



National
Landcare
Program



natural resource
management program



wheatbelt
natural resource
management

With a little help from my friends

Integrated Management of Vertebrate pests
within fragmented landscapes; bringing
community and government together

Alex Griffiths, Anika Dent & Rowan Hegglin, Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management

WA Feral Cat Symposium, Mandurah | 31 May 2018

This project is supported by Wheatbelt NRM, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program

Wheatbelt NRM



12,000,000 ha within the international biodiversity hotspot of the South West of Australia

“By 2018 have, 11,000 (25%) members of the Wheatbelt community actively improving the environment of the Wheatbelt through our multi-disciplinary strategies and programs”



Responding to threats

Will talk briefly about three options we employ in our work.
These sit along a continuum of intensity of in terms of response:

- Community participation – Red Card for Rabbits and Foxes
- Community site specific projects
- Asset security – the EPBC listed black-flanked rock-wallaby – Coordinated Predator Control

What does success look like?



Anti-cat?



Guys Can Be Cat Ladies Too

A Guidebook for Men and Their Cats
Michael Showalter



FEATURING:
WHAT IS A CAT? • WHAT IS NOT A CAT? • HOW TO PET A CAT •
WHAT TO DO IF A CAT THROWS UP ON YOU
PLUS CHARTS, GRAPHS, FUN FACTS, AND SO, SO MUCH MORE!



Red Card for rabbits and Foxes

... and pigs and cats and dogs and other feral animals

- Centred around community participation in this space
- Fantastic vehicle for education and raising awareness of the role invasive species have in the decline of natives
- Not so much about meaningful control of invasives

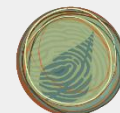


SSAAWA

Sporting Shooters Association of Western Australia

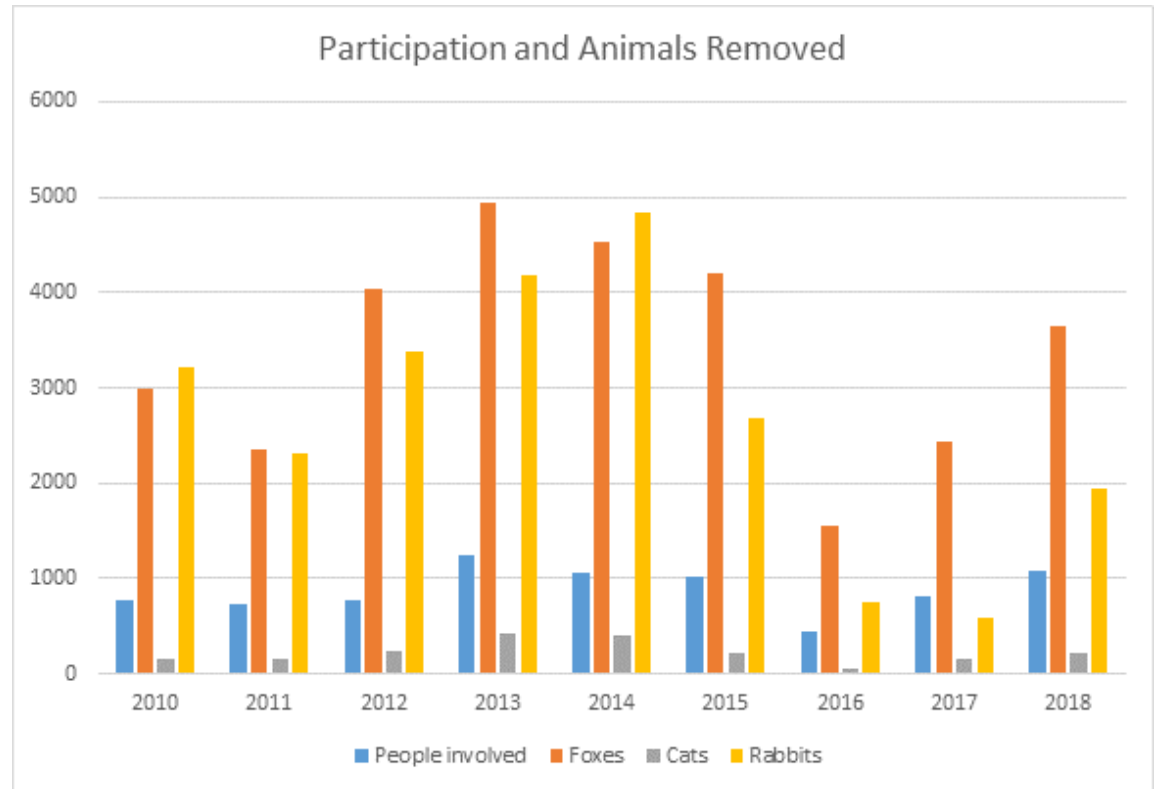
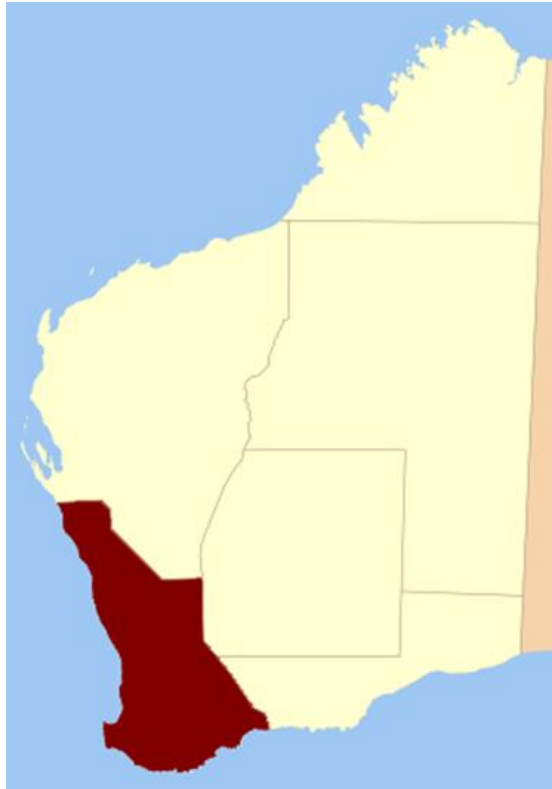


