Project Learning Report: Large-Scale Deer Traps

Project funded by National Landcare Program, Smart Farms Small Grants (Round 3)

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LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA LIMESTONE COAST

Government of South Australia

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Project Learning Report- Large Scale Deer Traps

Information current as of January 2023

Disclaimer

Contents

Background

In South Australia, feral deer numbers have increased dramatically over recent decades resulting in increasing impacts on agriculture, environment, and community safety. Impacts on agricultural production and farm sustainability include competition with livestock for pasture, damage to and loss of horticulture crops, soil erosion, and degradation of creeks and riverbanks.

Feral deer are declared for destruction by all landholders in South Australia under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. The current control option for landholders is limited to ground shooting with a firearm. Ground shooting of deer can be difficult because deer are nocturnal and can move large distances through rugged terrain. Landholders may also struggle to comply with the requirement to control feral deer on their property because of time constraints and limited firearm capacity (licence, equipment and training).

The use of traps to corral feral deer is an appealing tool to many landholders. However, deer traps have not been used widely in South Australia before, so pest control managers and landholders have limited insights into their use and effectiveness for removing feral deer.

A project led by Livestock SA, in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), Parawa Agricultural Bureau, Ag Excellence Alliance, and the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, established and monitored three large-scale deer traps from late 2020. The project assessed the effectiveness of using traps to control deer, the use of lures to attract deer, and challenges in the establishment of large-scale deer traps.

Funding for the project activities was provided by the National Landcare Program, Smart Farms Small Grants (Round 3). Additional funding was also provided by the Limestone Coast Landscapes Board's Grassroots Grants Program.

This Project Learning Report highlights options, considerations and limitations of large-scale traps, including design, use of lures and site selection. The report highlights the challenges of trapping and cost-benefits of using traps compared to ground and aerial shooting control. Information is specifically relevant to the trials in South Australia. Further trials of large-scale deer traps are required before a best practice guide can be developed as there are still too many unknowns for the creation of a guiding document.

This report will increase awareness of large-scale trap effectiveness, application, and potential benefits of large-scale traps to landholders impacted by feral deer and who may be considering installing a deer trap as part of a deer control program. It is hoped that some of the knowledge gaps will be filled by land managers prepared to install and trial traps as part of their own deer control programs.

This project outcomes highlights the value of exploring innovative approaches to feral pest management. Observations from each trap site provided insights into pest management in varying landscapes and the importance of adapting and assessing each approach. Sharing these outcomes is important for educating managers and landholders before they invest in establishing their own large-scale traps as a tool.

This report will be available for distribution to stakeholders, specifically those that attended any of the engagement activities, once accepted by National Landcare Program.

Summary

Three large-scale deer traps were installed on private agricultural properties in the Northern and Yorke region (NY) Fleurieu Peninsula (FP) and in the Limestone Coast (LC) in late summer 2020/21

- NY – Vineyard and scrub block property
- FP– Livestock and cropping property
- LC – Livestock and cropping property

Both red and fallow deer are known to exist and be active at all three sites. The trap designs are not known to favour any species of deer.

The traps were monitored for deer activity by landholders and contractors, and by wildlife monitoring cameras throughout the project period. Food based and non-food based lures were tested for effectiveness of attracting deer to the trap.

Ten deer were trapped in NY; no deer were trapped in the other traps.

Trapped deer were shot by a commercial harvester, in alignment with the PIRSA Code of Practice (COP) and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for managing feral deer. The harvester also removed the carcasses and adhered with all food safety standards for the commercial harvest of wild deer.

Large-Scale Trap Establishment and Site Selection

The traps were designed and built specific to each site, in consultation with the contractor and landholder. The traps were each between 2,000 - 3,000 square metres, making them large-scale in size, and included design elements used in traps successfully trialled interstate as well as drawing on the contractors' experience in Australia and New Zealand. The trap site and design ensured good animal welfare standards, including provision of natural shade, rest areas, water, and food. Figures 1 to 3 illustrate schematics of the traps.

The traps were located on private property, so they were not visible to the public. Restricting traps to private property minimised the risk of people tampering with the traps, which would interfere with outcomes and compromise animal welfare. Trap site location and design features are outlined in Table 1 with photos shown in Table 2.

