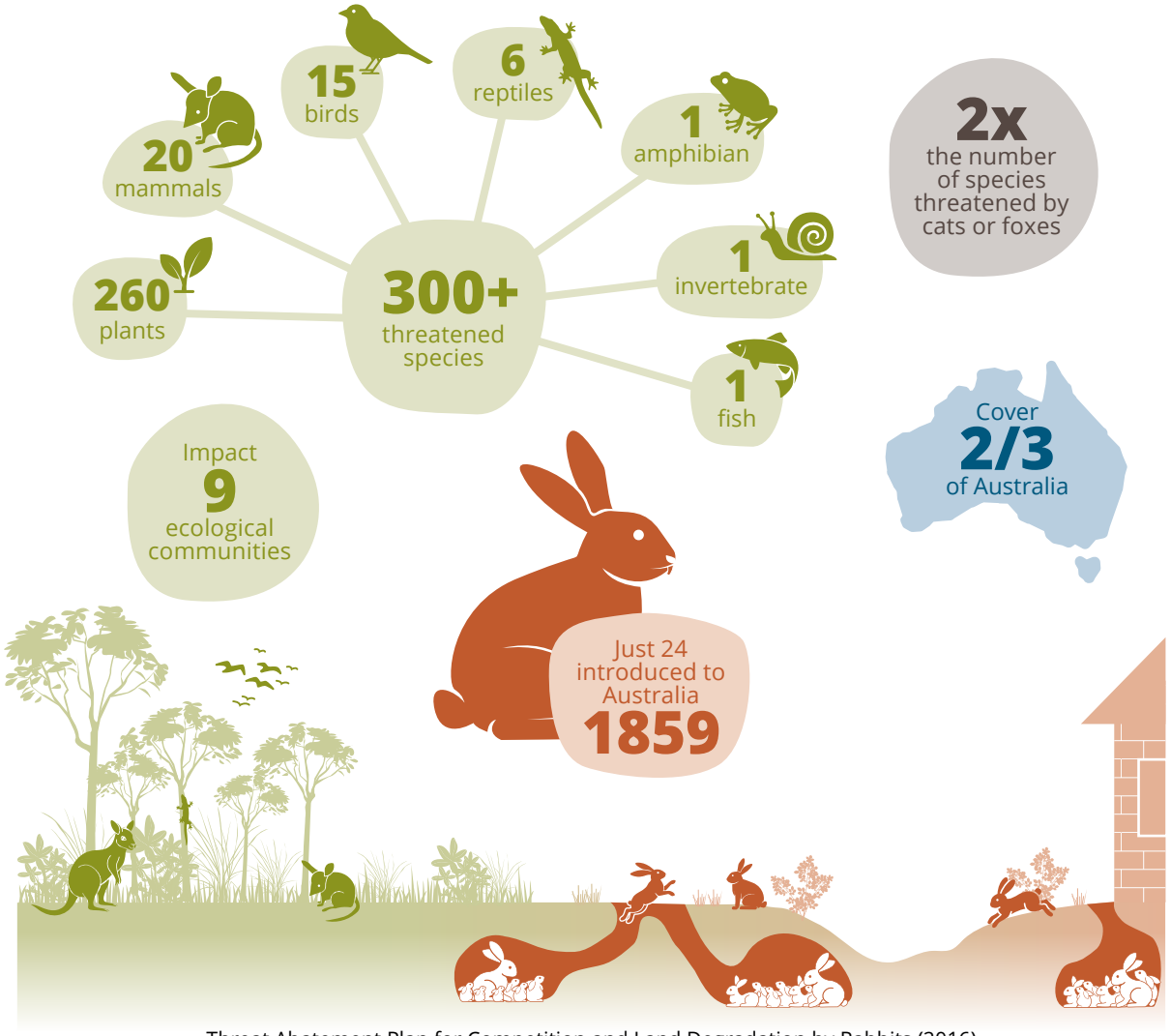
Heidi's work directly supports people managing rabbits through national and regional networks such as the Australian Rabbit Managers Network and the Peri-urban Forum.

By connecting people working in different regions and sectors, these networks actively accelerate the adoption of effective management strategies, share solutions, strengthen cross-tenure approaches and foster greater national coordination.



Heidi Kleinert meets Alex Johnson from the City of Greater Geelong while supporting local government initiatives to manage rabbits. Image: Bellarine Landcare Group.

1859 to today: Rabbit impacts on Australia's threatened wildlife and ecological communities



Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Rabbits (2016)

