



10 March 2021

To the Environment and Communications Reference Committee,

### **Supplementary Submission on the National Deer Management Coordinator Project**

The National Deer Management Coordinator Project was established through Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) and is being led by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA in October 2020.

Feral deer (termed 'wild deer' in Victoria and Tasmania) are increasingly a problem for land managers, causing significant socio-economic, and environmental impacts. In some parts of Australia, laws require individual land managers to "do their bit" to control feral deer. In other parts, land managers can choose to control deer on their land. Deer frequently move across many properties, so the effectiveness of control on individual properties is reduced unless groups of neighbours participate and coordinate their efforts using best practice strategies.

The National Feral Deer Coordinator Project will provide coordination for feral deer management through a National Feral Deer Action Plan, and by engaging diverse stakeholders to increase awareness of feral deer impacts and build capacity to control deer at landscape scales.

The National Feral Deer Action Plan (2022-32) will be drafted by a Working Group, to guide management of feral deer in areas with severe deer impacts, as well as provide a strategy to prevent feral deer from infesting new areas. This Plan aims to raise the profile of the deer problem, and encourage land managers, industries and governments to work together and use best practice control to reduce deer numbers, impacts and spread. The Action Plan will be informed by surveys, meetings and public consultation, and support for the Plan will be ultimately sought from both the Environment and Invasives Committee and National Biosecurity Committee.

The National Deer Management Coordinator will support the adoption of the Plan by industries, agencies and communities across Australia, through events, training, media, materials and best practice management information (via CISS' PestSmart website at [www.pestsmart.org.au](http://www.pestsmart.org.au)), an Action Plan website, promoting and demonstrating best practice and building networks. Together with staff from state governments and regional land management agencies, the Coordinator will help groups of land managers to coordinate their feral deer control programs.

The Coordinator will be working closely with CISS' national deer RD&E collaboration (involving 5 states and territories, 3 local councils and 3 unis), to ensure the latest research findings, validated best practice management approaches and emerging technologies are effectively delivered out into the community and used across Australia. More information is available at: <https://invasives.com.au/research/#ilm>

The National Coordinator model has been adapted from the foundational work of the National Wild Dog and Feral Pig Management Coordinators, managed by CISS and Australian Pork Limited respectively.

This project is funded by the Australian Government and Department for Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia (PIRSA), through the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions until June 2022.

Information and media releases on the project can be found here:

<https://invasives.com.au/research/national-deer-management-coordinator/>

<https://invasives.com.au/news-events/new-national-deer-management-leader-appointed-to-tackle-a-growing-problem/>

<https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/national-deer-management-coordinator>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional input into the Senate Inquiry,

Regards, Andreas Glanznig  
CEO, Centre for Invasive Species Solutions