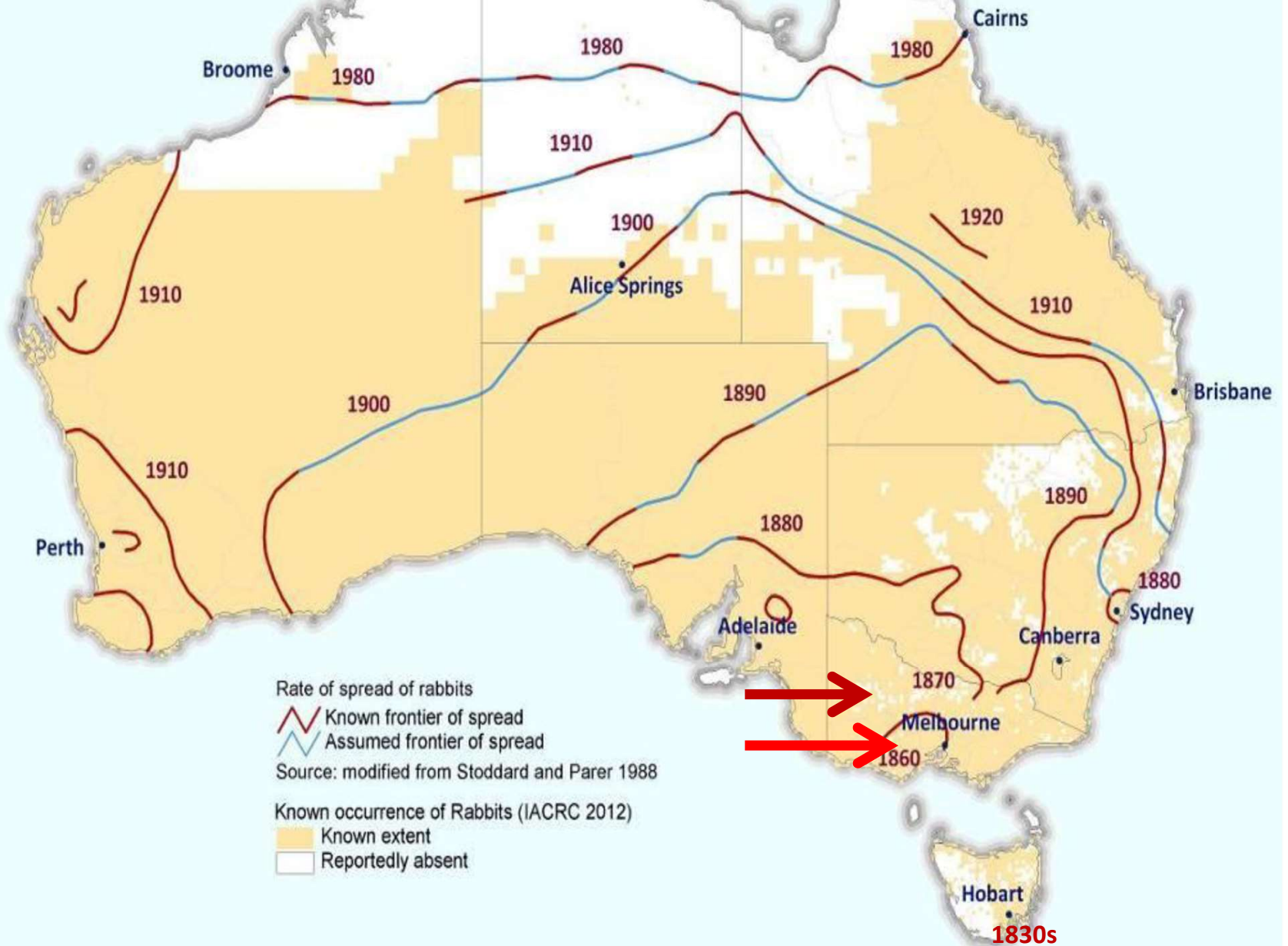


rabbits & foxes
knowing
what not & what to do

Using knowledge of rabbit & fox
biology and ecology to help us all
achieve
best practice management