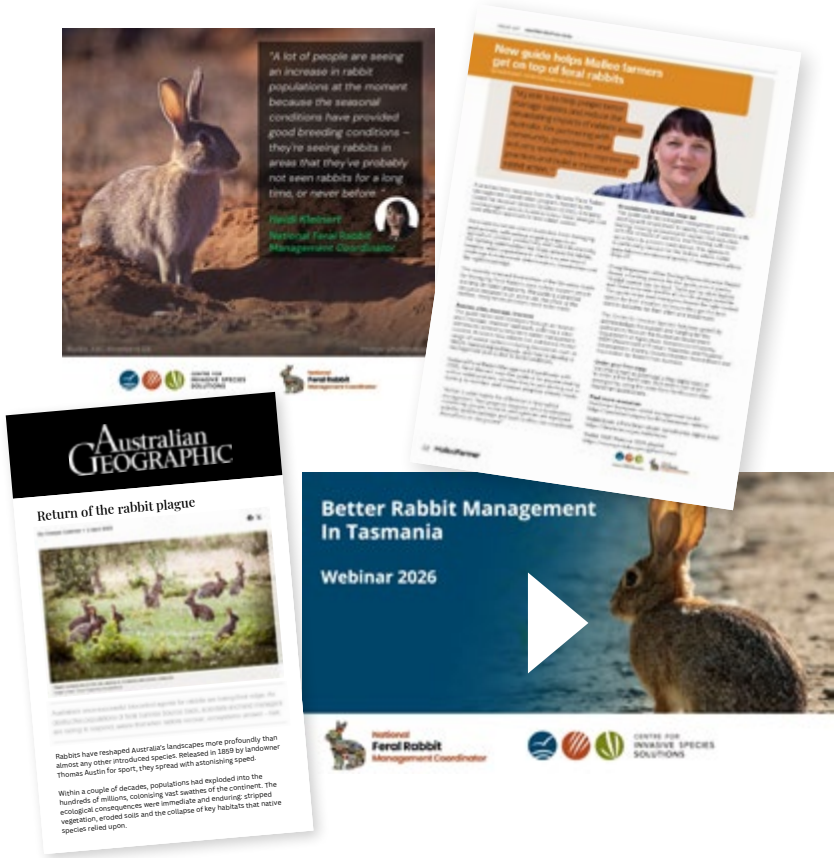
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Gone to ground but not out of mind

To raise awareness of feral rabbit impacts and what people can do, this year, Heidi:

- gave 34 presentations including to the Australasian rabbit researchers' forum
- participated in 5 webinars and 18 face-to-face events
- headlined 2 masterclasses on rabbit management to build the next generation of rabbit champions
- gave media interviews, including to French and Dutch outlets

Find out more! Tune in to the nine-part R&D webinar series and six-part video Better Rabbit Management in Tasmania series.



An old favourite gets a new look

Launched in April, the updated *Glovebox guide for managing rabbits* puts practical advice within easy reach. The media release attracted significant coverage and nearly 3,000 copies have since been distributed around Australia.

"This guide is designed to sit in an office, ute or toolbox – ready to be used when decisions need to be made."

Heidi Kleinert, National Feral Rabbit Management Coordinator



Lessons from the Coorong

Heidi led a field tour of rabbit-proofed vegetation sites in South Australia's iconic Coorong region. It brought together 23 participants from 14 organisations with a shared commitment to tackling feral rabbits.

Participants heard from renowned researchers Brian Cooke and Peter Bird and explored the science and strategies behind rabbit management. The tour showcased 47 years of research work at Salt Creek's protected areas, revealing how native flora can thrive when protected from rabbits.

"More people should see rabbit-free enclosures and warren ripping sites to understand the longer-lasting benefits to vegetation...."

Field trip participant



NATIONAL WILD DOG MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, **Greg Mifsud**, continued to put the National Wild Dog Action Plan (NWDAP) into practice this year, working with agricultural producers, industry groups and researchers.

As existing funding arrangements wound down, NWDAP continued to support producers with practical tools and coordinated control, demonstrating the value of sustained national support.

Workshop participants rate their learnings

5
WORKSHOPS
in FY25 and FY26 across Queensland and New South Wales

76
producers managing over

420,000
hectares

21,802
cattle

18,000
sheep

10,000
goats

"Wild dog management is about keeping negative impacts to manageable levels in specific areas."
Greg Mifsud

workshop rating
4.8/5

workshop Information
4.9/5

reported likelihood of practice change
80%

Program highlights

NWDAP stakeholder workshop

The Canberra workshop brought together producers, livestock industry bodies, government agencies and technical experts from across Australia to set priorities for the next five years of the Plan's implementation.

It confirmed strong support for continuing a coordinated, evidence-based approach to managing wild dog impacts.

"The National Plan and Coordinator are evidence-based and give us best practice and tools, the methodology to react to what is happening in our area."
Paul Diamond, third-generation sheep producer, Victoria



New website makes advice easier to find

The refreshed website features a more intuitive layout, streamlined pages and smoother navigation. Its cleaner look offers quicker access to the tools and information land managers rely on. Explore the site for practical guidance, resources, and the latest program news.