THE
**REGIONAL
MEN'S HEALTH**
INITIATIVE



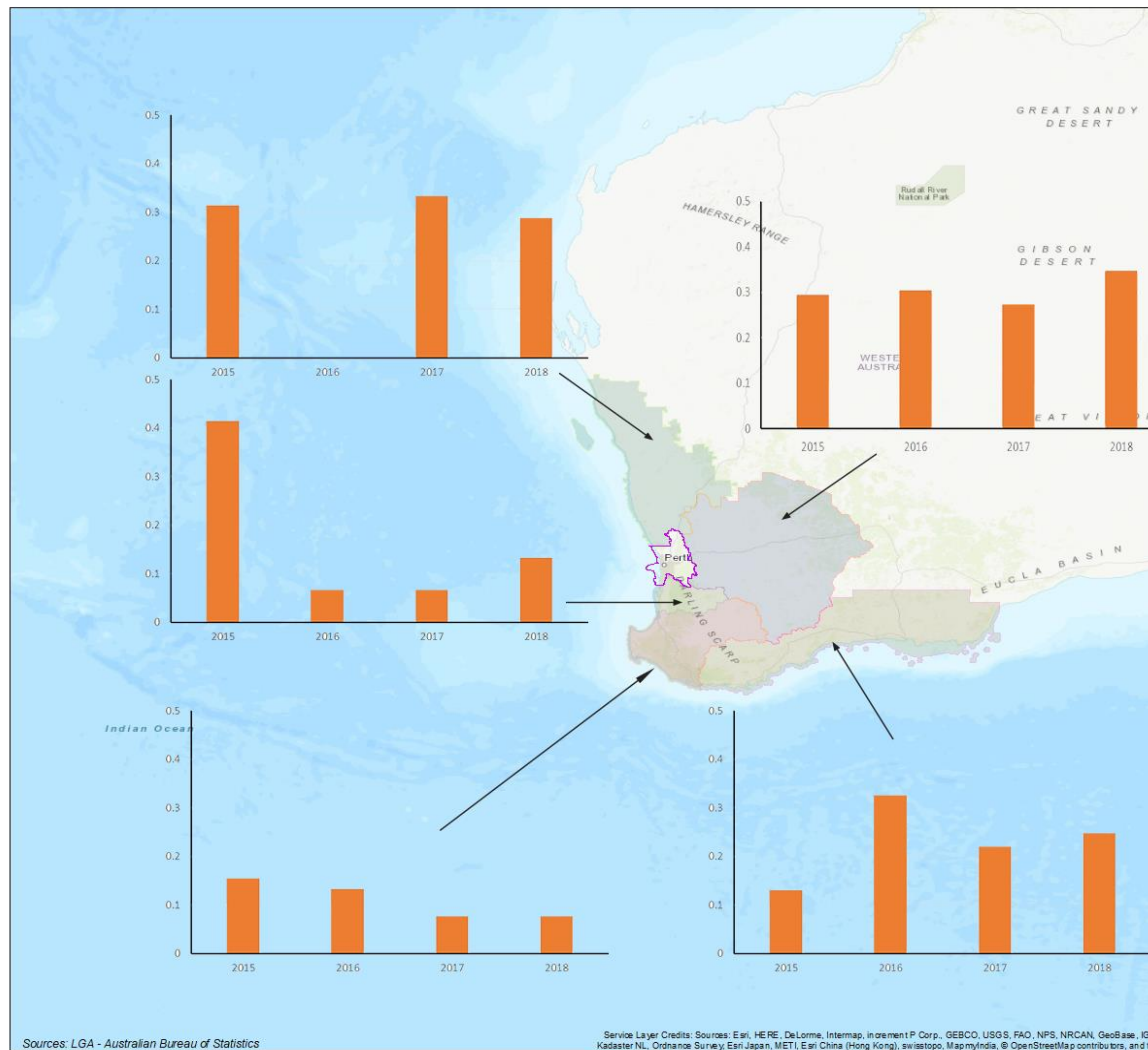
Red Card – community participation direct action

Focus is on getting community active in this space



Red Card - Average number of feral cats removed per person

645 in total over 3 years



RCRF 2018

Average Number of Cats per person 2015-2018

Legend

- SWCC Boundary
- SCNRM Boundary
- PNRM Boundary
- PHCC Boundary
- NACC Boundary
- WNRM Boundary

Note: Locations are approximate only
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REDCARD

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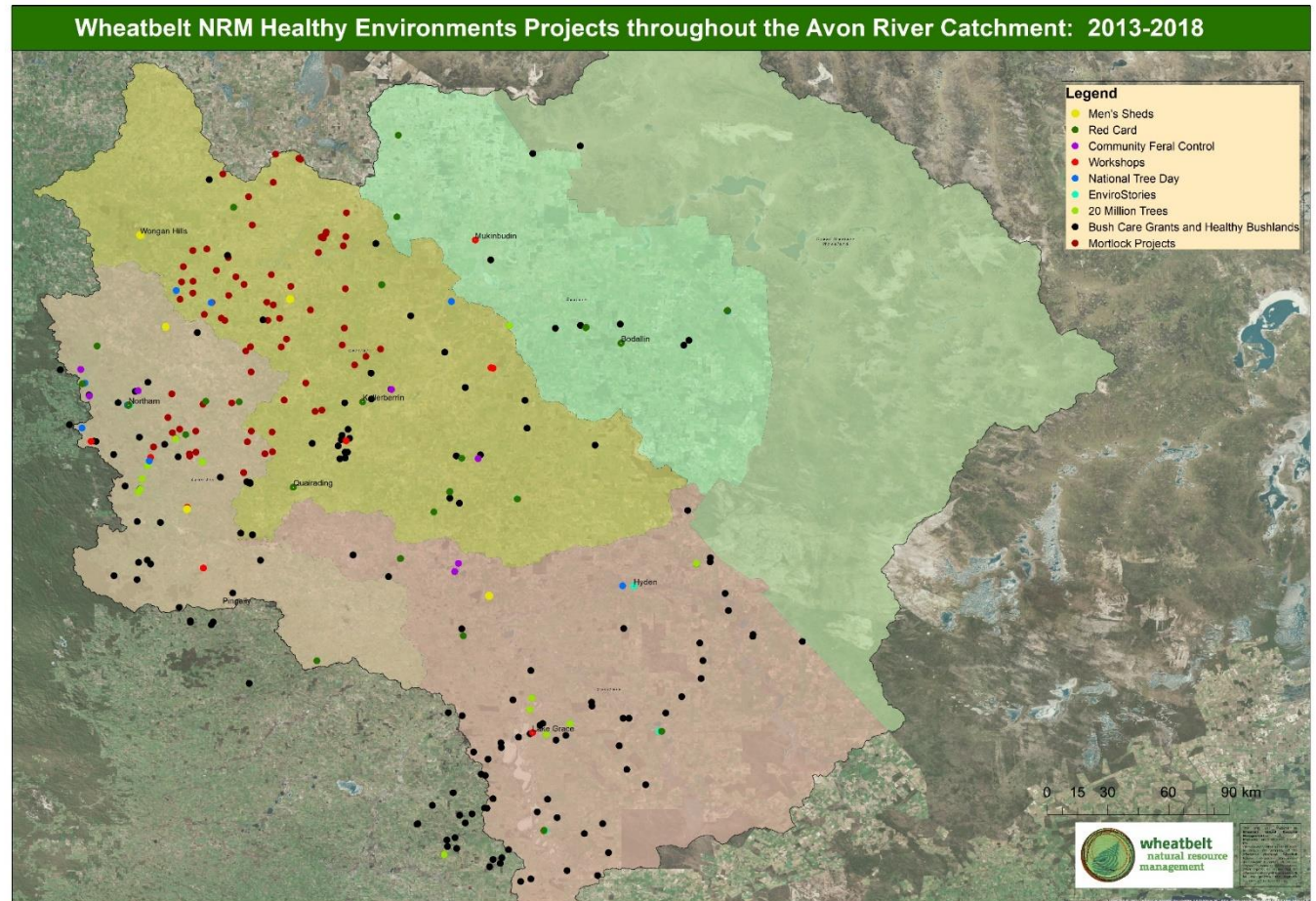
SSAAWA

