

COMMUNITY PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

Community feral deer management (CFDM) is an effective method to reduce feral deer impacts across Australia. CFDM is the coordinated management of feral deer by community, usually governed by local groups or agencies and focused on private property control. Many groups are currently involved in or initiating CFDM; however, there is little research on best approach nor evidence-based information to guide CFDM development in Australia.

To support the development of effective, long-term, and feasible CFDM across Australia, the National Feral Deer Action Plan (NFDAP) is conducting evidence-based research on the development and implementation of CFDM.

There is no sure-fire recipe for a successful program. A more realistic approach is to identify broadly applicable blueprints about key dimensions of successful programs.

The NFDAP research aims to identify common blueprints that community programs in Australia have used in CFDM, and common barriers encountered. The blueprints will provide a guide for future development of CFDM in Australia. The identified common barriers can inform areas requiring resources and focus. This approach mimics research produced by Cornell University to support CFDM in America ([DeerGuide.pdf (cornell.edu)](https://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/handle/1813/40558/DeerGuide.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y)).

**Purpose of the questionnaire**

The answers in this questionnaire will be used to identify common blueprints and barriers to feed into the CFDM guide. Answers may also be used to allocate resources to overcome common barriers and expand on best approaches in CFDM.

Please return this questionnaire to Shannon by emailing shannon.evenden2@sa.gov.au

**QUESTIONS**

*Please aim for 200-300 words per question, remembering that the information will be used to cross-reference with other programs to find similarities and differences. Dot points are fine.*

*If the question is not relevant to your program, simply write “not relevant”. If you are at the start of your program, please describe what you plan**on doing.*

*The details contained in this questionnaire* ***will not*** *be shared. Information will be used to find common approaches and barriers, and no reference to specific groups will be made.*

1. **Summarise the CFDM program in 200-300 words.**
	1. How long has your program been running?
	2. Estimate the number of properties involved and the total number of hectares covered.
2. **Describe in detail the project governance.**
	1. Which organisation or agency managed the program and what was their role?
	2. Did you partner with other organisations or agencies? If so, what was their role?
	3. Estimate the number of paid staff hours and in-kind hours per week involved in project governance.
	4. What are the benefits and disadvantages of this approach to project governance?
3. **Describe the community engagement aspect of your program.**
	1. In 100 words, what is the attitude of your community regarding deer and deer management
	2. Did you do any awareness raising activities for the broader community? If so, provide comment on the activities and their impact.
	3. How did you engage community to be part of the program?
4. **Describe the feral deer management approach in detail.**
	1. Did you undertake ground control? If no, go to 4b.
		1. Were volunteer or professional shooters used?
		2. How many shooters were part of your program?
		3. How were the shooter(s) coordinated?
		4. Did the shooter(s) report sightings and/or culls? If so, what was the method of data collection?
	2. What other methods of management were undertaken?
	3. How were control activities communicated to participating landholders?
	4. What are the benefits and disadvantages of this approach to deer management?
5. **Describe the carcass management approach.**
	1. Was your community concerned about carcass management?
	2. What was your approach to carcass management?
6. **Describe your monitoring approach with the program.**
	1. Did you do any monitoring of feral deer and/or their impacts? If so, what was your approach?
7. **Describe budget considerations of the program.**

*This information will be used to provide rough guides for budget, exact numbers and information won’t be shared.*

* 1. Estimate the total budget per year of the program, including allocation for in-kind contributions.
	2. If you received budget for your program, where did the funding source(s) come from?
1. **Overall comments.**
	1. What worked well in your program?
	2. Describe the challenges you experienced at the start and during the program e.g., regarding coordinating shooter(s), data management, carcass management, community backlash. How did you overcome these challenges?
	3. What knowledge did you wish you had when starting the program?
2. **Please include any other information that you believe is relevant**

E.g., did your program involve management of other pests such as foxes.

1. **Would you be willing to take part in a focus group discussion with other representatives from community programs to discuss best approach and barriers to CFDM?**

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Evenden (National Feral Deer Support Officer) by emailing Shannon.evenden2@sa.gov.au.