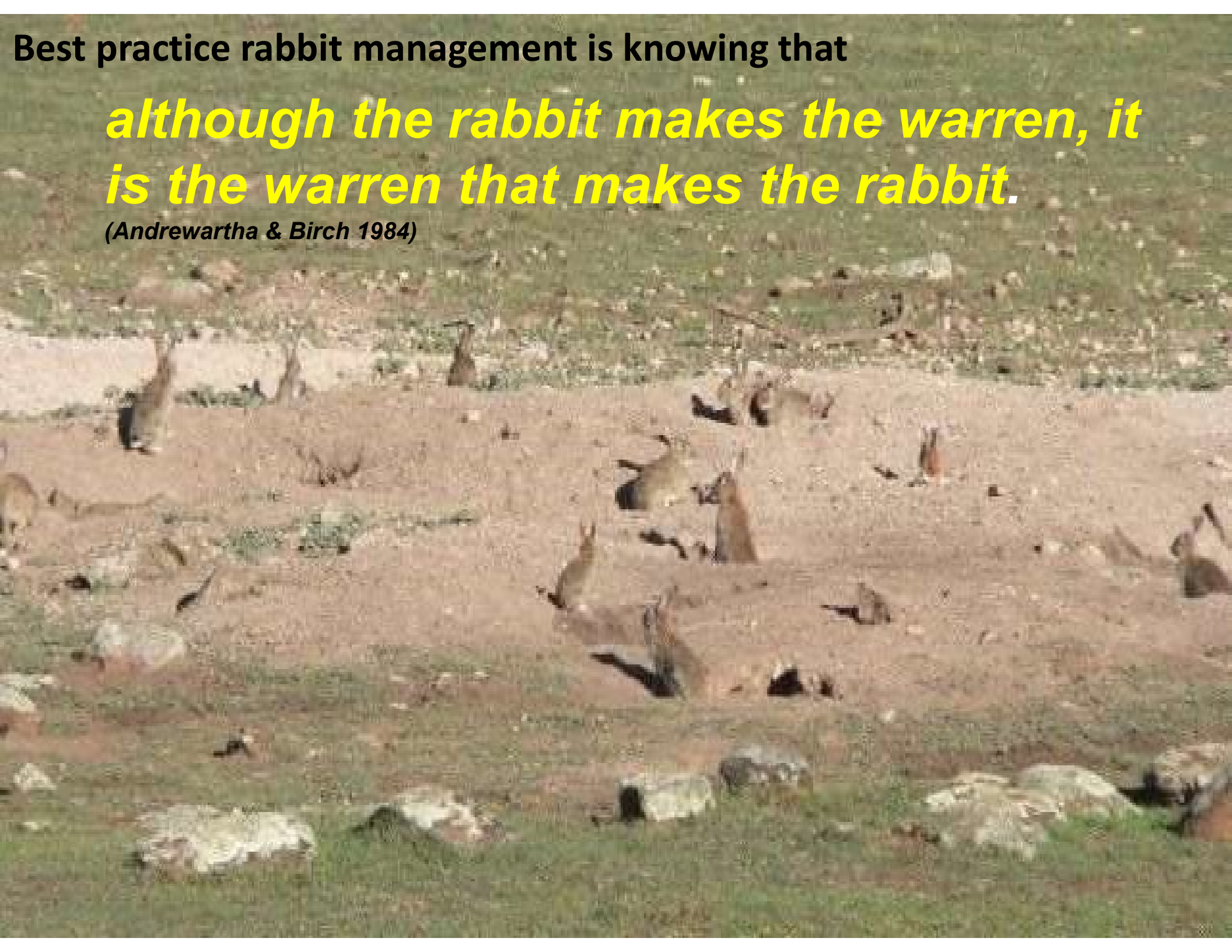
Rabbit dispersal is a social behaviour



Best practice rabbit management is knowing that

although the rabbit makes the warren, it is the warren that makes the rabbit.