REGIONAL MEN'S HEALTH SERVICE

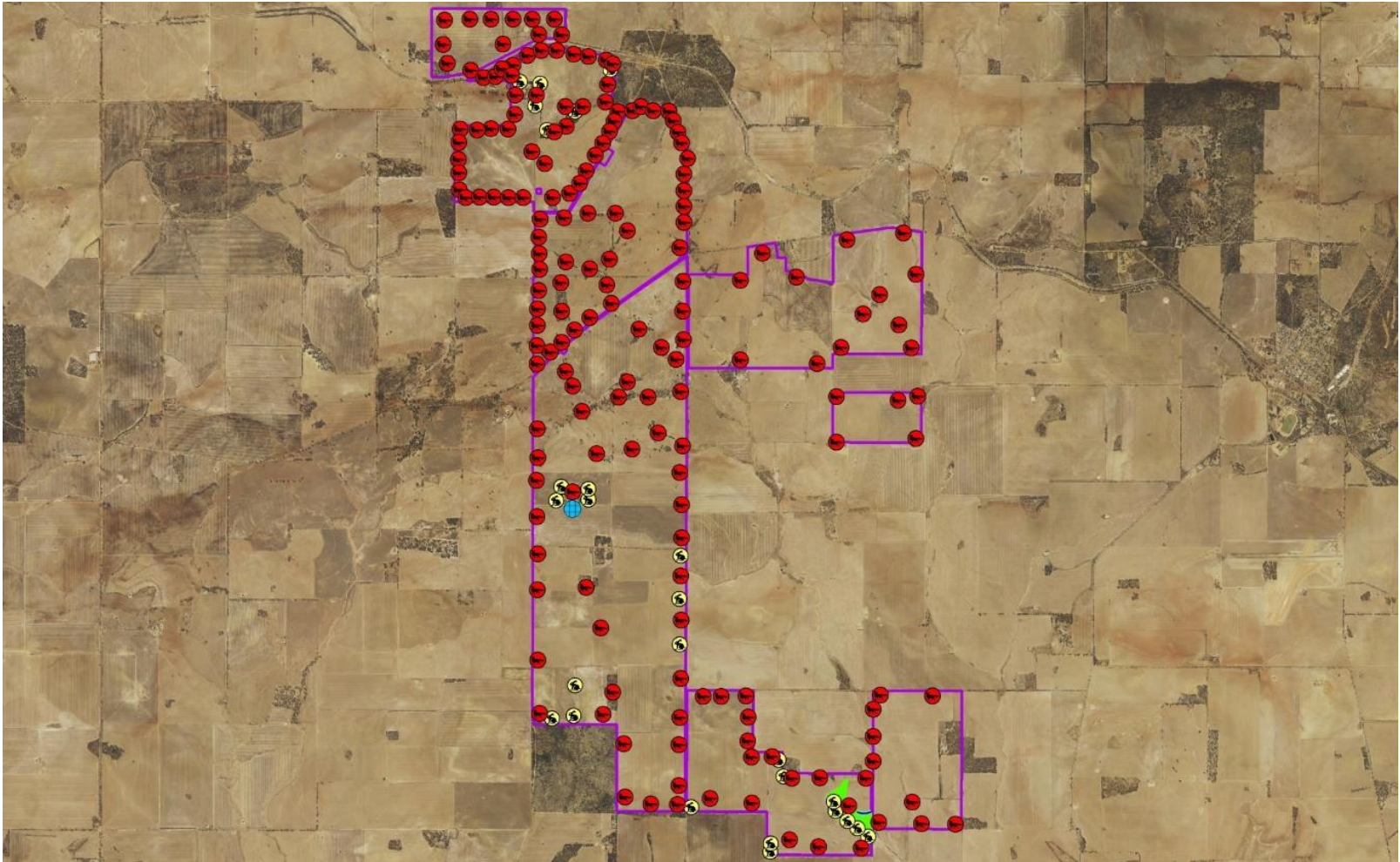
Scale: 0, 137.5, 275, 550 Kilometers
 Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994
 Datum: GDA 1994

