Potentially recreational hunters in Australia **could**
reduce the density of pests
reduce the density of endangered/vulnerable species
reduce the density of predators & competitors to E/V species
affect the distribution and movement of wildlife
What DO we know about the effects recreational hunters in Australia?

demographics

expenditure

travel

Scientifically Based Wildlife Management Requires;

Which Sp.
Scientifically Based Wildlife Management Requires;

Which Sp.  How many
Scientifically Based Wildlife Management Requires;

Which Sp?

How many

Where
Scientifically Based Wildlife Management Requires:

Which Sp.
How many
Where
When
Scientifically Based Wildlife Management Requires:

- Which Specie
- How many
- Where
- When

X
X
X
X
To address the knowledge gap

Anonymous, on-line survey between September 2011 and June 2012
7,202 respondents - all states and territories
Results
When Hunting with Dogs

- Waterbirds
- Quail & Pheasant
- Pig
- Scent Hounds
- Other
What Species are Taken?

Deer:

- Fallow
- Sambar
- Red

Most to Least
What Species are Taken?

Large Introduced Mammals: Donkeys
What Species are Taken?

Medium Introduced

Mammals:
- Pigs
- Red Foxes

Most

Least
What Species are Taken?

Small Introduced Mammals: Rabbits
What Species are Taken?

Birds:
Ducks & Waterfowl
Quail

Most
Least
How Many of Each Species are Taken?

Extrapolating from Surveys is Unrealistic & Likely to be an Overestimate

1. Hunters that respond to surveys are likely to be more keen and successful than those who do not.

Mahard et al. 2016; Lukacs et al. 2011; Arizona Game & Fish Department 2008
How Many of Each Species are Taken?

Extrapolating from Surveys is Unrealistic & Likely to be an Overestimate

2. Success Reported Some Time After the Hunt is Likely to Suffer From Imperfect Recall

Beaman et al 2005; Connolly et al. 2000
Current Techniques CANNOT

Which Sp.  How many

Where   When
A Potential Remedy

Overestimation CAN be corrected

• Random Follow Up Surveys
• Need to know what the sample population is
Requires a cultural shift by regulators and hunters

Eventually all hunting and hunters might be licenced

No matter what they hunt or where they hunt it
References

Arizona Game & Fish Department 2008. *Hunter questionnaire improvement report.*