Summary of trap site location and design features

Table 1. Trap site location, design and features

	NY	FP	LC
Trap location and feral deer abundance			
Landscape area setting	Native woodland scrub area and to a vineyard Adjacent to a conservation park Shady area with tree canopy for shelter and natural rest area	Sheep and cropping farm Adjacent to forestry and native scrub area Sparsely shaded, some tree canopy for shelter and natural rest area	Cattle and sheep and cropping farm Extensive pasture available outside trap Adjacent to native scrub block Shady and protective overhead tree canopy for shelter and natural rest area
Vegetation inside trap	60% cover native blue gums and stringy bark trees 40% native grass, oats, other grasses	< 10% native trees, incl. 3x pink gum trees and 1x stringy bark	> 90% native vegetation, including abundant tea trees
Feral deer abundance in area prior to trapping	**LOW** Low numbers of deer known to reside in this area.	**MODERATE** Mobs (up to 50) often in neighbouring paddock and in gully below (trap was located on top of hill above the gully).	**HIGH** Large numbers of deer across this property and neighbouring property within scrub area.
Feral deer movement in this area	Deer move from adjacent conservation park through this area to access a neighbouring vineyard	Deer move from the gully below to this area at the top of hill near where trap is located	Known thoroughfare for deer moving from neighbouring property to pasture on property with the trap
Recent deer control activities	Commercial deer control program in operation over past 2 years on adjacent property, with less than 10 deer culled in last 12 months on this neighbouring property. This commercial harvest was not part of this project	Occasional landholder recreational shooting on neighbouring property	Property and surrounding area often targeted for aerial and ground shooting programs. Electric fence (2 km) on adjacent fence line (not part of the trap) to help facilitate movement of deer along the fence and past the vicinity of trap (6.4kV, 2.4A bottom and 2 other hot wires).

			See Figure 3
Trap design features See schematic of trap designs (Figures 1-3)			
Fence material	Wooden round posts about 0.6 m apart Waratah prefab fencing	Wooden round posts about 3 m apart Waratah prefab fencing	Wooden round posts about 0.6 m apart Waratah prefab fencing
Approx. size of trap	2,500 m^2	3,600 m^2	3,000 m^2
Fence height	2.3 m total (>1.8 m high + barbed wire)	2.1 m	2.1 m
Top and bottom material	Barbed wire at top	nil	Electric wire on top and bottom of fence
Gate design	1 low pressure cattle push gates	Spring loaded open gate at one end Internal trip wire to auto shut gate at other end	1 low pressure cattle push gate
Push under fence section	Regularly used by deer to move in and out of trap when the gate was not set, providing another entrance point for deer This section of fence was permanently closed once the gate was set	nil	nil
Long wing design leading to gate	nil	30m funnel 'wings' included	500m funnel 'wings' included
Electric fencing	nil	nil	Fencing on neighbouring property leading up to the trap was hotwired and turned on at the end of Feb 2021 See Figure 3
Animal welfare considerations for trap design	No sharp corners Shade available through natural vegetation Provision of water	No sharp corners Shade available through natural vegetation Provision of water	No sharp corners Shade available through natural vegetation Provision of water

Material cost to build trap	$6,000	$5,000	$12,000

Schematics of Trap designs (not to scale)