Community site specific projects

More than 250 individual project sites across the Avon River basin at present

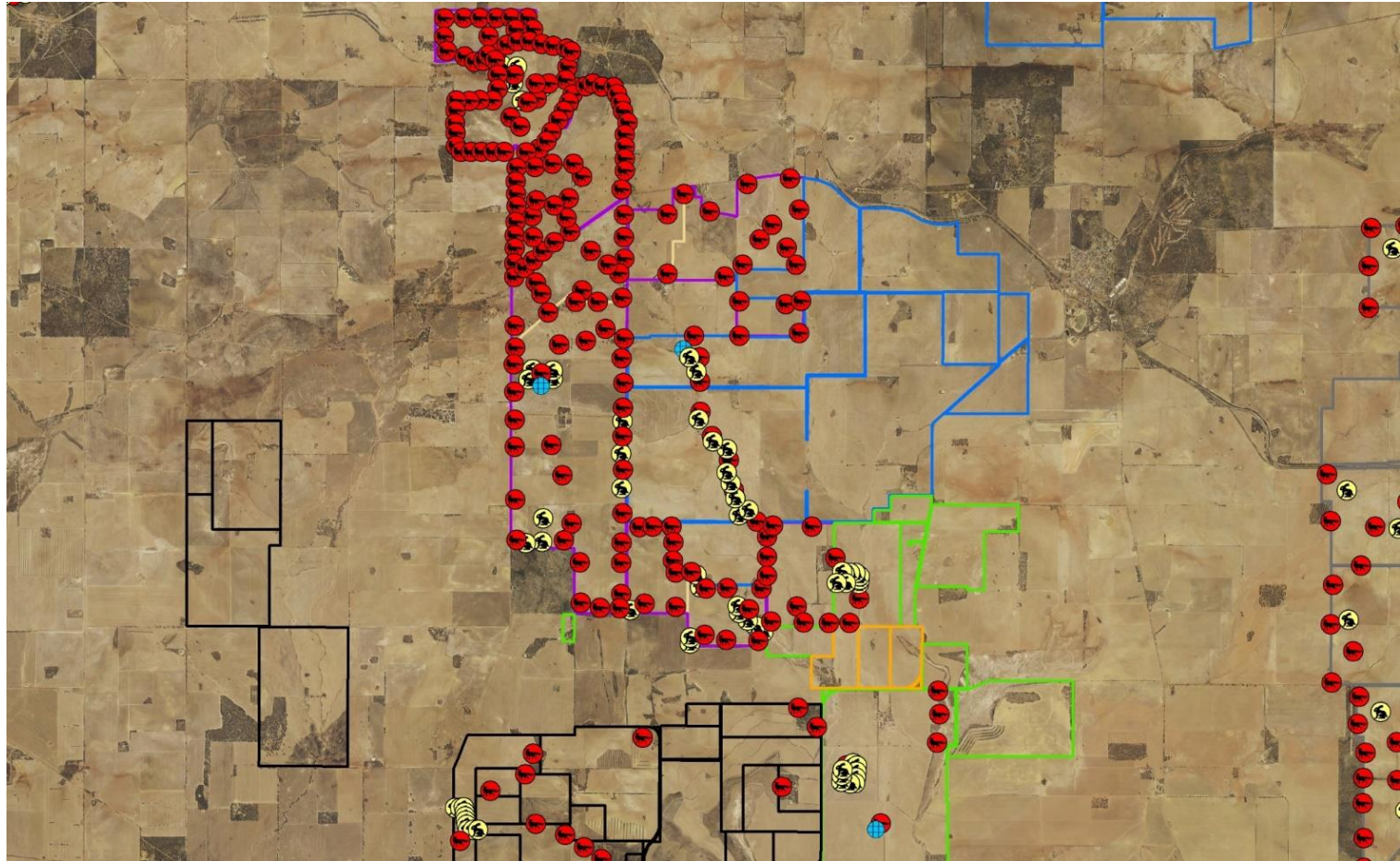


What are we trying to achieve



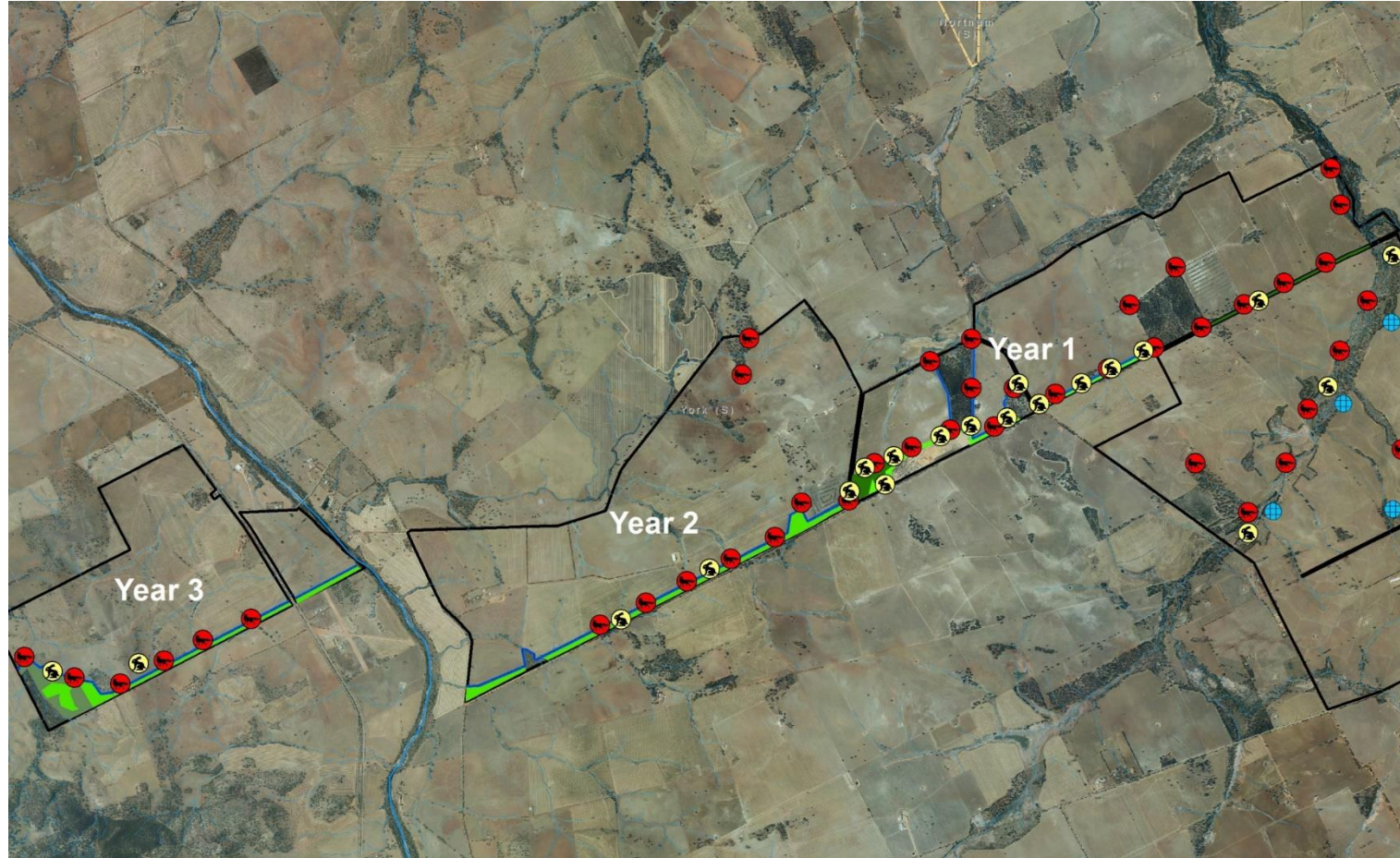
Working together

Threat management points



Making it work

Ensuring that the negotiated outcomes fit in with normal farm management



Community wins

13 kg feral cat (right photo) – more average sized feral cat (left photo)
for comparison





Heading to the higher intensity end of the spectrum – we have more intensive threat management for high priority assets – in this case the EPBC listed Black-flanked rock-wallaby





Bushnell (M) Camera Name 28.88 In↑ 74°F ●

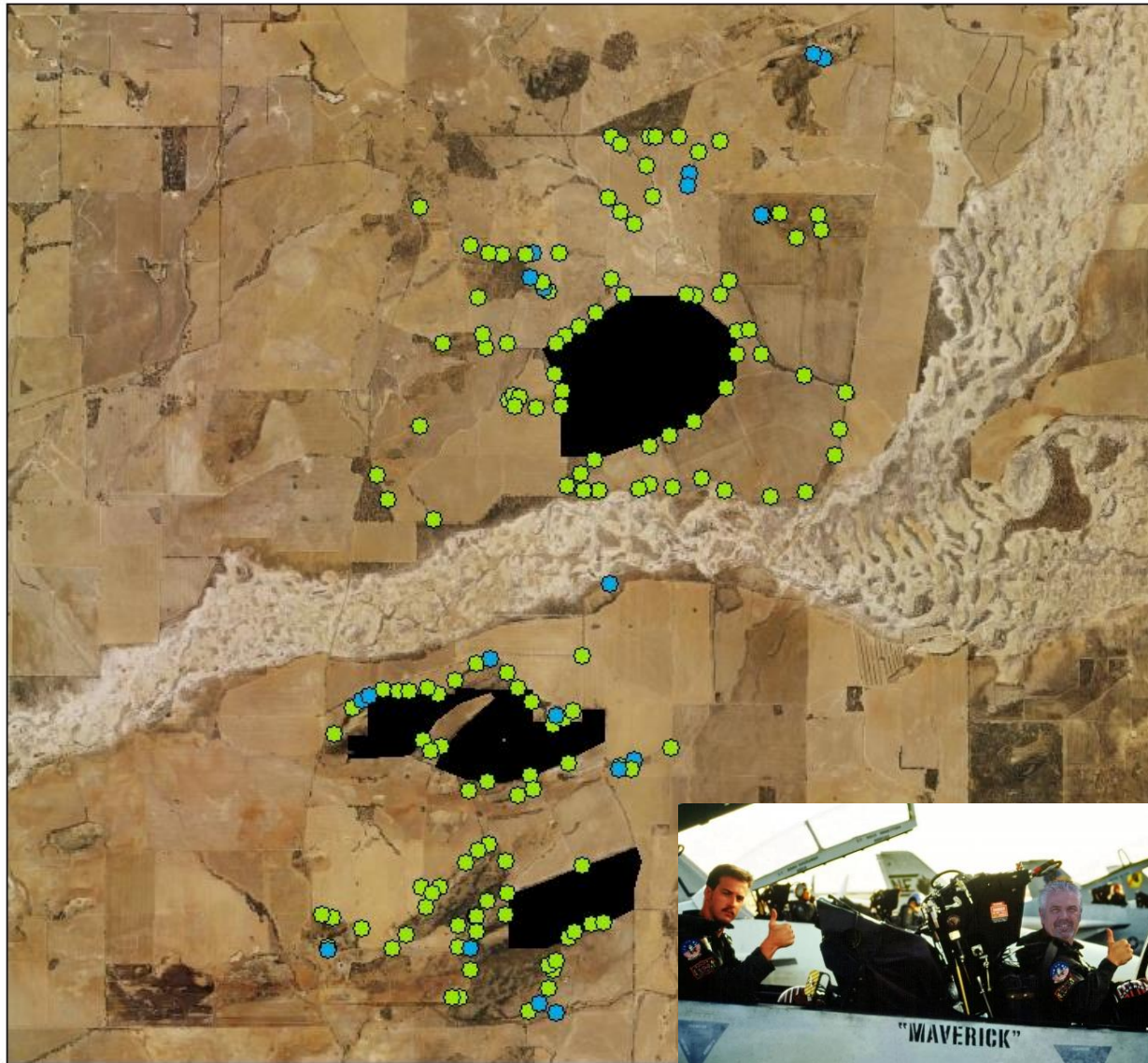
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Bushnell  Camera Name 28.97In → 59°F 

12-28-2017 04:30:00

Locations of fixed and mobile traps across project target area

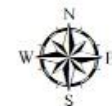


Legend

- Fixed
- Mobile



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0 1 2 4 Kilometers

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Bushnell  Camera Name 29.13In → 78°F 

03-09-2018 20:43:10



Bushnell  Camera Name 28.93 In → 65°F 

02-01-2018 01:45:51



Bushnell (M) Camera Name 29.131n↓ 78°F (M)

