

Towards cost-effective management of deer in Australia

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There is much interest in managing the undesirable impacts of the six non-native species of deer that have wild populations in Australia. Management, however, has been partly hampered by an absence of information on the effectiveness and costs of current deer control tools. We will use case studies to summarise the findings of a five-year Centre for Invasive Species Solutions project investigating the effectiveness and costs of four deer control methods (ground-based shooting, helicopter-based shooting, trapping and fencing) for four deer species (fallow deer, sambar deer, chital deer and rusa deer) in eastern Australia. The need to consider animal welfare outcomes in deer management will be highlighted. Our findings will be made available as evidence-based best-practice guidelines in mid-2022. If managers and co-ordinators continue to collect and report the costs and effectiveness of their deer management programs, then best-practice guidelines can be updated as evidence accrues.