Figure 1. Northern and Yorke Trap

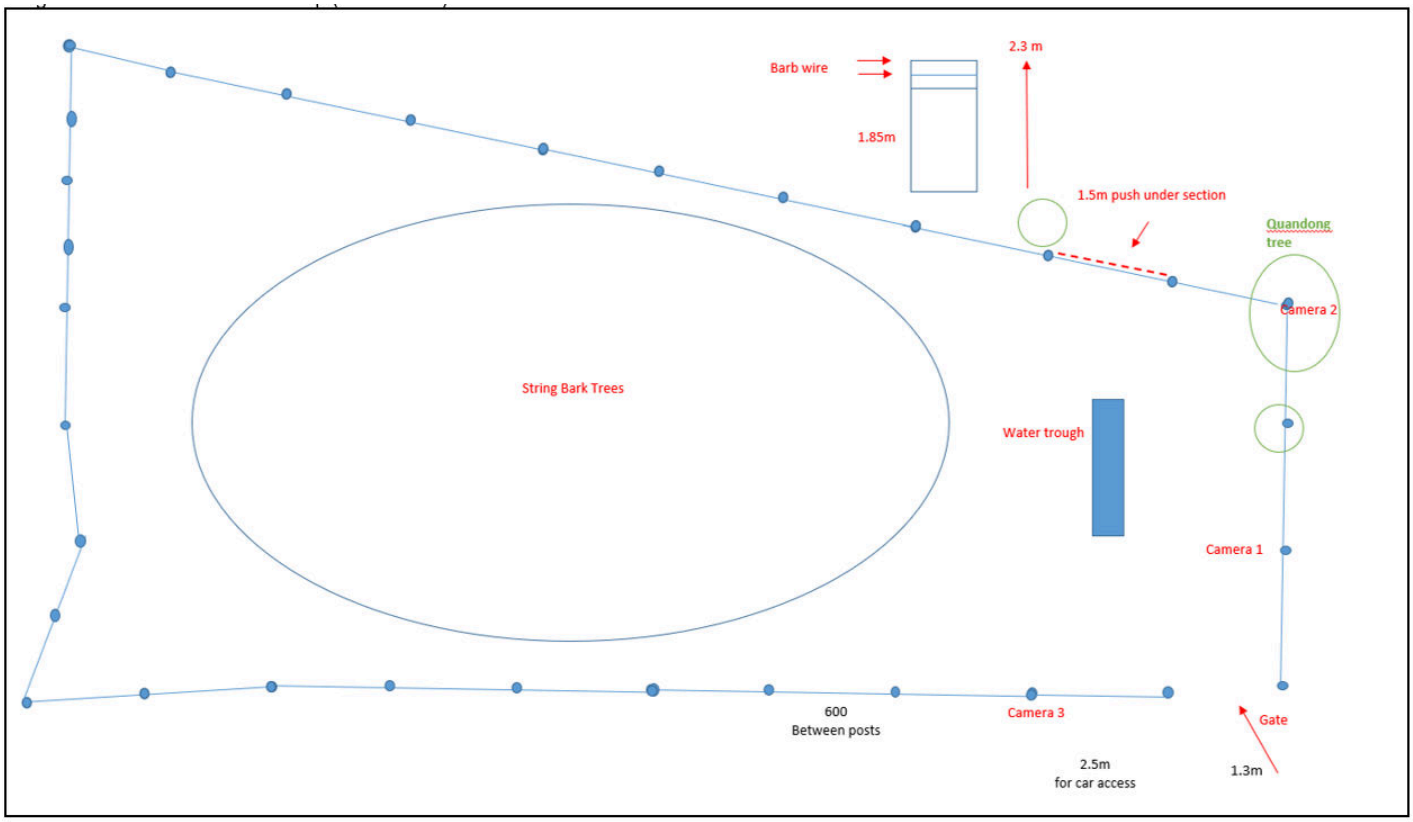


Figure 2. Fleurieu Trap