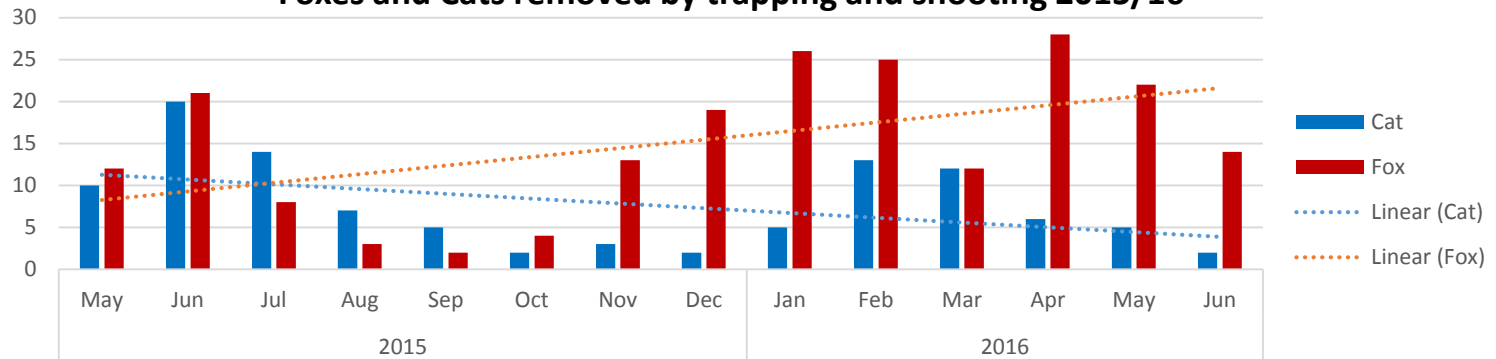
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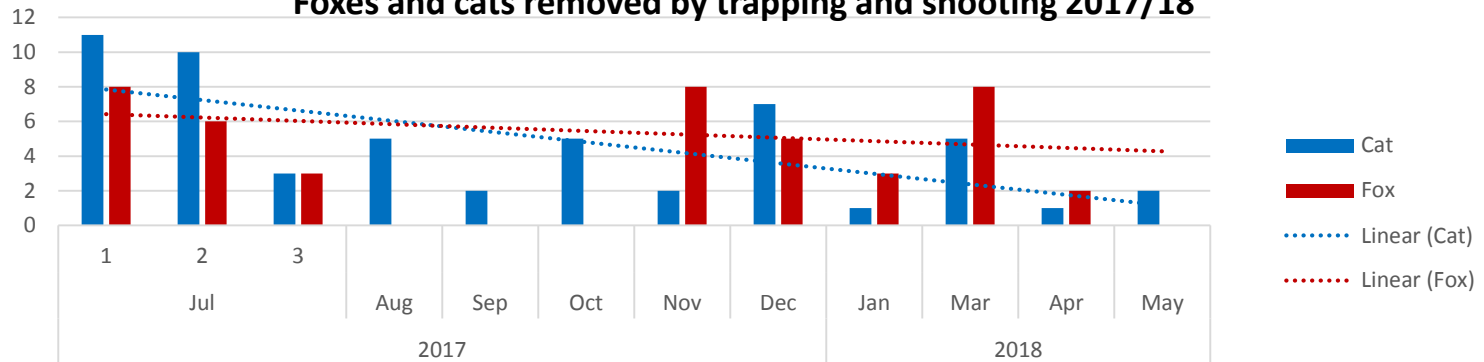
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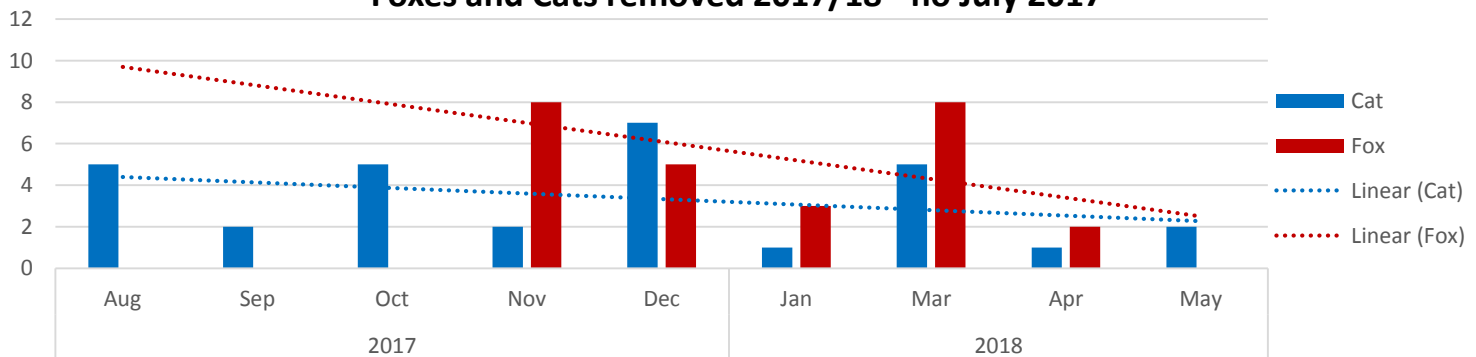
Foxes and Cats removed by trapping and shooting 2015/16



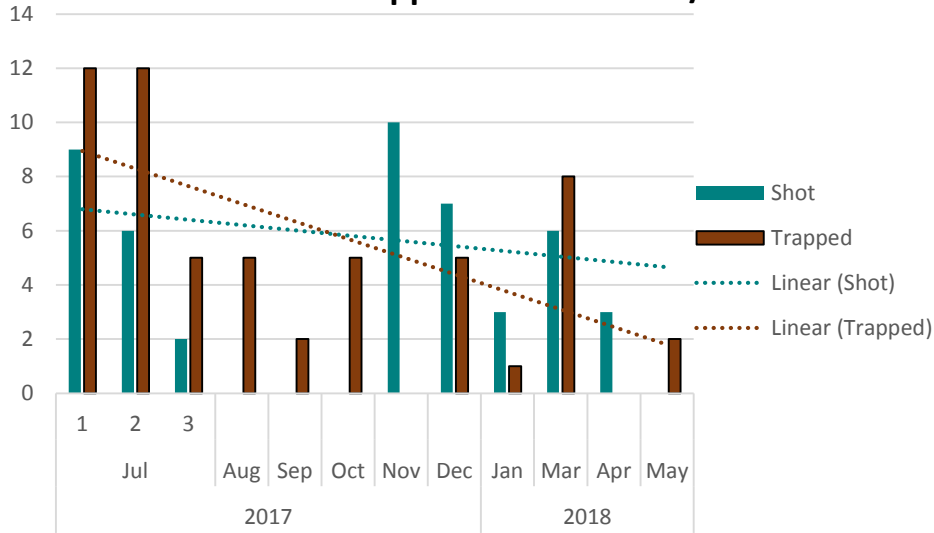
Foxes and cats removed by trapping and shooting 2017/18



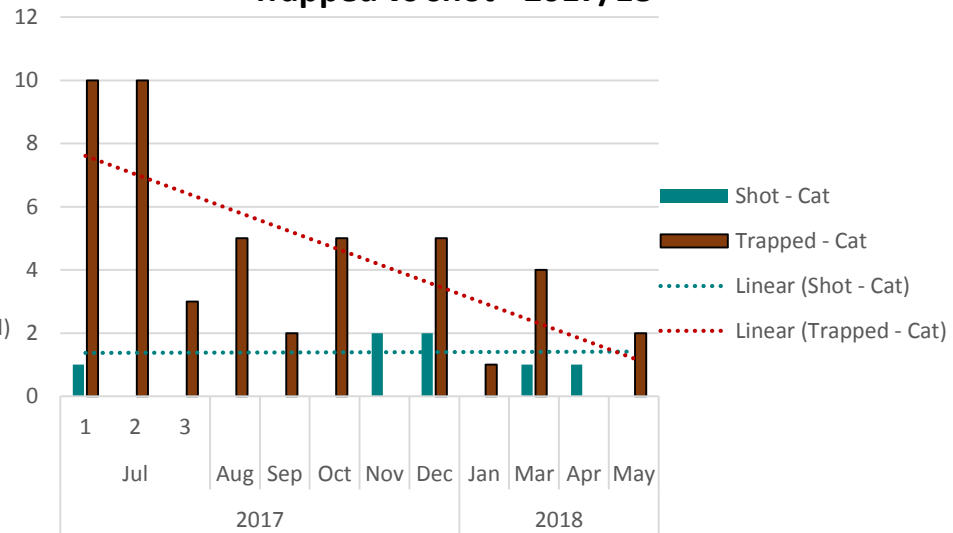
Foxes and Cats removed 2017/18 - no July 2017