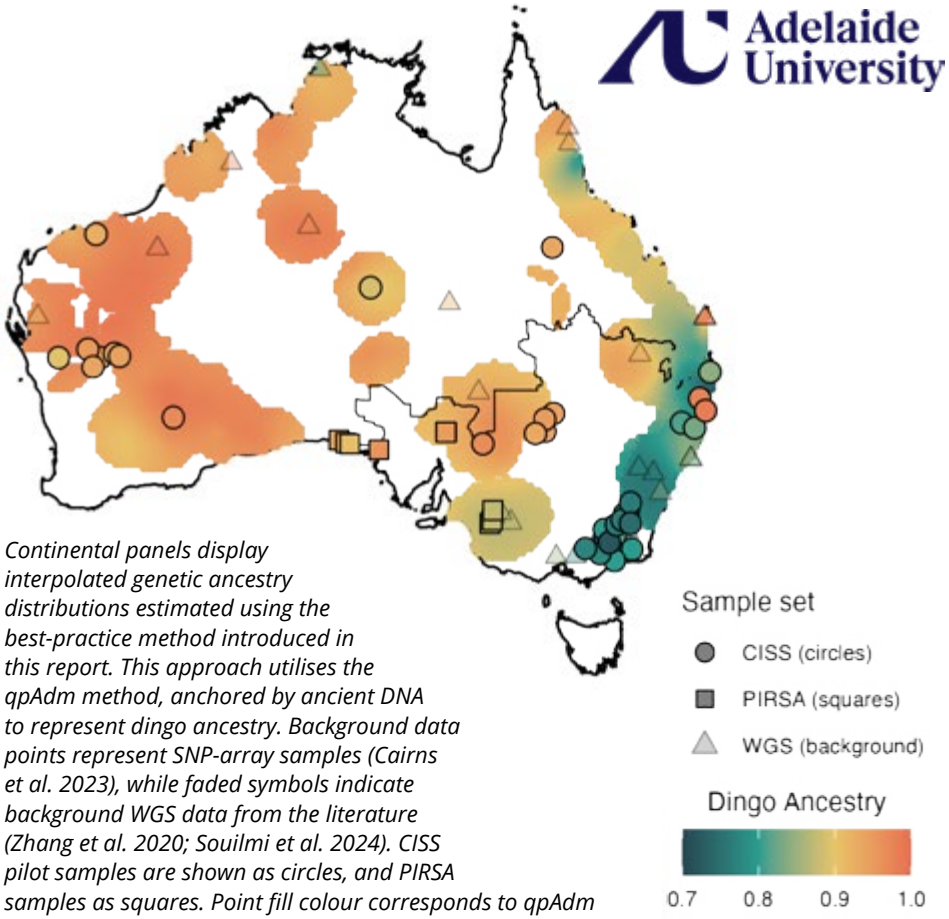

Image: K Foster

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Dingo or not? DNA study commissioned

The National Wild Dog Action Plan commissioned researchers at Adelaide University's Australian Centre for Ancient DNA to establish a new genomic testing framework for estimating dingo ancestry in free-roaming wild dog populations.

The study method builds on prior research and uses DNA from an ancient pre-colonial dingo database as its dingo purity baseline. Read the report.



Continental panels display interpolated genetic ancestry distributions estimated using the best-practice method introduced in this report. This approach utilises the qpAdm method, anchored by ancient DNA to represent dingo ancestry. Background data points represent SNP-array samples (Cairns et al. 2023), while faded symbols indicate background WGS data from the literature (Zhang et al. 2020; Souilmi et al. 2024). CISS pilot samples are shown as circles, and PIRSA samples as squares. Point fill colour corresponds to qpAdm dingo ancestry (ancient-anchored model). Western Australian samples cluster at high dingo ancestry (warm tones), whereas southeastern samples show lower values (cool tones).

Telling the stories of Yellowstone and Wildash

New predator management video resources bring together global insights and practical, local experience.

The first, Myths and realities of wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone features Professor Dan MacNulty of Utah State University, USA.

The second shares on-ground experiences of a wild dog management group at Wildash in Queensland's Southern Downs.







The video resources have already attracted over 1,600 views.

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4.2 NATIONAL DIGITAL PLATFORMS

CISS's suite of digital assets has a strong reputation as the trusted source of best-practice management information to protect Australia from invasive pests and weeds.

Across PestSmart, Weeds Australia and CISS's wider digital estate, our platforms generated over 852,000 active users over the year, demonstrating the reach and impact of accessible, science-based information for managing invasive species.

Looking ahead, CISS is working to create a connected digital ecosystem to help users discover related content more easily and support best practice management of pests and weeds, while ensuring the platforms are well positioned for AI's impact on search trends.



Image: Mary-Anne Addington

PestSmart: Planning for future growth

PestSmart offers trusted, best-practice vertebrate pest management information and resources to end-users across Australia, from landholders to policy makers and researchers. It plays a critically important role in Australia's biosecurity system.

This year's focus has been on preparing for the platform's next phase. While PestSmart continues to attract strong uptake, planning is underway to keep it performing well into the future.

Essential to this effort was engaging with key stakeholders including the National Pest Coordinators and the Terrestrial Vertebrates Working Group. CISS invited feedback on the site's content, searchability, usability, linkages, currency of information and primary audiences, while encouraging greater uptake across jurisdictions.

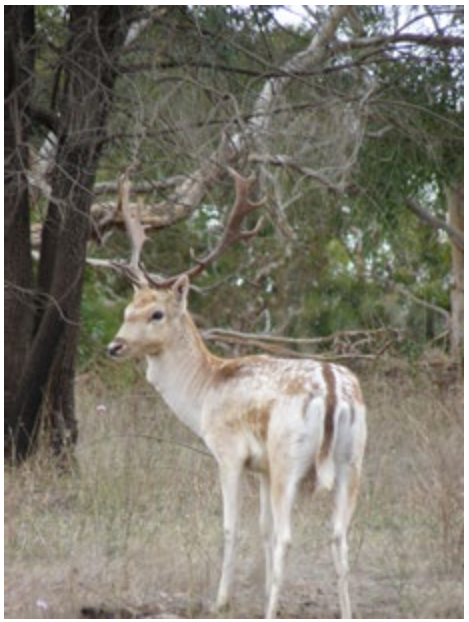
With the advent of H5 bird flu, PestSmart responded to user needs by creating a resource featuring public health and biosecurity information specifically for pest animal controllers and land managers.

PestSmart by the numbers

93
POSITION #1
search rankings

230,442
ACTIVE USERS
in FY26

15TH
YEAR
of operation





Creating contextual links between PestSmart and FeralScan boosts engagement across both.

Weeds Australia: A trusted resource on the go

Weeds Australia is the national go-to platform for invasive plant management, connecting land managers, researchers and policymakers with authoritative, evidence-based guidance and resources.



The site is Australia's trusted resource for weed management and policy-making information: it attracted 359,011 active users in FY26.

The site published the final outputs of the National Weed Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy as well as the outcomes of the National Established Weed Priorities process which listed 14 priority weed species in July 2026.

