

Assessing the effectiveness of deterrents in reducing human-wombat conflict

Preliminary trials



Wombats



The Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat

The Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat



The Common Wombat





Burrowing



- No other herbivore \geq 5kg constructs burrows
- Provide a stable micro environment
- Warrens vary in complexity & size

Conflicts with landholders



Casey O'Brien



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A. Stott

Current Management

- Destruction permits issued by SA Gov.
- Causes concern about long term survival
 - Abundance Unknown
 - Climate change
 - Disease
- Current lack of information on alternative management options



Aims



To explore the use of deterrents as a
Non-lethal management option for the
Southern hairy-nosed wombat



Assess the effectiveness of deterrents in
reducing the activity patterns of wombats



Methods



- Spoke to landholders & conservation groups
- Deduced potential deterrents
 - D-Ter[®]
 - Blood & Bone
 - CD's
 - Male human urine
 - Dingo faeces & urine



Methods

- Motion sensor cameras set up on active wombat burrows.
- Wombat activity measured
 - Number of visits
 - Duration of visits



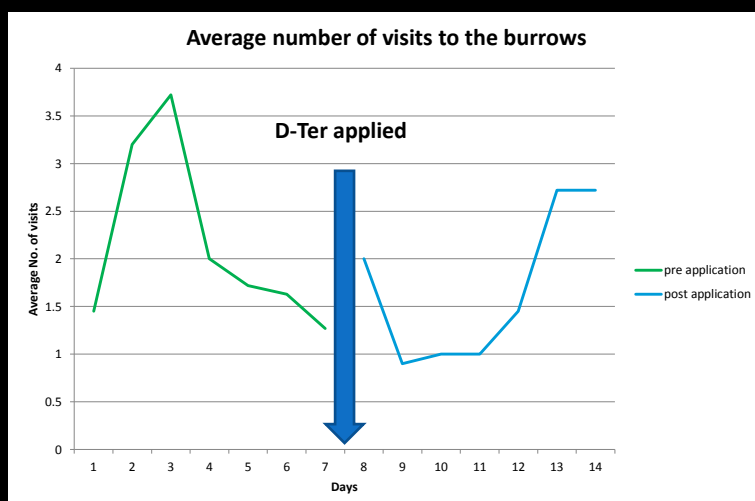


Methods

- Deterrents were applied after a one week control period
 - D-Ter applied @ maximum strength
 - Blood & Bone spread around entrance
 - CD's attached to stakes

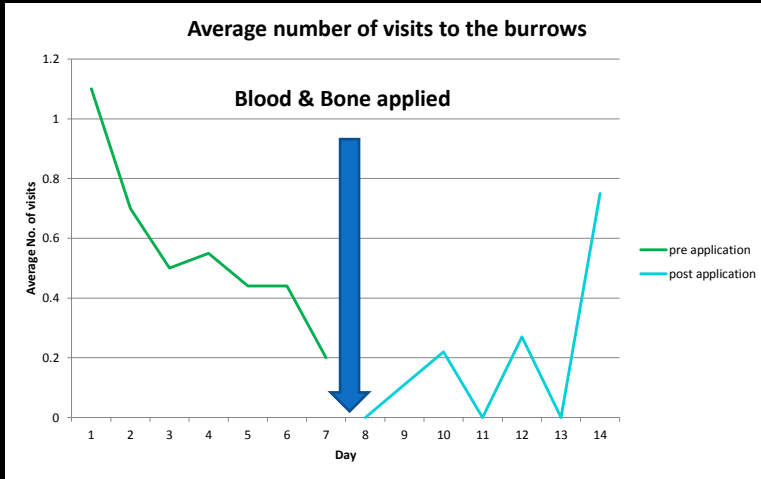


Results for D-Ter



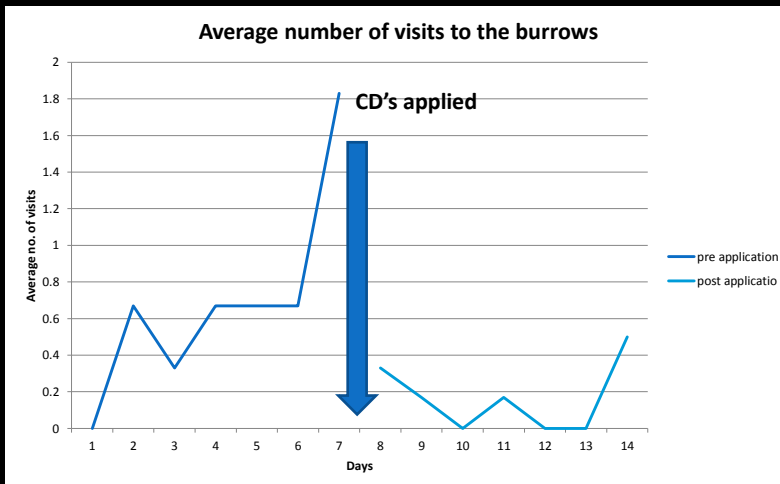
N = 11 burrows

Results for Blood & Bone



N = 10 burrows

Results for CD's



N = 6 burrows

Summary



- Preliminary results indicate that:
 - D-Ter didn't have a significant impact
 - Blood & Bone and CD's have an effect
- However sample sizes were small and there was no control for weather