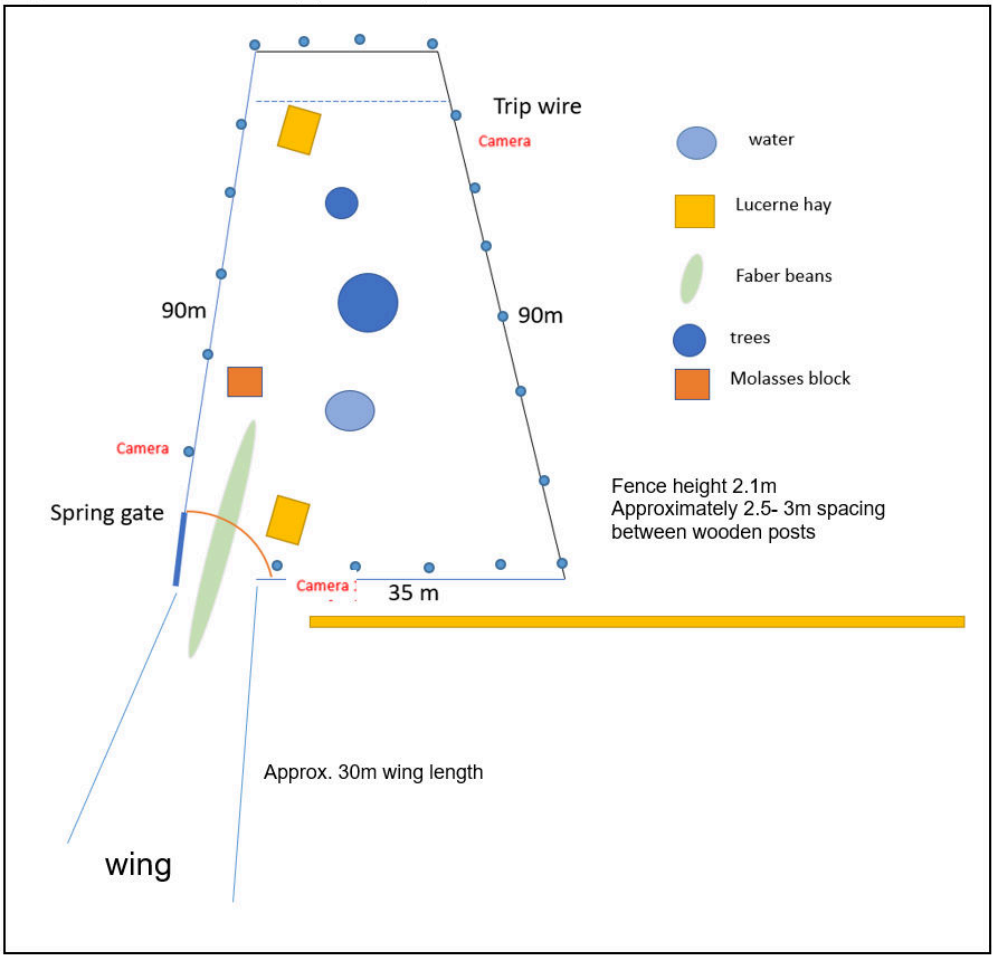
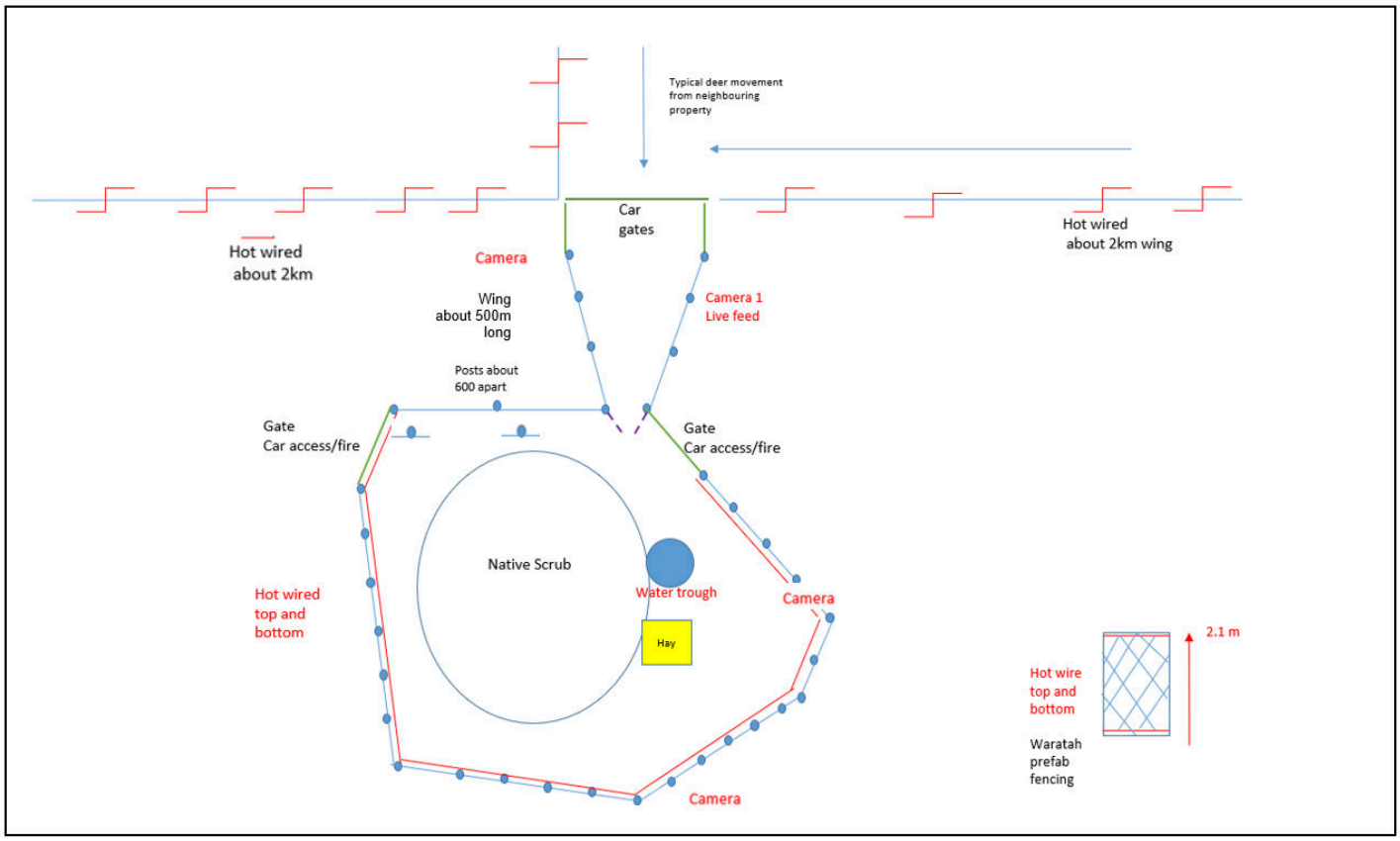