NEWP NATIONAL ESTABLISHED WEED PRIORITIES

CISS is working to ensure the site continues to provide trusted, best practice management information by engaging with key stakeholders and working to enhance the experience of mobile users with faster page loading speeds.

Introducing Weeds Australia to new users

A new video asset guides users through the platform's features.

weedsAUSTRALIA

By the numbers

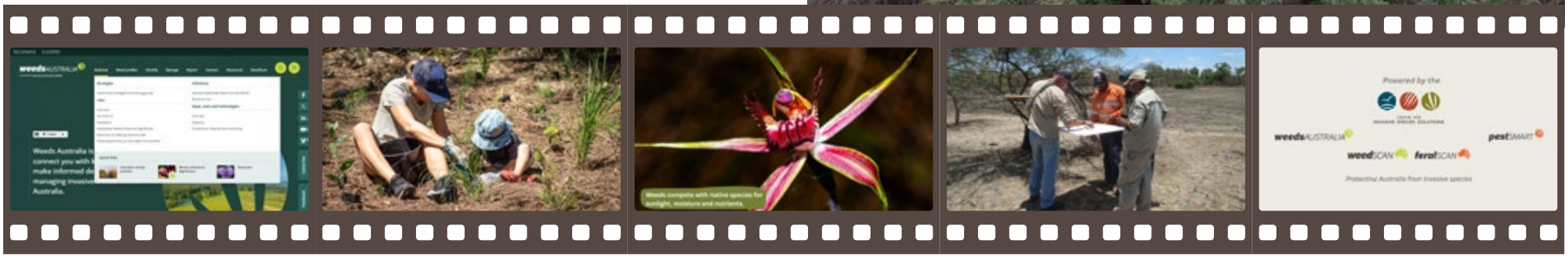
308
POSITION #1
search rankings

11%
GROWTH
in users in FY26

60%
VISITORS
on mobile



Opuntioid cacti, a Weed of National Significance. Image: NSW DPIRD



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CITIZEN SCIENCE TOOLS

FeralScan

Delivered in partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, FeralScan remains a critical national tool for empowering grass-roots, community-led action on invasive species in communities across Australia.

The digital app enables real-time monitoring of European foxes, rabbits, feral pigs, feral deer, wild dogs, feral cats and pest birds as well as less established pests, like cane toads. Its data-sharing capabilities drive collaborations to secure the best outcomes.

FeralScan has 69,081 registered and private users and 1.6 million pest records*.

Functioning as both a web and mobile app, the platform plays a vital role in connecting landholders, community groups and government agencies through shared data that informs both local and national control efforts.

"FeralScan gives landholders the tools to turn rabbit sightings into informed, coordinated action. For Council, it provides a clearer picture that help us target on-ground support where it can make a real difference."

Josh Gomez, Roadside Conservation Officer, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

*including records imported from agricultural and conservation stakeholders in FY26.

Empowering local communities

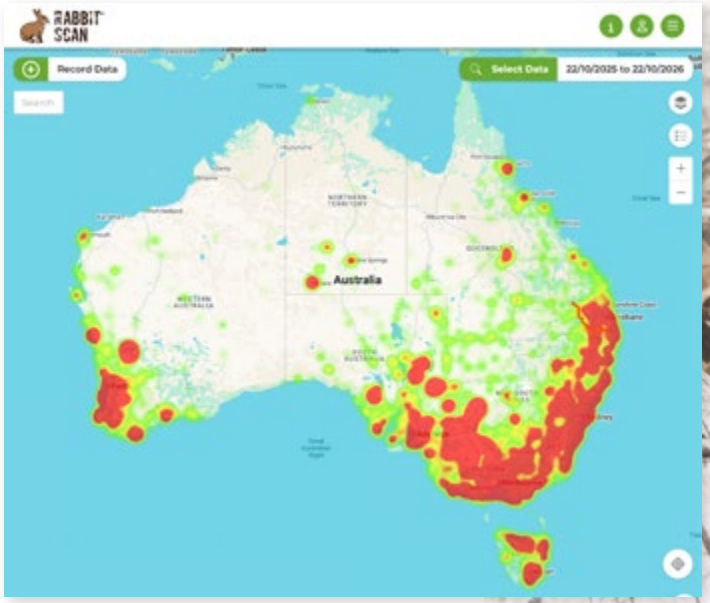
Right across Australia, FeralScan plays a vital role in community-based pest management efforts.