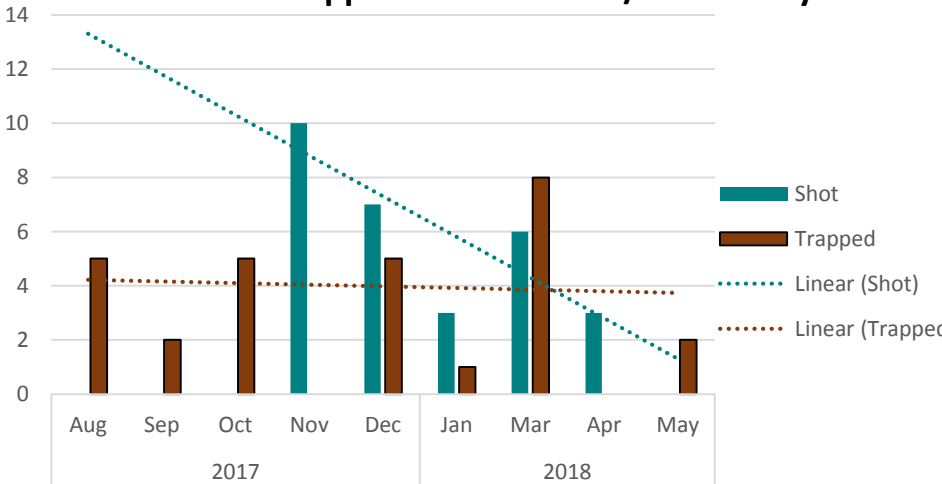
Trapped vs shot - 2017/18



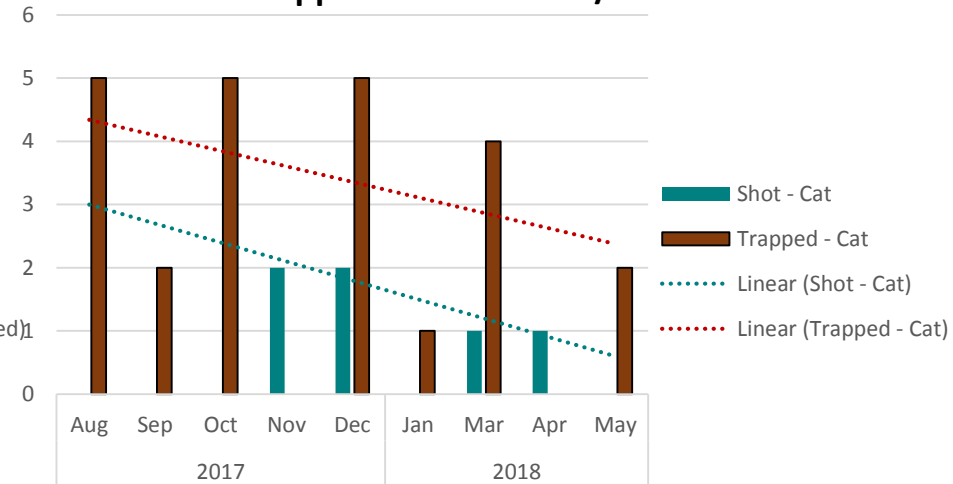
Trapped vs shot - 2017/18



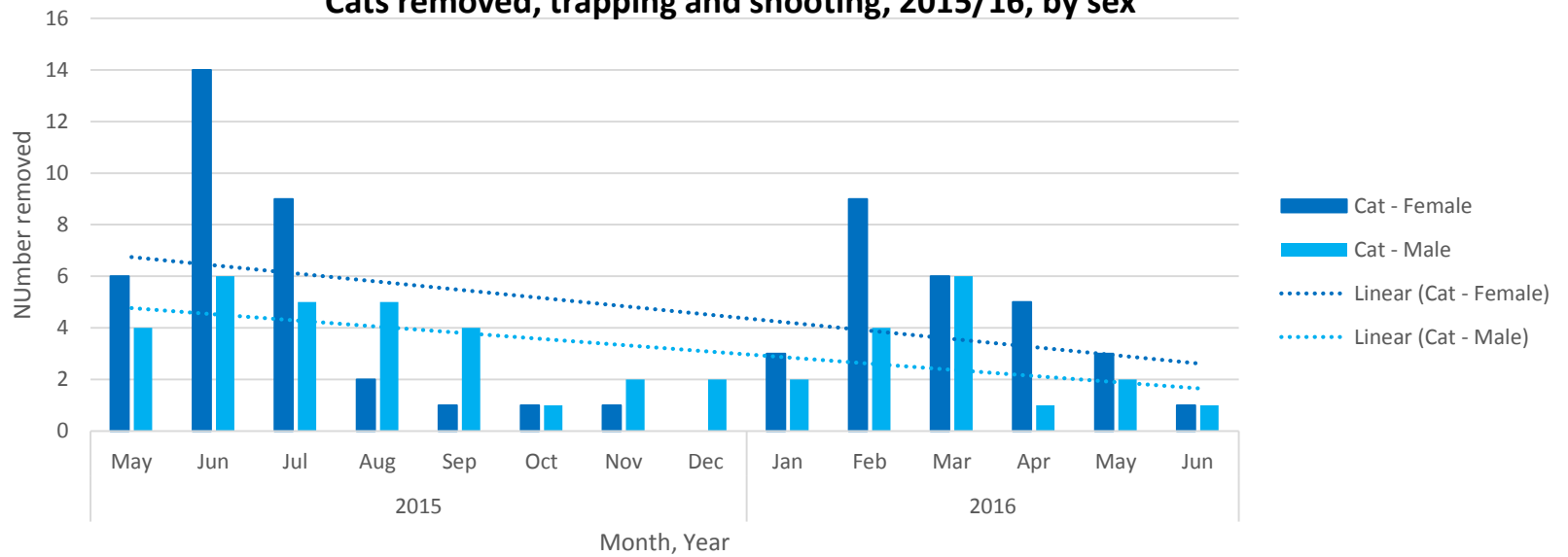
Trapped vs shot - 2017/18 - no July



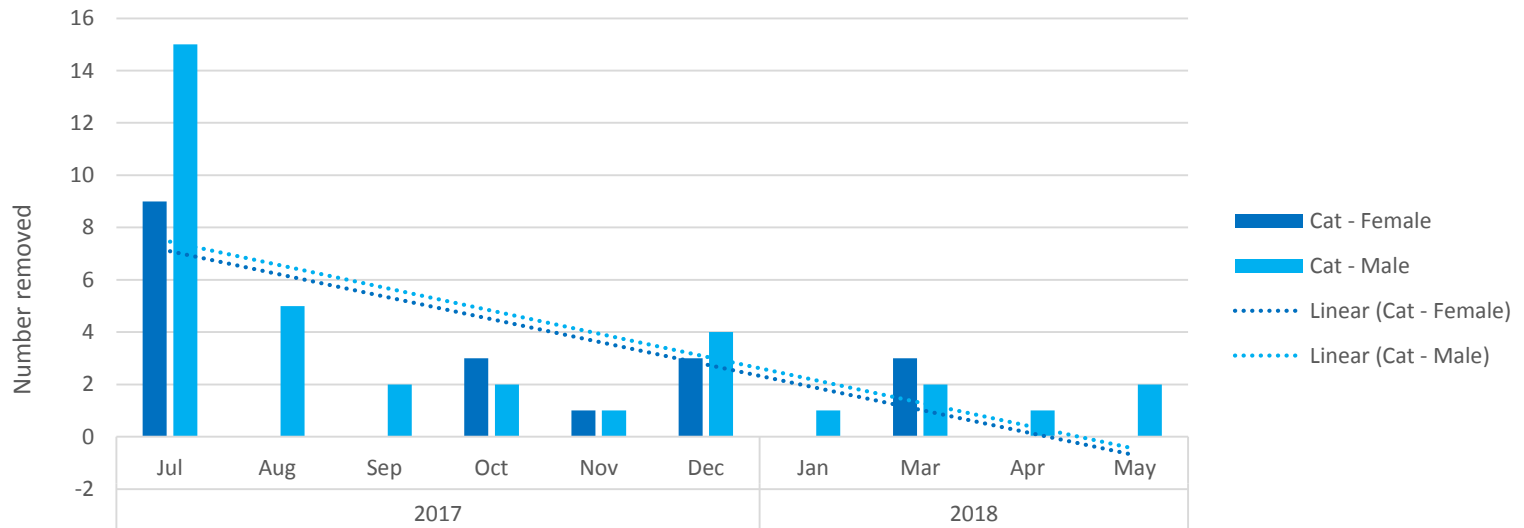
Trapped vs shot - 2017/18



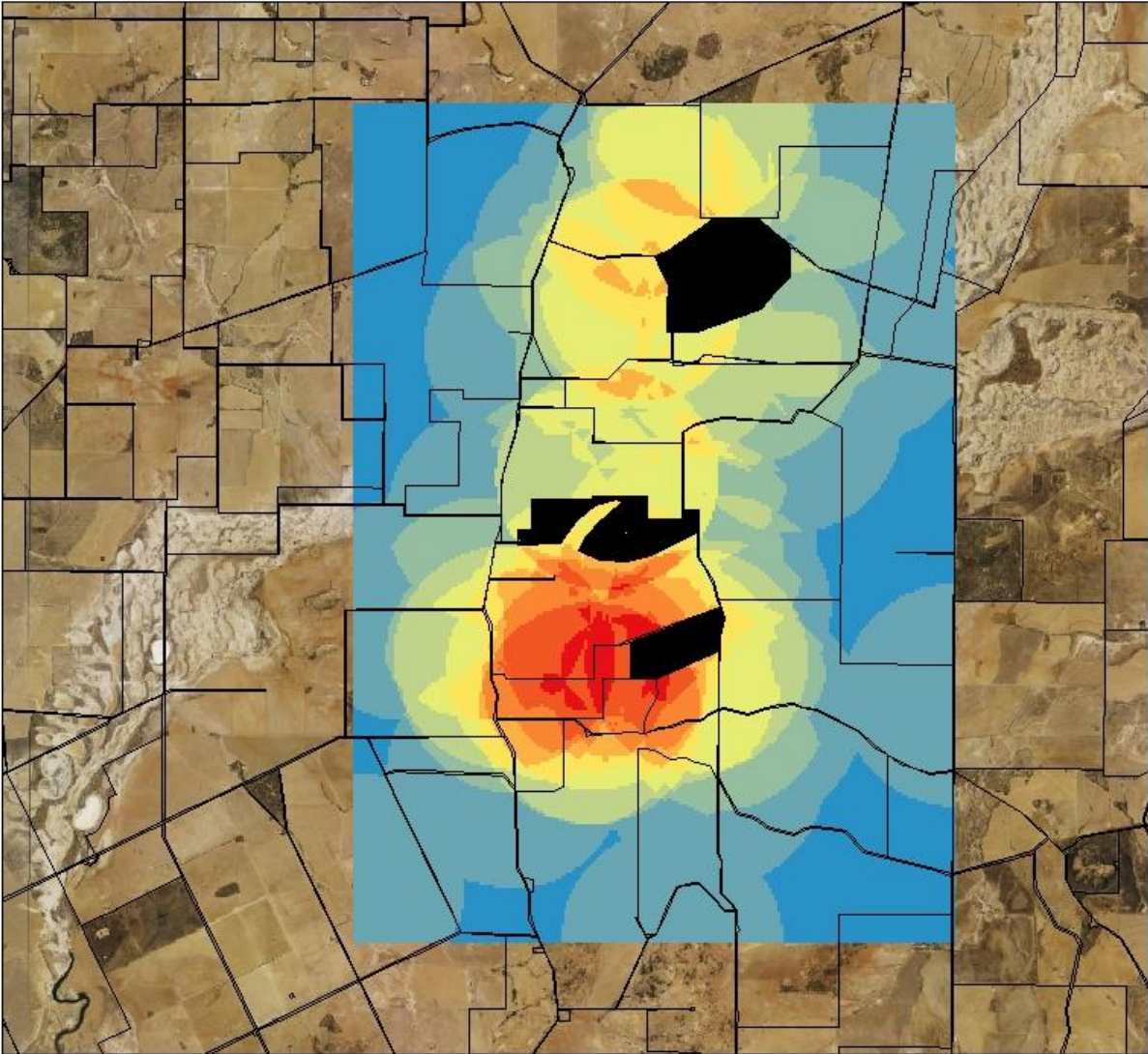
