

## NSW Vertebrate Pest Issues

### Emerging Risks, Compliance & Planning for 2026

Vertebrate pest management continues to be a growing issue across New South Wales, affecting councils, commercial landholders, utilities, infrastructure corridors, and rural enterprises alike. Changing seasonal conditions, expanding pest ranges, and increased interface between urban and rural land use are placing renewed pressure on assets, ecosystems, and operational risk profiles.

As we move into the next planning cycle, now is an important time to review pest management strategies to ensure they remain effective, compliant, and fit for purpose.

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#### Current Vertebrate Pest Pressures Across NSW

##### Feral Pigs

Feral pig activity remains widespread, with ongoing impacts to waterways, cropping areas, fencing, and environmentally sensitive land. Population rebounds following favourable seasons continue to outpace reactive control efforts, increasing long-term damage and biosecurity risk.

##### Feral Goats

Goats are causing sustained pressure on native vegetation and agricultural land, particularly where coordinated, landscape-scale management is absent. Their mobility and rapid breeding make them difficult to control without structured planning and cooperation across boundaries.

##### Foxes & Wild Dogs

Predation on livestock and native fauna continues to be a major concern, with increasing activity reported near peri-urban developments, transport corridors, and utility assets. Fragmented control programs often result in short-lived outcomes and rapid reinfestation.

##### Deer

Expanding deer populations are now a significant issue for councils and commercial land managers. Vehicle strike risk, fencing damage, and environmental degradation are becoming more frequent, particularly in fringe and regional areas.

## **Compliance, Risk & Governance Considerations**

For councils and commercial operators, vertebrate pest issues are no longer just an environmental or agricultural concern—they represent a **risk management and governance issue**.

Unmanaged or poorly documented pest control activities can expose organisations to:

- Increased WHS and public safety risk
- Asset damage and operational disruption
- Non-compliance with NSW firearms, biosecurity, and environmental legislation
- Reputational risk and community scrutiny

A structured, compliant approach is critical to demonstrating due diligence and responsible land management.

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## **The Value of a Planned Pest Management Program**

Effective vertebrate pest control is not reactive. It requires:

- Site-specific risk assessments and documented planning
- Compliance with NSW DPI, firearms, and WHS requirements
- Safe, humane, and auditable control methods
- Coordination across neighbouring land and assets
- Ongoing monitoring and review

Planned programs consistently deliver better long-term outcomes and reduced cost when compared to ad-hoc responses.



## Summer Newsletter 2026

### Our Approach

Weta Pest Management delivers **commercially focused, fully compliant vertebrate pest management programs** across NSW. Our operations are risk-based, documented, and aligned with legislative requirements, providing confidence for councils, asset owners, and commercial clients.

Through our alignment with **Weta Training**, all activities are supported by current legislative knowledge, formal competency, and disciplined safety systems. This integrated model ensures not only effective outcomes on the ground, but strong governance and defensible decision-making.

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### Call to Action

If you are:

- Experiencing increased vertebrate pest activity
- Reviewing your WHS, biosecurity, or asset risk exposure
- Planning works for the next season or financial year
- Seeking a compliant, auditable pest management solution

Now is the time to engage.

**Contact Weta Pest Management** to discuss a site assessment, program review, or forward planning for 2026. Early engagement allows for safer operations, better coordination, and stronger long-term results.

***Compliant. Capable. Commercially focused.***