Figure 3. Limestone Coast Trap

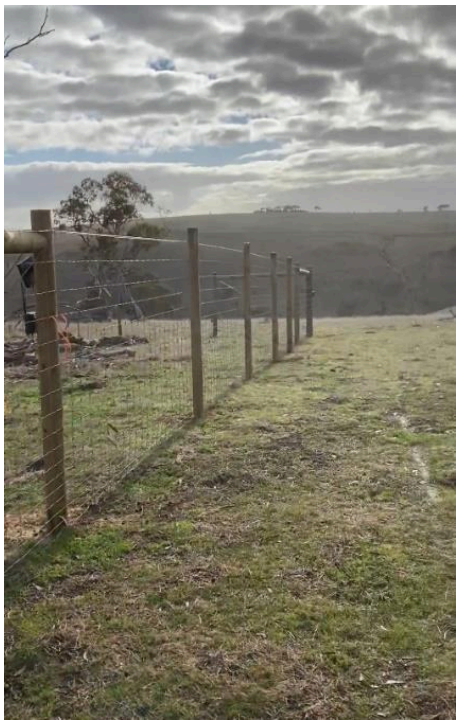


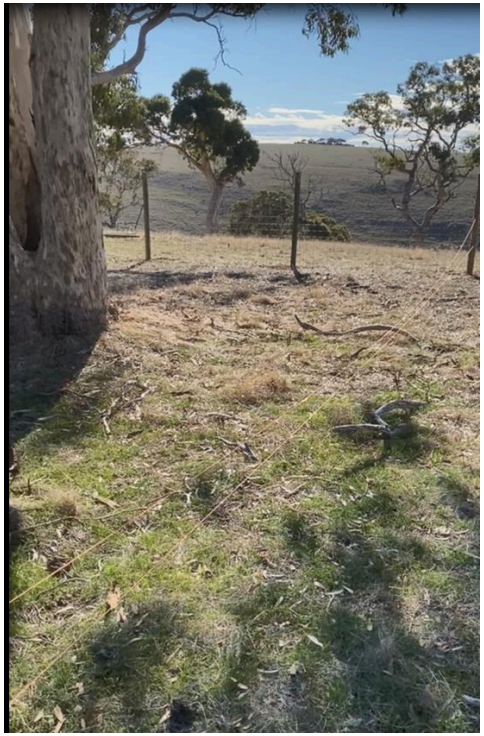
Photos of traps, site location and design features

Table 2. Trap Photos

Traps	NY	FP	LC
Environment outside trap			
Native environment inside trap			

Gate	 Open gate- push style	 Open gate- swing gate	 Open gate- push style
Closed Gate		 (via trip wire)	

Fence structure	 	 	 

Trap Wing	N/A		
Trip wire	N/A		N/A

Deer visitation into trap before gates closed ready for trapping	  	No deer visited near trap during monitoring	  

Trap acclimatisation periods

Once established, traps were locked open so that deer could become acclimatised to the traps without being trapped. Total acclimatisation periods differed for each of the trap; 4 months (FP), 10 months (LC) and 13 months (NY). See Table 3 for specific timing of acclimatisation periods.

The FP trap was set off by a trip-wire inside the trap, which was operational 4 months after the trap was built. This FP trap was operational with a much shorter period than the other two traps.

After the initial period of acclimatisation, the NY and LC traps were initially set closed, ready to trap during April 2021 (late deer rut mating season). No deer were trapped, so the gates were opened again and a second period of acclimatisation began.

After an extended second period of acclimatisation, NY and LC traps were again set closed ready to trap deer, with the timing determined by the contractor and after slowly closing the gate over the long acclimatisation period. For the NY and LC traps, final closure was during summer 2022, which coincided with the start of deer rut season when more animals were expected to be moving across the landscape.

Table 3. Trap activity

	NY	FP	LC
Trap built and commencement of monitoring **lures added** **gate(s) open and non-functional**	Dec 2020	Feb 2021	Feb 2021
General observations of visitors to the trap (when gate open)	Small number of deer visited trap, lots of visitations by kangaroos & birds Up to 15 fallow deer visited trap over 1 week in summer 2021	A few mobs of deer were often seen coming up the gully and resting under shade of trees in next door paddock, but deer did not come into or near the trap	Deer nearby, but did not go into the trap during first month, so lucerne hay was put inside in March 2021 Single deer sometimes visited when fresh lure was put out for a day or two. More visits by kangaroos, foxes, wombats, and malleefowl than deer
Time for deer acclimatisation of trap before gate closed (1st time)	4 months April 2021- rut season Contractor slowly shut gate each visit over	4 months June 2021	2 months April 2021- rut season Landholder slowly shut over previous 2 months

	previous months Jan-April		
Trapping activity in first trapping period	No deer were trapped; gate was opened up again after the 1-month trapping period	nil	Single deer moved down the wing and into trap during May 2021 over 6 nights No deer were trapped; gate was opened up again after 2-month trapping period
Gate opened again **(due to lack of deer trapping activity)**	Late May 2021	N/A - gate remained linked to a trip wire	June 2021 No visitation into trap, only to wing so gate was opened again
Modifications to gate	Gate opened up again to allow deer to feel comfortable and familiar with trap The contractor made slight modifications to the gate to make it easier for deer to push through Gates were slowly and incrementally closed each month on visit by contractor; and testing of lures continued The gate was left slightly ajar (small gap) when it was decided to try to trap deer again in the summertime of 2022	June 2021 In July 2021, the gate was modified to be weighted, rather than spring triggered because the spring mechanism was too noisy when it was set off (by kangaroos) and would likely to have startled deer if they were near by	Gate opened up again to allow deer to feel comfortable and familiar with trap The contractor made slight modifications to the gate to make it easier for deer to push through Gates were slowly and incrementally closed each month by landholder; and testing of lures continued The gate was left slightly ajar (small gap) when it was decided to try to trap deer again in the summertime of 2022
Approximate time for deer acclimatisation of trap before gate closed (2nd time)	8 months	N/A - gate remained linked to a trip wire	8 months
Gate fully closed again (2nd time)	Jan 2022	N/A - gate remained linked to a trip wire	Feb 2022
Finished monitoring	July 2022	Dec 2021 Kangaroos were continuously trapped via	July 2022