Cats removed, trapping and shooting, 2015/16, by sex



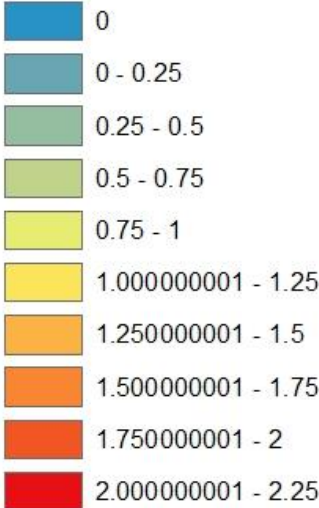
Cats removed, trapping and shooting, 2017-18, by sex



Density of cats removed May 2015 – June 2016



Legend



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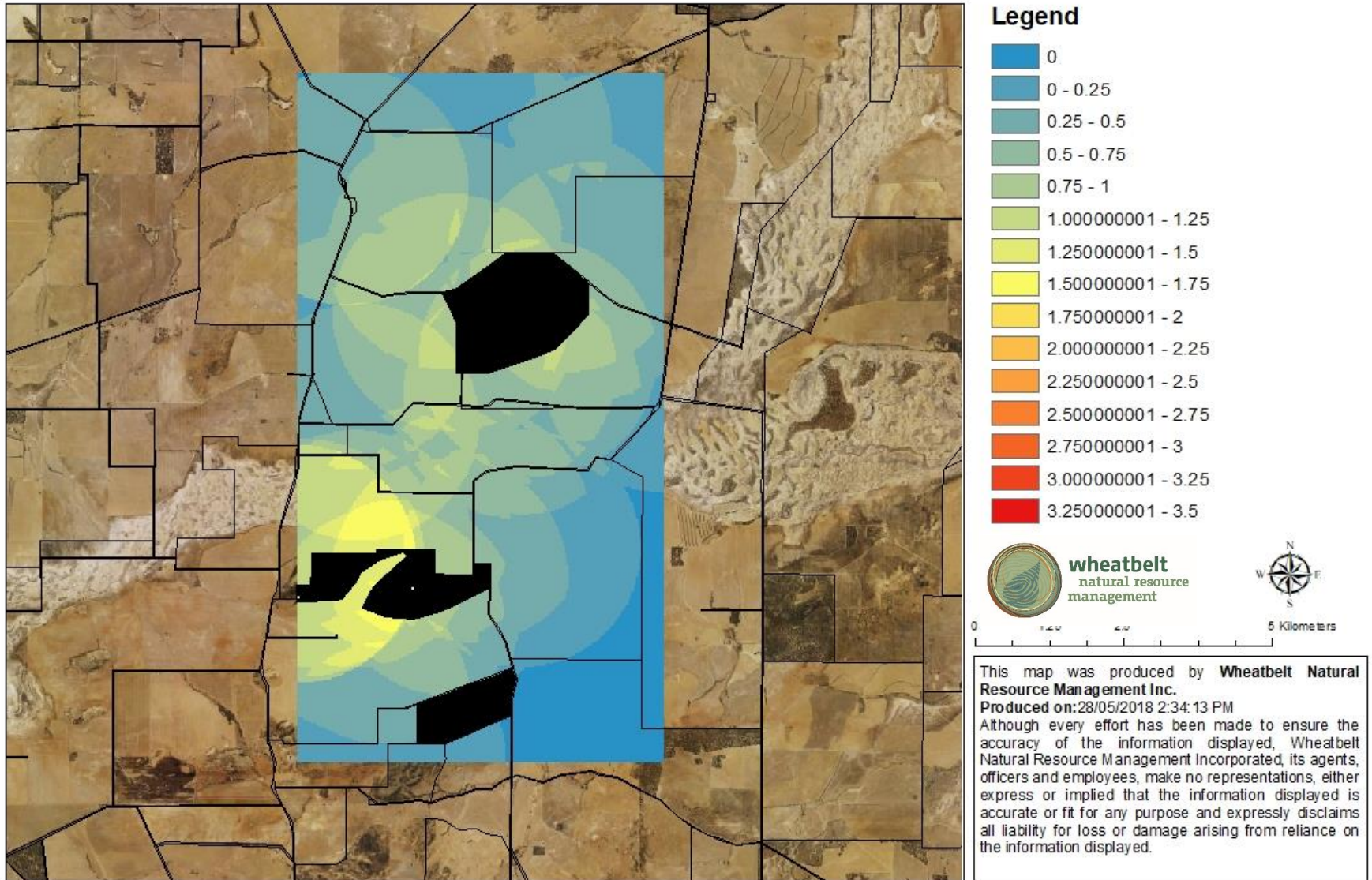