(Andrewartha & Birch 1984)



‘Let it be remembered how powerful the influence of single introduced tree or mammal has shown to be.’

Darwin (1859)



- Just 1-3 rabbits per hectare can stop regeneration of *Allocasuaria* sp. (eg. buloke)
- Rabbits stop regen Moonah; *Callitris* sp.(native pines)
- Rabbits change landscapes selectively grazing (nutritious/edible) with less grazing of thistles, blackberry, boxthorn, gorse, serrated tussock, briars and other weeds
- Rabbits make land weedy & will make more & more harbour for themselves

CONTROL OPTIONS

A photograph of three rabbits in a grassy field. The rabbits are positioned in the foreground and middle ground, looking towards the right. The background is a soft-focus green field. The text is overlaid on the image.

Integrated proven methods:-

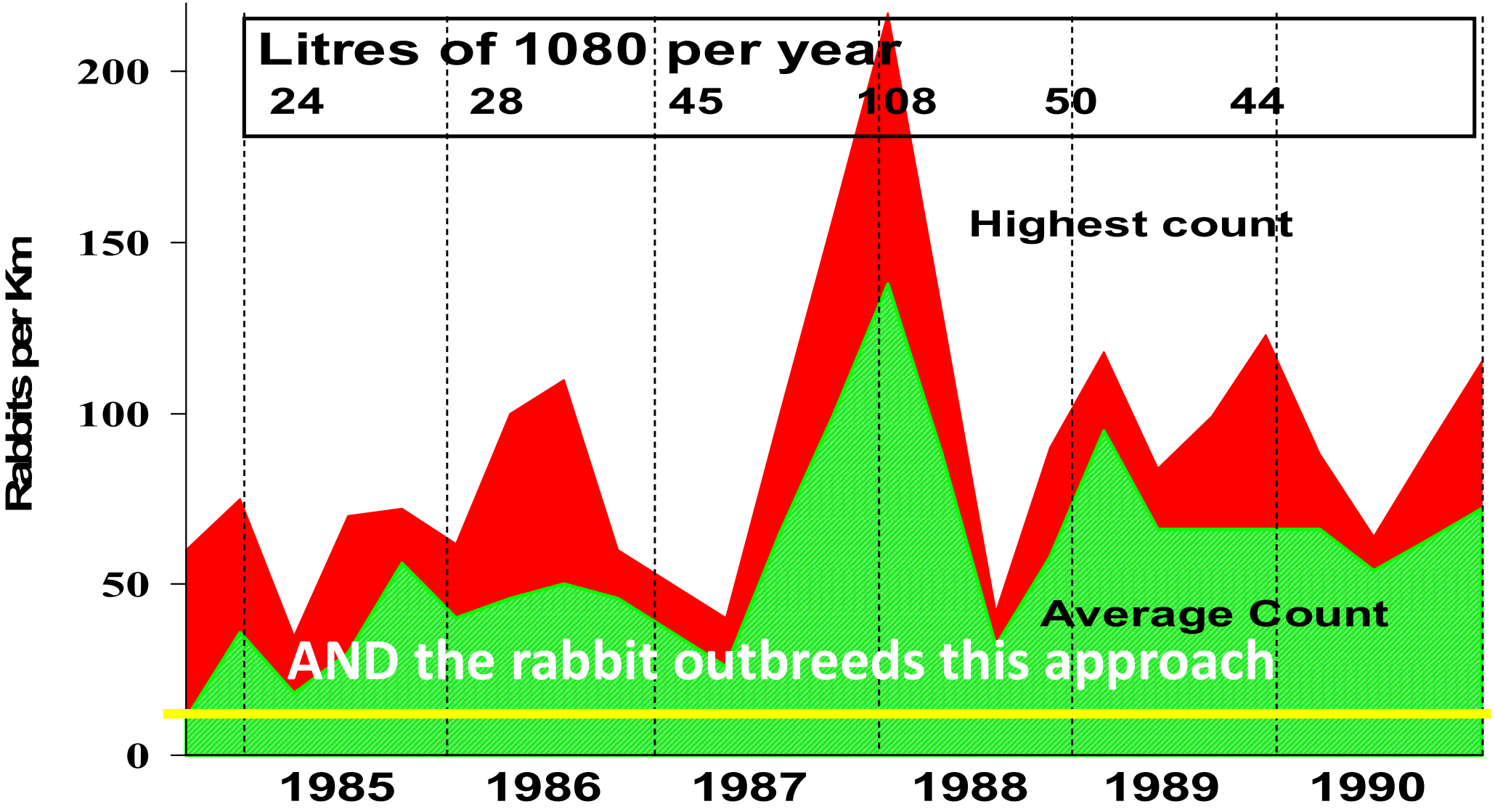
1. Bait;
2. Burrow modification;
3. follow up Implosion Fumigation