		trip wire. This continually closed the gate and stopped any opportunity to trap deer No deer activity recorded, trap was abandoned	
Lures tested	Lucerne Hay Molasses block Salt block Powdered molasses Grape marc seeded (mix) in trap dried corn wheat	Lucerne Hay Molasses block Salt block Dried faber beans Triticale grain	Lucerne Hay Molasses block Salt block Powdered molasses Grape marc seeded (mix) in trap Auto feeder dispensing beans and barley Fresh deer urine wheat
Most effective lure	Corn	Not determined	Deer urine
Number of deer trapped	10	0 – observations abandoned in Dec 2021 because of no deer activity	0
Species of deer trapped	9 fallow deer 1 red deer	none	none
Sex	Female	N/A	N/A
Time period deer trapped	5 April – 21 June 2022	N/A	N/A
Deer behaviour when trapped	Fallow deer quiet and calm The single red deer displayed nervous behaviours and jumped the fence and escaped	N/A	N/A
Carcass removal (at night)	Commercial harvester shot in the trap during the night. Minimal scent remained as the carcasses were immediately removed	N/A	N/A

Trap cost per deer (#deer/ materials cost only)	$600	N/A	N/A
Deer cull activity on nearby property during trap monitoring	A small number of deer reside locally in adjacent conservation area Occasional commercial harvest directly next door (up to 15 animals during the time of trap monitoring)	Nearby landholders undertake occasional recreational shooting	Aerial control including TAAC 379 deer Ground shooting occurs all year on adjacent property as well as property with the trap

Trap Results

The NY trap successfully captured 10 deer between 5 April 2022 and 21 June 2022. The monitoring concluded in July 2022. It took 13 months of acclimatisation before the gate was finally shut; the first deer trapped 3 months later during late rut. Table 4 summarises the trapping results. Table 5 illustrates photos of trapped deer.

The LC trap did not trap any deer during the time of the project, despite showing early promise and having the largest estimated population of nearby feral deer before the establishment of the trap. The monitoring and testing concluded in July 2022.

The FP trap did not attract deer, nor any seen close by, the lures did not seem to attract the deer. The FP trap monitoring was stopped in December 2021.

Table 4. Trap results

Region	Trap installed	Total time of acclimatisation (s) including testing lures, modifications of gate (gates still open)	Date of final gate closure - ready to trap	Deer trapped	Time period deer trapped	Monitoring finished
NY	Dec 2020	13 months	Jan 2022	10	5 April – 21 June 2022	July 2022
LC	Feb 2021	12 months	Feb 2022	0	N/A	July 2022
FP	Feb 2021	4 months	June 2021	0	N/A	Dec 2021

Table 5. Photos of trapped deer from NY trap

5 April 2022

6 April 2022

15 April 2022

16 April 2022

17 April 2022

22 April 22 (red deer)

22 April 2022

27 April 2022

6 June 2022

21 June 2022

Monitoring and effectiveness of lures

The traps were monitored, commencing immediately following trap establishment. Observations reported by the landholders of the property where the traps were located, and the contractors, was supported by wildlife monitoring cameras installed at each trap to capture trap activity. 4G cameras sent photos live to the contractors' phones, with additional monitoring cameras captured images onto an internal SD card which were checked monthly. Observations were recorded and include deer species, if deer were trapped, visitation by other animals, the effectiveness of food and non-food lures, and general observations of deer behaviour (Table 3). Monitoring ceased when the traps were closed in December 2021 (FP) and July 2022 (NY and LC).

Various lures were tested for effectiveness, both food-based (e.g., faber beans, corn, lucerne hay, barley, salt and molasses blocks, powdered molasses and grape marc) and non-food-based (deer urine). Lures tested for each trap are recorded in Table 5, with general effectiveness of each lure summarised in Table 6. Site specific environmental conditions and surrounding natural feed were considered when selecting the lure(s). Lures were replaced or refreshed once a month by the contractor, and were presented in

spatially different ways, for example laying long trail lines leading to the trap wings and/or piles of lure inside/outside the trap.

No single lure was effective at reliably attracting deer, but different lures were effective at attracting deer at different times of the year, and at different locations. Feral deer were difficult to attract with food-based lures if there was plentiful green feed or an alternative food source in the vicinity of the trap. Dried corn was most effective at the NY trap in the months leading up to rut in 2022. Grape marc and lucerne hay was also attractive to deer in NY but was also readily eaten by kangaroos. Fresh deer urine was the most effective and fast acting attractant at the LC trap, with deer always visiting the trap within a day of its placement. However, camera footage showed the effect lasted only a few days. Urine was not tested in the FP or NY traps.