0 1.5 3 6 Kilometers

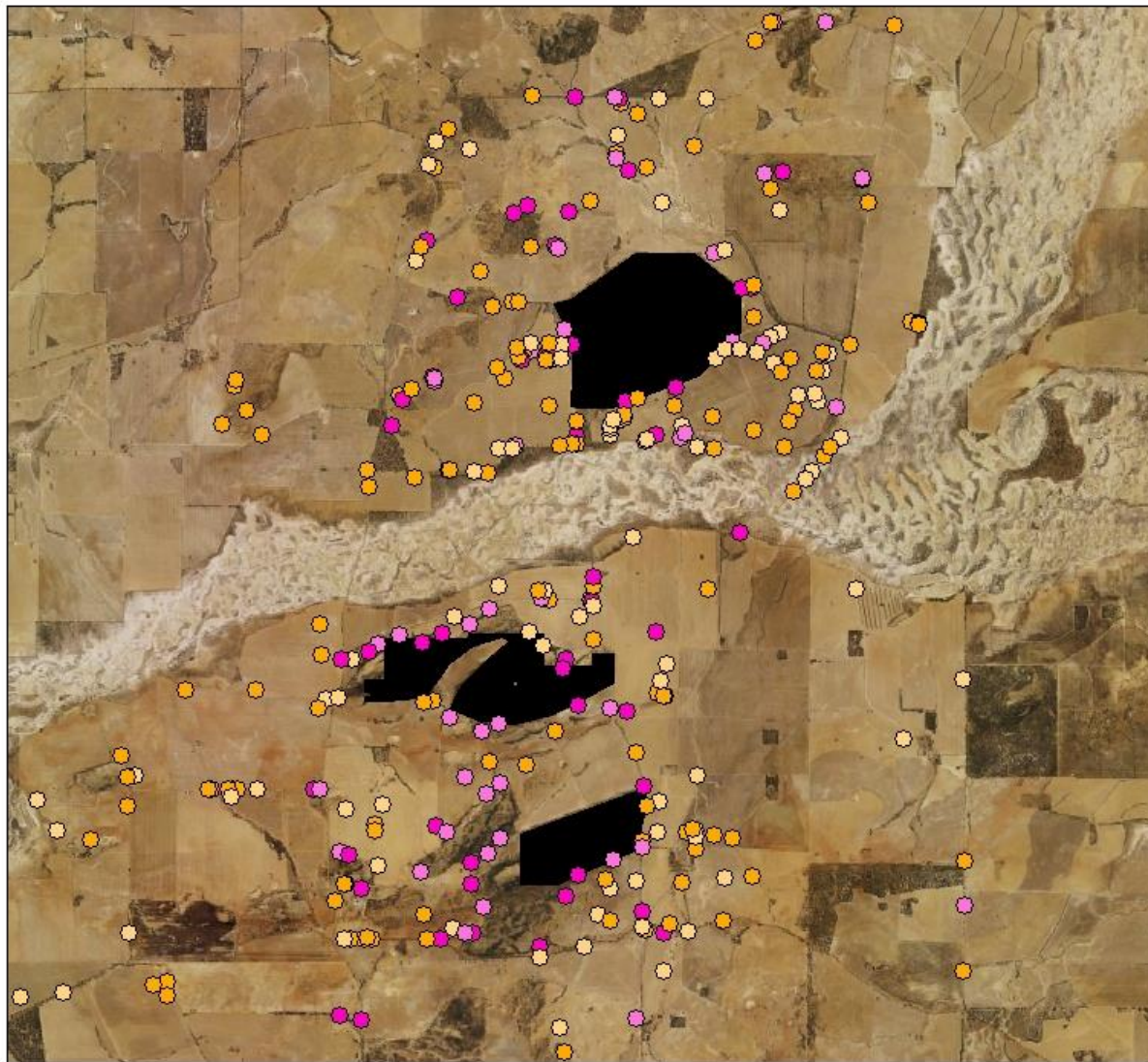
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Density of cats removed July 2017 – May 2018



Locations of foxes and cats removed, by species and sex – whole period



Legend

Species, Sex

- Cat, Female
- Cat, Male
- Fox, Female
- Fox, Male



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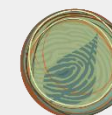


0 1.25 2.5 5 Kilometers

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Bushnell  Camera Name 29.05In→ 48°F ●




04-20-2012 12:33:48



Bushnell  Camera Name 29.13In↑ 63°F ●


03-28-2012 13:22:33



Bushnell  Camera Name 29.23In→ 50°F ●

04-25-2012 17:14:45



Bushnell  Camera Name 29.23In→ 53°F ●

04-25-2012 14:58:51

Are cats an issue?



29.38 inHg - 51°F 09/11/2017 08:18AM WAFAM 6

Are cats an issue?



MOULTRIE ○ 85°F 28.98inHg WAFAM-2 10 JAN 2016 08:12 am

Are cats an issue?



MOULTRIE ○ 87°F 28.98inHg WAFAM-2 10 JAN 2016 08:22 am

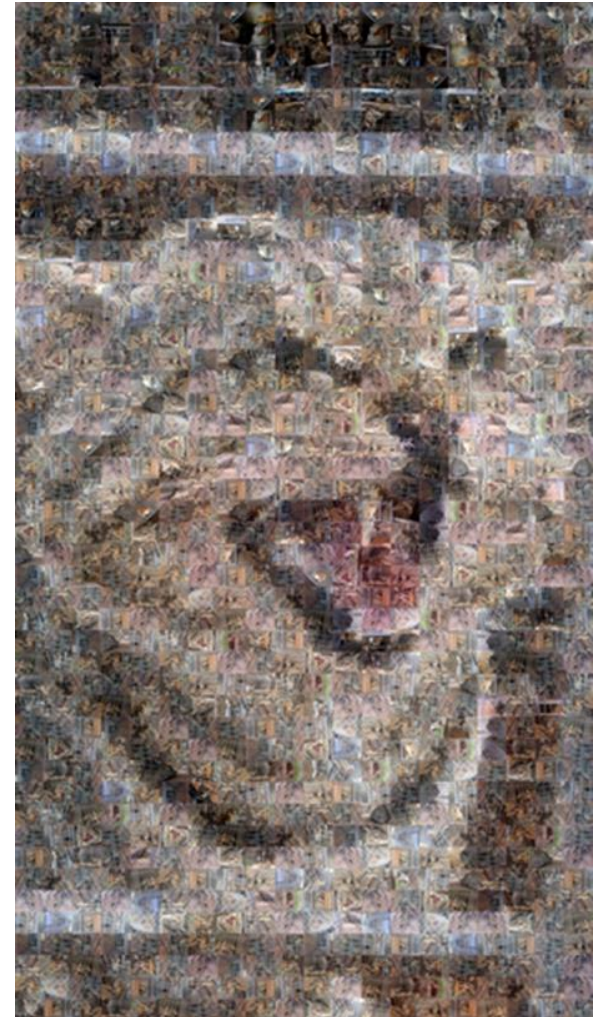
How did we go after the first effort 2015/16?

- **More Black-flanked rock-wallabies – landholders and DBCA**
- **Less predation of stock**
- **Lower number of residential predator populations**
- **Much lower incidence of recolonisation from invasives**
- **Movement around and between granite habitats**
- **Evidence that sites specific control can have a significant impact in a fragmented landscape**



From here?

- **Currently the project operates on less than 10% of the initial effort2015/16**
- **Very stripped down version of initial effort**
- **One operator 3 days per month simply cannot create the same impact**
- **We still have a downward trend but it is much flatter**



Community continuity

Commitment to the cause

2015



2018

Thanks



Kudos kids at Meckering Primary School WA
@Wheatbeltnrm for your #ThreatenedSpecies
awareness cartoons @PestSmartCRC



3:39 PM - 8 Dec 2015



**All the landholders and community
contributing to the effort
Andy and team
DBCA
DPIRD
WWF
State NRM
Commonwealth NLP Program
Anika and the team at Wheatbelt
NRM**