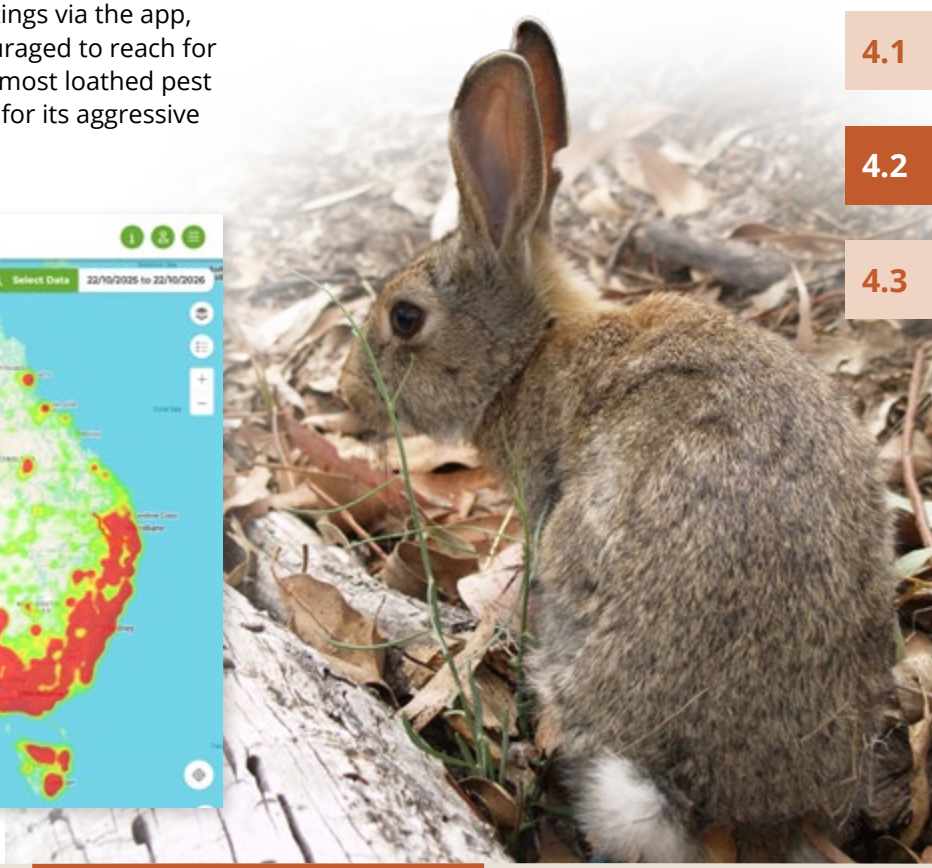
In Gunbower State Forest in Victoria, the North Central Catchment Management Authority is calling on locals and visitors to record any feral pig and deer sightings by using the app.

Meanwhile, the City of Darwin kicked off its FeralScan Cat Tracking Project encouraging community members to record neighbourhood roaming and stray cats as part of broader efforts to protect Darwin's wildlife.

And in New South Wales, roadside signs encourage mid-coast residents to report feral deer sightings via the app, while in the Riverina residents are encouraged to reach for their phones to tackle one of Australia's most loathed pest bird species, the common myna, known for its aggressive behaviour towards native birds.







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WeedScan 2.0

With its upgraded platform deployed during the year, WeedScan continues to grow as a community-facing tool, helping everyday users identify and report weeds in the field.

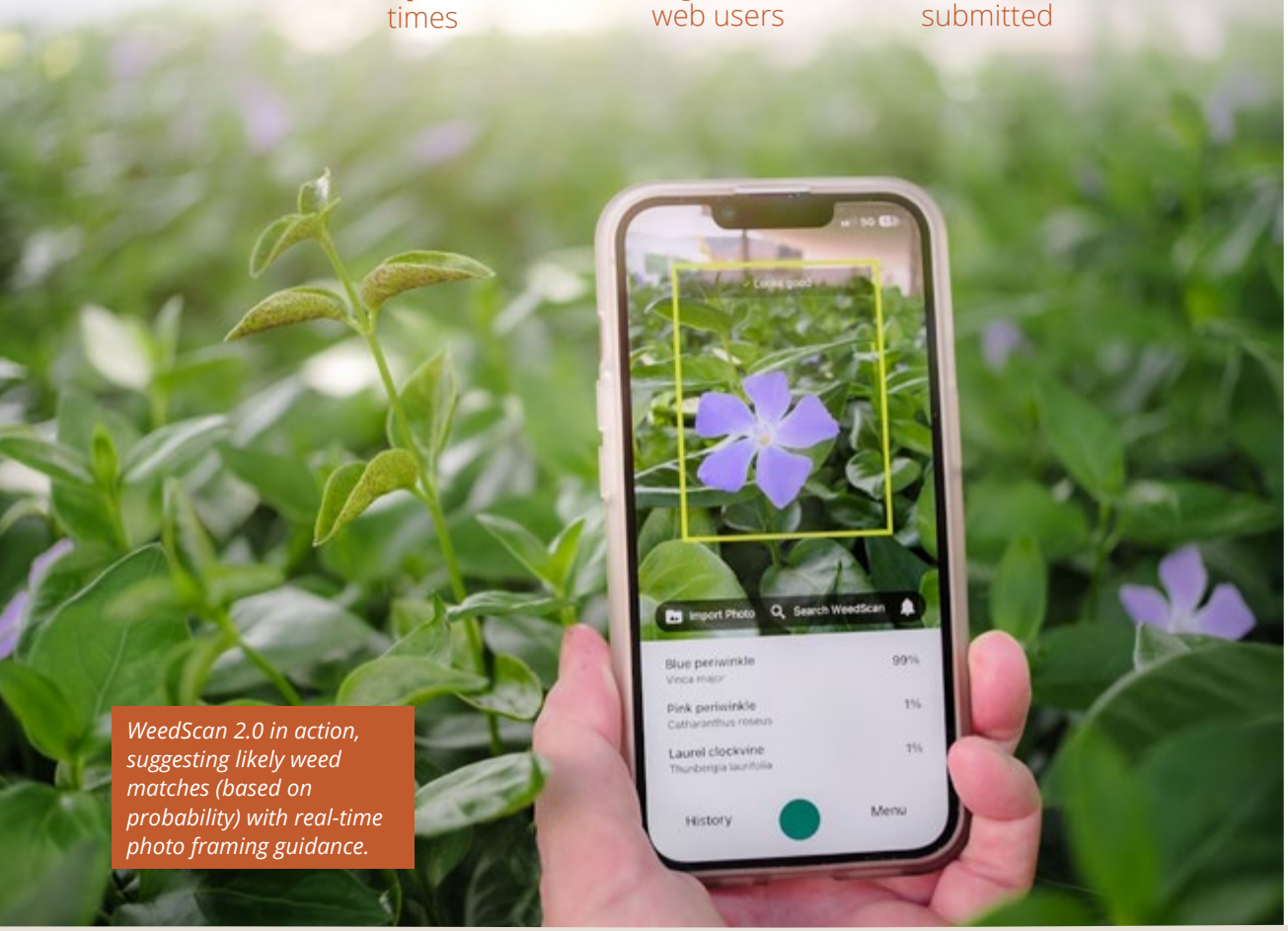
Since launch, this Australian-made app has continued to attract national interest.