Table 6. Overview of effectiveness of lures tested

Lure trialled at one or more traps	Observations and effectiveness to lure feral deer to trap
Food-based lure	
Beans and barley dispensed by an auto-feeder	Attracted and fed native animals like malleefowl, macropods, occasional deer 
Seeded inside of trap with mix of lucerne, clover, faber beans, barley	No benefit to attracting deer as plenty of alternate feed during springtime 
Dried Faber beans	No benefit to attracting deer

	
Lucerne	Kangaroos ate all lucerne during Feb - March (summer months) Deer ate infrequently in summer/dryer months Lucerne was not effective in winter months to attract deer 
Grape Marc	<u>In NY trap:</u> Kangaroos ate all during Feb- march (summer months) Deer also ate this lure vigorously Kangaroos also ate lure during February-March <u>In LC trap</u> Deer weren't overly attracted to it, and didn't eat much Other native animal such as malleefowl were attracted to it 
Molasses block and salt block	Placed outside and inside trap when gate was open -not effective to attract deer to it to eat

	
Wheat	Birds ate the wheat vigorously Tested in winter months- few deer visitations occurred during the first few weeks of freshly laid lure but lure was not very effective to attract deer after this time period 
Dried Corn	Good attractant when placed outside trap for fallow and red (N&Y trap) during March- April 2022 Kangaroos were also attracted the lure When placed inside the trap (not outside) when the gate was shut (and operational) this lure did not entice deer to move inside trap
Non-food lure	
Fresh deer urine from deer bladder	Attracted deer within a day, but not many deer thereafter. Short lasting effect

Discussion of trap outcomes

Challenges and future considerations

The prediction that feral deer would be trapped within the rutting (mating) period when deer are moving around in highest numbers was not realised at any trap location in 2021. This led to an extension of trap acclimatisation and trapping periods. It was theorised that as the season and conditions changed, grazing patterns and deer behaviour would change as well and lead to successful trapping outcomes in late 2021 (early summer) and the following rut in 2022 (February - April). This prediction was partly realised for the NY trap in the second year of monitoring, but not for the FP or LC traps.

The establishment of large-scale traps in South Australia demonstrated the potential value of traps as a control tool for deer, but also highlighted their limitations.

1. Trap location

Trapping is a potentially low impact, passive control tool that can be established within the landscape indefinitely to complement other forms of control. It is thought a trap situated in deer travel corridors would be an effective control tool. As such, the behaviour and movement patterns of deer in each target area, including seasonal differences in behaviour, resource availability and other influences such as nearby control programs, would need to be known before a site is selected. As an example, the considerations for the placement of the traps in this project are outlined below.

The NY location was selected as a trapping site because it was private, had food and water sources and provided natural habitat for feral deer and had the potential to trap deer traversing between the neighbouring properties. An operational vineyard, including a large dam which provides a water source for feral deer and other wildlife, was on one side of the trap. The trap was also in very close proximity to a conservation park, where feral deer are known to habitat and can reside in safety, with natural food resources in the natural dense scrub.

The LC location was selected as a trapping site because feral deer were regularly seen in sufficient numbers, and feral deer were known to reside in nearby dense native vegetation. It was predicted that the trap at this site would be the most effective (i.e., highest number of deer captured). Despite this, this trap did not trap any deer, and less deer than expected were seen in nearby areas during the trapping period. The reduction in deer activity at the site may be because:

- electric fencing was installed on adjacent fencing leading up to the trap, which may have changed broader movements of deer between properties;
- feral deer numbers had been reduced by recent aerial and ground control programs that occurred nearby – it is estimated that over 350 deer were removed from the area by a contract shooter during the project period, decreasing the target population;
- the dry summer changed deer movement, with poor pastures on neighbouring properties being less attractive to local deer than previously observed.

The FP trap did not attract deer, nor were any seen close by during the trapping period. This trap did not have as much natural vegetation to provide cover for deer compared to the other traps. It was also situated at the top of a hill, whereas deer were more commonly seen (prior to installation of the trap) in the gully below and on neighbouring properties. It is possible that although deer were in the general area, the trap was not located in a deer travel corridor.

2. Acclimatisation time required before setting a trap

Extended timelines are required for acclimatising deer to traps. Deer are naturally flighty animals and are wary of changes to their environment, including foreign structures. Extended time is also required to invest in assessing the trap and gate mechanisms and modifying these where necessary.