Future Work

- testing all the deterrents at the same time
- Running controls for weather
- Analysing changes in Behaviour
- identifying individual wombats



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Thankyou

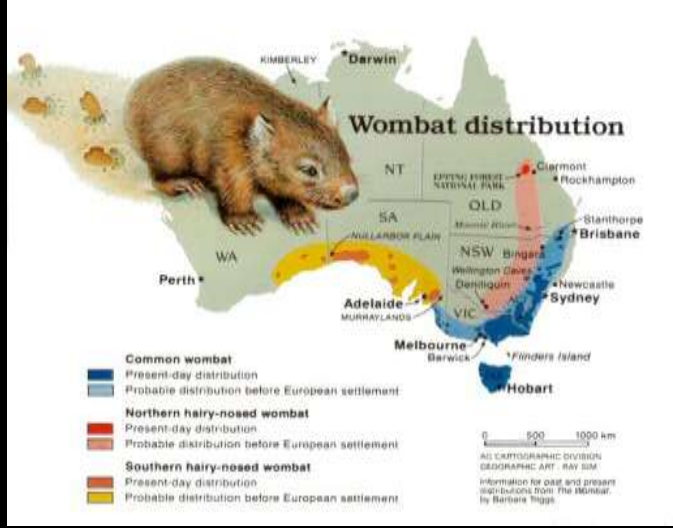


Andrew Sleep

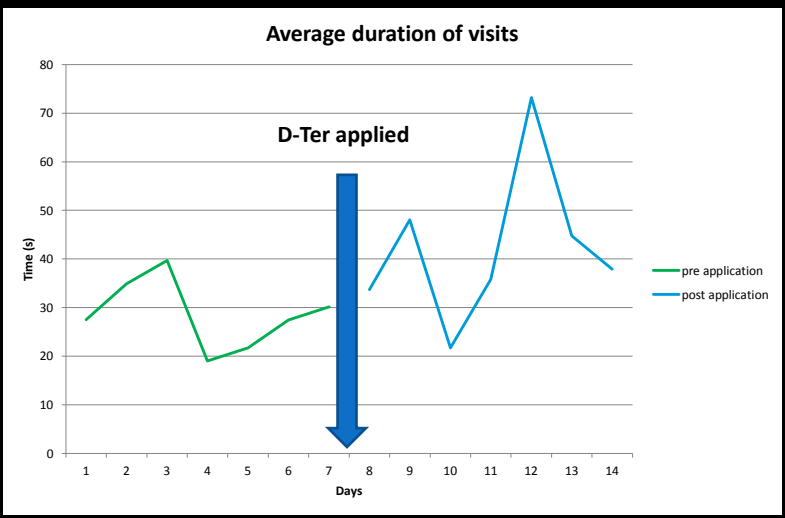




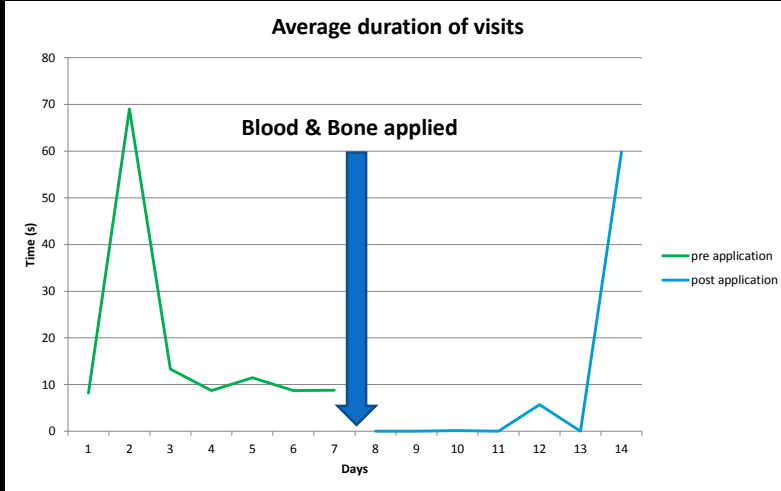
Distribution



Results for D-Ter



Results for Blood & Bone



Results for CD's