Fast facts

downloaded over **36,000** times

3,861 registered web users

22,000+ observations submitted



WeedScan 2.0 in action, suggesting likely weed matches (based on probability) with real-time photo framing guidance.

Weed Risk Australia

Weed Risk Australia provides a national platform for conducting and sharing weed risk assessments. Developed with input from all state and territory governments, it centralises data, reduces duplication and helps jurisdictions share information on new and emerging weed threats.

The platform stores over 2,000 assessments, with nearly a quarter of these created or edited since the site's launch in 2025. The platform hosts a range of assessment methodologies, including official state/territory methodologies and other bespoke methodologies developed for agricultural weeds, biological control and more.

Developments this year include further onboarding for jurisdictions and a new methodology resource providing a list of current methodologies, contacts for each and links to their published assessments (where available).



*Variegated thistle (*Silybum marianum*).*

Images: Richard Southerton

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4.3



WildlifeTracer webinar boosts adoption

INAUGURAL
WildlifeTracer webinar

Featured **'CHAMPION'** users

123 ATTENDEES
from 10 jurisdictions across Australasia

WildlifeTracer

WildlifeTracer (formerly the Digital Surveillance of Illegal Wildlife Trade) uses automated web-scraping technology to create a continually updated database of potentially illegal wildlife trade. Its capabilities are catching on: registered users grew 30+% above target in FY26.

The digital surveillance platform monitors around 30 e-commerce platforms in real time, collecting millions of advertisements from online marketplaces and classified websites. It then generates automated alerts to biosecurity and wildlife compliance teams across Australia.

Upgrades this year expanded monitoring for the invertebrate trade and improved resilience of the platform's web scrapers. Advanced, saved and sharing search functions were also added.



African spurred tortoise. Image: QDPI

WildlifeTracer was developed in collaboration with the Adelaide University and supported by funding from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

WildlifeTracer in action

Biosecurity Queensland officers in North Queensland have streamlined the detection of illegal online wildlife trade by embedding the WildlifeTracer platform into their day-to-day compliance activities.

Officers are developing extensive libraries of common and vernacular species names for prohibited invasive plants to enhance search capabilities, while expanding monitoring across social media platforms, online marketplaces, citizen science websites and wildlife reporting networks.

This proactive approach is delivering results. In a 60-day period, North Queensland Biosecurity Officers investigated 15 cases, the majority of which were linked to suspected illegal online plant trade.

WildlifeTracer is proving to be a valuable addition to the biosecurity toolkit, helping officers detect potential offences, gather intelligence and prevent illegal wildlife trade.



4.3 TRAINING AND COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Our integrated communications approach translates complex issues and scientific rigour into practical advice, building the skills and connections Australia's land managers need to tackle invasive species.

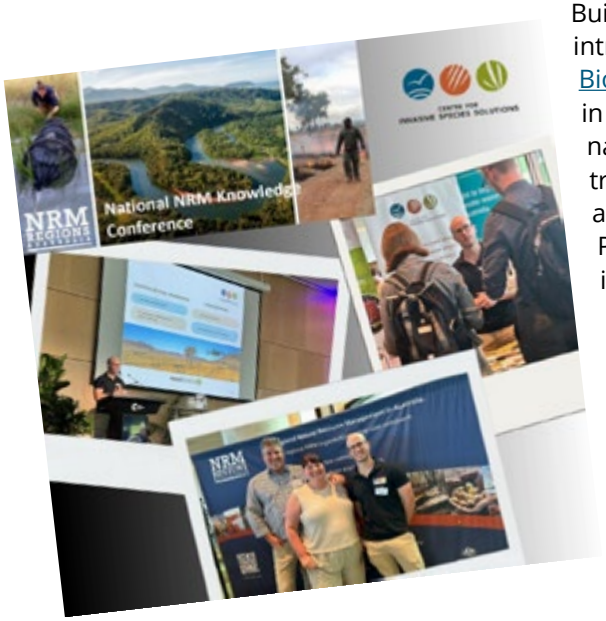
OUR YEAR IN EVENTS

Strong engagement with NRM Regions

What does it take to tackle invasive species at scale? NRM Regions Australia turned to CISS and Australia's team of National Coordinators to find out.

An introductory In the Tent webinar in August connected National Coordinators and their work with the NRM community.

Then in September, CISS staff were out in force at the NRM Knowledge Conference, sharing the latest on WeedRemeed and practical approaches to feral pig and feral rabbit management.



Building on that introduction, a Biosecurity Hub webinar in May explored how national coordination translates into local action. All five National Pest Coordinators, including CISS's Heidi Kleinert, Yasmin Aly and Greg Mifsud, joined FeralScan Coordinator Peter West to share their work.

National rabbit forum



Organised by CISS, the Foundation for Rabbit-Free Australia and the National Feral Rabbit Management Coordination project, the 2026 Rabbit R&D Webinar in March explored 'new tech for traditional control'.

Leading researchers and practitioners shared insights on monitoring rabbits and warrens, optimising RHDV-K5, building drought resilience through rabbit control, camera traps, and national-scale distribution modelling.