The traps had one entrance into the trap, which was available during the 'acclimatisation period' before gates were set. This meant the deer had to enter, feed and head back out the same way. To improve the effectiveness of a large-scale trap, a second set of gates at the opposite side of the trap could promote a deer 'travel corridor'. Once the deer start to use the corridor routinely, one set of gates could be shut so the deer would be trapped

3. Lures

Finding the right lure for a location takes time and may change with the season. This can be tested during the acclimatisation period. Fresh lures work best, but they need regular replenishing, even if not eaten (food-based lure). An improvement on this project's method would be increasing regularity of applications of lures for consistent availability. Because of budgetary constraints, that work was not possible for this project.

The examination of environmental conditions will help determine which lure to use to attract deer into the trap. For example, if plentiful fresh pasture exists in the target area, lucerne hay is likely to be less attractive than rolled barley. It may be beneficial to have a trap located on soils that allow the growth of summer grasses and crops (e.g., summer brassica, sorghum or millet crop) as an attractant for deer as other feed dries up outside the trap in the summer months. Lures should also be replenished at least monthly to provide maximum attraction of feral deer.

4. Gate mechanisms

It is suspected that the swing gate in the FC trap, set off by a trip wire, was not an effective device for several reasons:

- kangaroos regularly triggered the trap gate to shut;
- when the gate shut, it was extremely noisy and would startle deer (and other animals) nearby. The gate was modified to be weighted so it closed slower and more quietly, but no deer were trapped following the modification;
- because the wire could be set off by a single animal (a deer or kangaroo), it is not an effective way to trap large numbers of deer.

The push style cattle gate used at the NY and LC sites may have limited more deer being trapped due to inaccessibility as male deer antlers grew. Both male and female deer were observed moving into the trap before setting the gates; however, only females moved through the closed NY gate. The push style gate structure made of horizontal metal bars, may have made access problematic for male deer with growing antlers due to the need to push through the gates with their head. Their antlers may have impeded this movement and may have made the male deer trap shy. This impediment could be circumvented by using remote operated drop-down gates so all deer could move freely under an elevated trap gate. All deer would be able to move through the open space under elevated trap gates without their antlers stopping movement. However, drop-down gates usually have a higher cost to set up.

Cost-benefit of traps

The cost-benefit of a deer trap directly relates to the number of deer that are trapped. For example, the cost of materials to construct the NY trap totalled $6,000. This cost does not include labour to construct the trap or the time to monitor the trap, or cost of the lures. In trapping 10 deer, the per deer cost is $600. By comparison, unpublished data (PIRSA, 2022) estimates cost for controlling deer in South Australia by ground shooting ranges from $100-300 per deer and aerial shooting ranges from $115 - $250 a deer. For traps that do not catch deer, there is no return on the investment. The cost associated with the construction and monitoring of deer traps may not be the only factor when considering the use of traps as part of a control program, as outlined in Table 6.

Table 6. Advantages and Disadvantages of large-scale traps as a feral deer control tool

Advantages	Disadvantages
Slow 'silent' control method which can reside in landscape indefinitely	Large amount of lure may be required
Environmentally and socially acceptable control tool	Labour intensive to monitor, check and replenish lure consistently and need to check daily either in person or by cameras
Good welfare outcomes through the provision of shade, water and food resources	Not a highly effective control method and success is site specific with other variables such as season, weather, other food sources
Animals can be commercially harvested for pet food or human consumption	Does not reduce population
Non target species can be released	Even if you have substantial numbers of deer outside of the trap it does not guarantee they will be trapped especially if there are other attractive food sources outside of the trap
Could be more useful in landscapes not readily accessible for ground shooting programs	Extended time period required for deer to be comfortable with structure, and therefore setting the trap gate (push cattle variety)
Can be left on site permanently with gates open and re-set when further trapping is required	Likely only effective if there is a large population ever passing by the trap.
Trap design can be site specific and made with different materials	Not all deer are trappable, some may be curious, some may be fearful of the solid structure in the natural landscape

Conclusion: project learnings

Only three traps were established for this project, no trap was open for a full year to capture seasonal change, and only ten deer were caught. However, this project did provide an insight into using a deer trap and considerations of what might or might not work. It also highlighted what needs to be further investigated. This in itself is valuable information that will assist landholders to determine if a deer trap is a useful control tool for their specific circumstances.

The large-scale deer traps demonstrated that problem-solving and bespoke approaches are needed to establish traps that are suitable to different landscapes and land-use. No single attractant (lure) was found to reliably and consistently entice deer into a trap.

The advantage of installing large-scale traps is that they can be remotely monitored, hold large groups of deer and support good welfare outcomes through the provision of feed, water, and shelter. Traps cannot replace other control methods but can be another tool for producers and landscape boards across the state.

Although the traps showed some merit as a control tool, resources may be better focussed on ground and aerial control via shooting to achieve large-scale feral deer control. Traps may be an important tool for targeting remaining deer following intensive shooting programs.

Project learnings are important for educating managers and landholders before they invest in establishing their own traps as a tool, for example. The trial established that potential exists for using large-scale traps to trap deer in a methodical way over a long period, and outcomes will vary among sites, traps, and seasons.