VPMAA Code of Practice

The VPMAA "Code of Practice" does not refer to a single document but rather a series of national codes of practice (CoPs) for vertebrate pest animal control in Australia, such as those for wild dogs, feral deer, and feral pigs. These national codes, developed with input from state and territory jurisdictions and managed via platforms like PestSmart, outline humane, effective, and cost-effective methods for managing pest animals. Each code is supported by National Standard Operating Procedures (NATSOPs) that provide detailed, technique-specific instructions and address animal welfare concerns.

Purpose of the Codes

Humaneness:

To ensure pest control is conducted in a way that minimises pain, suffering, and distress to target and non-target animals.

Effectiveness:

To provide guidelines for selecting and implementing appropriate and effective control techniques.

Consistency:

To establish a national framework for vertebrate pest management that can be adopted and adapted by various jurisdictions.

Key Components of the Codes

Principles:

Overarching principles for pest animal control, focusing on necessity, humaneness, and effectiveness.

Animal Welfare:

Specific guidance on how to reduce negative welfare impacts on both target and non-target animals, including attention to psychological well-being.

National Standard Operating Procedures (NATSOPs):

Detailed procedural documents for specific pest control methods, such as shooting, baiting, or trapping.

Biological Information:

Information on the biology and behaviour of the target pest species to inform management strategies.

Where to Find the Codes

PestSmart:

The primary platform for accessing these national codes and their associated NATSOPs is PestSmart.

Government Resources:

State and territory government departments, such as the Department of Primary Industries (NSW), also provide their own regional versions of these codes.