Showing up for the weeds



The CISS team at the 2026 Australasian Weeds Conference.

CISS had a strong presence at weed conferences throughout the year, including the SA Pest and Weeds Conference in September and the Victorian Weeds Conference in October. The team showcased weed biocontrol initiatives at both the XVII International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds in Rotorua and the 2026 Australasian Weeds Conference in Christchurch, where WeedRemeed and WeedScan 2.0 also featured.

Bringing a national perspective, CISS CEO, Shauna Chadlowe attended the Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC) meeting in Darwin and joined a field trip that brought home the growing challenge of Gamba grass and feral pig damage to the Northern Territory's sensitive wetlands.



EIC field trip in Darwin, Northern Territory. August 2026.

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Publications and resources

This year, CISS fulfilled a record number of orders for best practice management guides. The new *Glovebox Guide for Managing Feral Rabbits* proved particularly popular, with nearly 3,000 copies distributed around Australia in its first six months, putting practical advice into more hands.





Orders for management resources are managed through PestSmart

Research excellence and information hub

CISS research projects contributed five peer-reviewed scientific publications in FY26, strengthening the evidence behind invasive species management, biosecurity and emerging control technologies.

Proboste T, Turnlund A, Bengsen AJ et al (2025) Quantifying feral pig interactions to inform disease transmission networks. *eLife*, 13, RP102643. https://elifesciences.org/articles/102643

McFarlane GR, Whitaker K, Plett KL, O'Rourke B and Bogema DR (2025) Optimising guide RNA production for multiplexed Cas9-targeted nanopore sequencing to detect pathogens. *Molecular Biotechnology*, 1-11.

Birand A, Prowse TAA, Cassey P and Thomas PQ (2025) Evaluating the potential of a new murine gene drive for pre-emptive mouse plague control. *NeoBiota*, 103:129-47.

Bengsen AJ, Comte S, Crittle T et al (2025) Aerial shooting is unlikely to cause dispersal or consistent changes to the movement of feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*). *Wildlife Research*, **52**(6), WR25024.

Marshall D et al (2026) Field comparison of three restraint techniques for deploying GPS collars on wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*). *Wildlife Research*, **53**(5), WR25178.

CISS publications and knowledge products

- *Position Statement on the use of 1080* – Position statement
- *Glovebox Guide for Managing Feral Rabbits* – Guide/practical resource
- *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan* – Organisational strategy/plan

View all our publications

Demand for printed best practice management guides surged



20,550 printed guides ordered



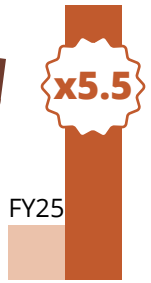


14,020 glovebox guides ordered





550 fridge magnets ordered





*Dunnart (*Sminthopsis *sp). Image: Max Tischler*

Corporate communications

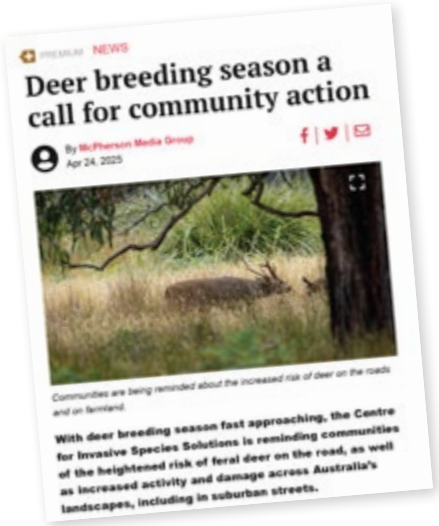
Invasive pests and weeds make news every day in Australia. Their growing impacts on our way of life, agriculture and environment, mean CISS's work is never far from the headlines.

Taking an 'all invasives' approach, CISS staff provided authoritative, science-based information and trusted advice on a wide variety of invasive pest and weed topics across Australia and around the world.

In the media spotlight

480+
MEDIA MENTIONS

7
MEDIA RELEASES



Read our latest news and subscribe to the bi-monthly *CISS Chronicle* to stay connected.

Our outbound media activities reflected the diversity and breadth of CISS's work and influence.

Weed biocontrol was a key theme, with the completion of the National Weed Biocontrol Pipeline Strategy and the commencement of the Future Drought Fund's Weed biocontrol network for drought resilience initiative both making news.

The appointment of Yasmin Aly as the new National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordinator put a spotlight on these invasive predators while the new *Glovebox Guide for Managing Feral Rabbits* attracted 100 media mentions alone.

Deer breeding season was again a focus and reflected CISS's innovative monitoring work. Announcing our first international member – New Zealand's Bioeconomy Science Institute – and our expanded collaborations – rounded out the year.





