

# Pest Animal Management in Wetlands Training Course

## Management of Rabbits, Foxes, Pigs and Carp



A survey was sent to Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and Parks Victoria (PV) staff in 2015 as part of a Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) project regarding the effectiveness of pest species management in wetlands. Respondents ranked **training** highest of the suggested options to support their planning and implementation of pest management programs. As a result, this training course has been developed by DEDJTR and DELWP. The course is a modified, adapted, version of the existing accredited Established Invasive Animal Management Training Course run by DEDJTR. This course has a focus on wetlands.

### Description

The course covers the essential knowledge and practical skills required of CMAs, PV and DELWP staff involved in pest animal management activities to plan, support, advocate and implement pest animal management programs. Staff must be able to accurately identify and assess pest animal populations and understand the biology, ecology and best practice management for a range of pest animals in Victoria.

### Target Audience

This program has been designed for CMA, PV and DELWP staff involved in pest animal management activities. It is a 'hands on' course with both practical and theoretical components. Learners should be aware that the course involves vertebrate pest control which may be distressing for some people and anyone with concerns about these activities should contact course administrators prior to enrolling.

### Learning Outcomes

Course, participants will be able to:

- Apply Victoria's legislative requirements, codes of practice and standard operating procedures to all aspects of their vertebrate pest management work.
- Demonstrate and advocate best practice when carrying out and advising Victorian land holders on vertebrate pest animal strategies and control techniques, with a particular emphasis on wetlands.
- Survey, record and analyse vertebrate pest animal populations in accordance with state government standard operating procedures.
- Understand the biology and impact of rabbits, foxes, pigs and carp in Victoria.
- Apply the learnings from case studies to their own pest management programs, including assessing the quality of contractor services, consideration of effective engagement and understanding the complexities of cultural heritage.
- Provide networking opportunities to enhance awareness of existing contacts, resources and programs to support effective pest management.

### Course Delivery Method

The training design has two modes of delivery aligned to essential areas of pest animal work knowledge and skill:

- Face-to-face workshops
- Field-based practical exercises

The course provides an opportunity for CMA, PV, DEDJTR and DELWP staff to share experiences, build connections and learn from each other.

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## Provider

DEDJTR Established Invasive Animals project team and expert guest speakers, including:

- **Jason Wishart**, Invasive Animal Cooperative Research Centre
- **Ivor Stuart**, Kingfisher Research
- **Alan Robley**, Arthur Rylah Institute DELWP
- **Valerie Little**, DEDJTR, Aboriginal Landholder Information Service Project Leader
- **Ben Fahey**, Parks Victoria, Senior Analyst Environment and Conservation
- **Tamara van Polanen Petel**, DELWP, wetlands and estuaries project officer.

## Time Requirement

Participants will attend a 3 day face to face course. The course commences 11am on Day 1, and concludes at 2pm on Day 3. Includes a spotlighting night and a social event another night.

## How to Enrol

Expressions of interest should be sent to [Pam.Clunie@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Pam.Clunie@delwp.vic.gov.au)

## Cost

There are no program charges. Participants must pay their own accommodation, breakfast and dinner expenses.

## Further information

[Pam.Clunie@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Pam.Clunie@delwp.vic.gov.au)



(Photos: Demonstrating baiting techniques, looking at excavated rabbit burrows, classroom presentations, undertaking spotlight counts)(DEDJTR, DELWP)