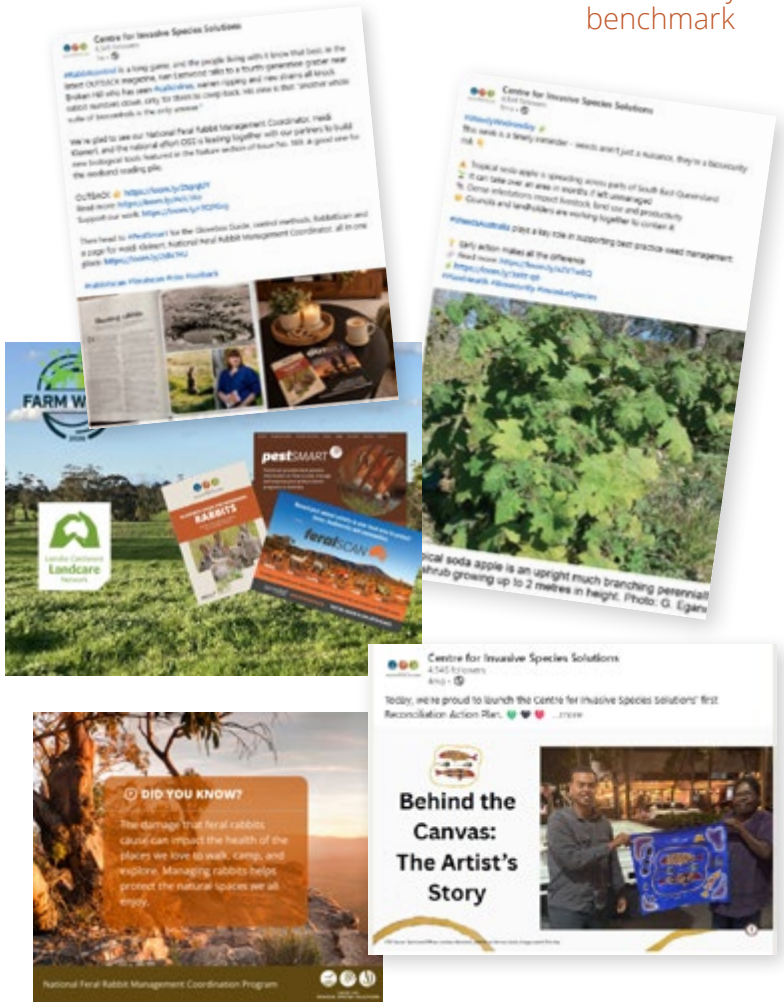
Social media

Our digital reach and public profile strengthened again.

+36%
LinkedIn followers, year on year

+44%
Facebook likes, year on year

20–25%
e-newsletter open rates, above the industry benchmark



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5.1 BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

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

Total revenue achieved in the 2025-26 year was $9.4 million, including $1 million in-kind contributions to projects.

CISS has delivered a consolidated surplus of $147,141 for the year to June 2026. This result was in line with budget and a significant improvement on the prior year's consolidated loss of $219,508, primarily due to the return on investment in business development and philanthropy.

During 2025-26, 12 new projects were contracted totalling $2.4 million.

CISS continues to work with members, partners and stakeholders to fund nationally significant invasive species and biosecurity projects and member priorities.

CISS was proud to be named as a finalist in *The Australian* Best Places to Work 2026, recognising our commitment to building a supportive, inclusive and values-driven workplace. Although a small team working remotely across Australia, we foster a culture where people feel valued, connected and empowered to contribute to meaningful national outcomes.



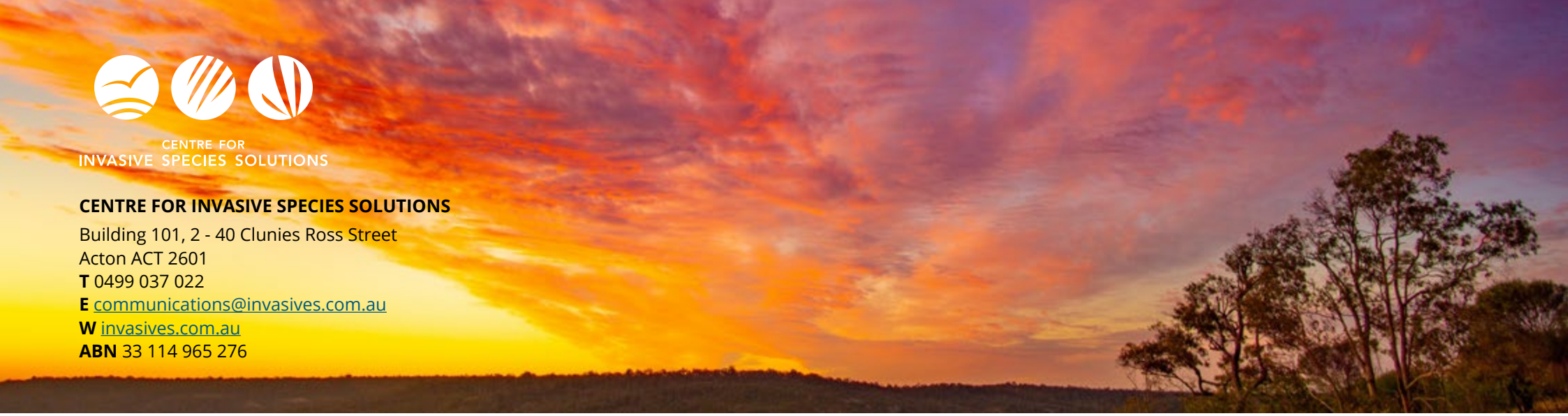
Resources applied 2026

	$million	
Governance and Employee Costs	$1.1m	12%
Research Projects and Implementation	$7.7m	83%
Admin, Travel, Meetings, Intellectual Property	$0.3m	4%
Communications	$0.1m	1%
TOTAL	**$9.2m**	**100%**

Operating Summary (million)

	Financial year 2025	Financial year 2026
Revenue (incl. in-kind)	$8.0m	$9.4m
Net assets	$6.2m	$8.4m
Cash	$9.4m	$6.7m

5.1



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Bioeconomy Science Institute
Maiangi Taiao

CSIRO

mla
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

NSW GOVERNMENT

Queensland Government

Government of South Australia

Tasmanian Government

VICTORIA
State Government

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Nature Foundation

RABBIT-FREE AUSTRALIA

ACEN Australia