Single approaches

Shoot
Ferret
Baiting
Hand dig burrows
Fumigation

Rabbits out breeding single control approach ?

Spotlight Rabbit Counts-- Rowsley Valley



April 2022

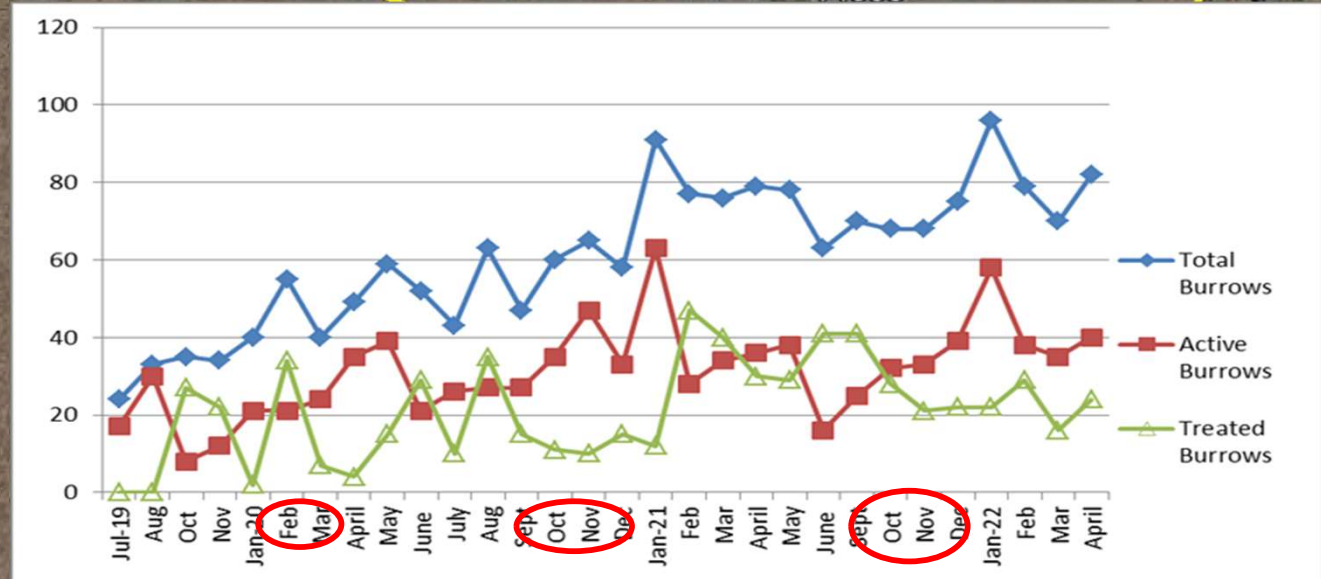
Open 58 Active 40
Treated 24
Total Burrows 82

Legend

- Feature 1

AND the rabbit outbreeds this approach

RPF



Google Earth

200 ft



Secondary Approaches:- Shooting

Maryborough site (3sq klm):- Site heavily targeted shooters & change in rabbit presence under spotlights

Monitoring methods

Spotlight (rabbits per klm)

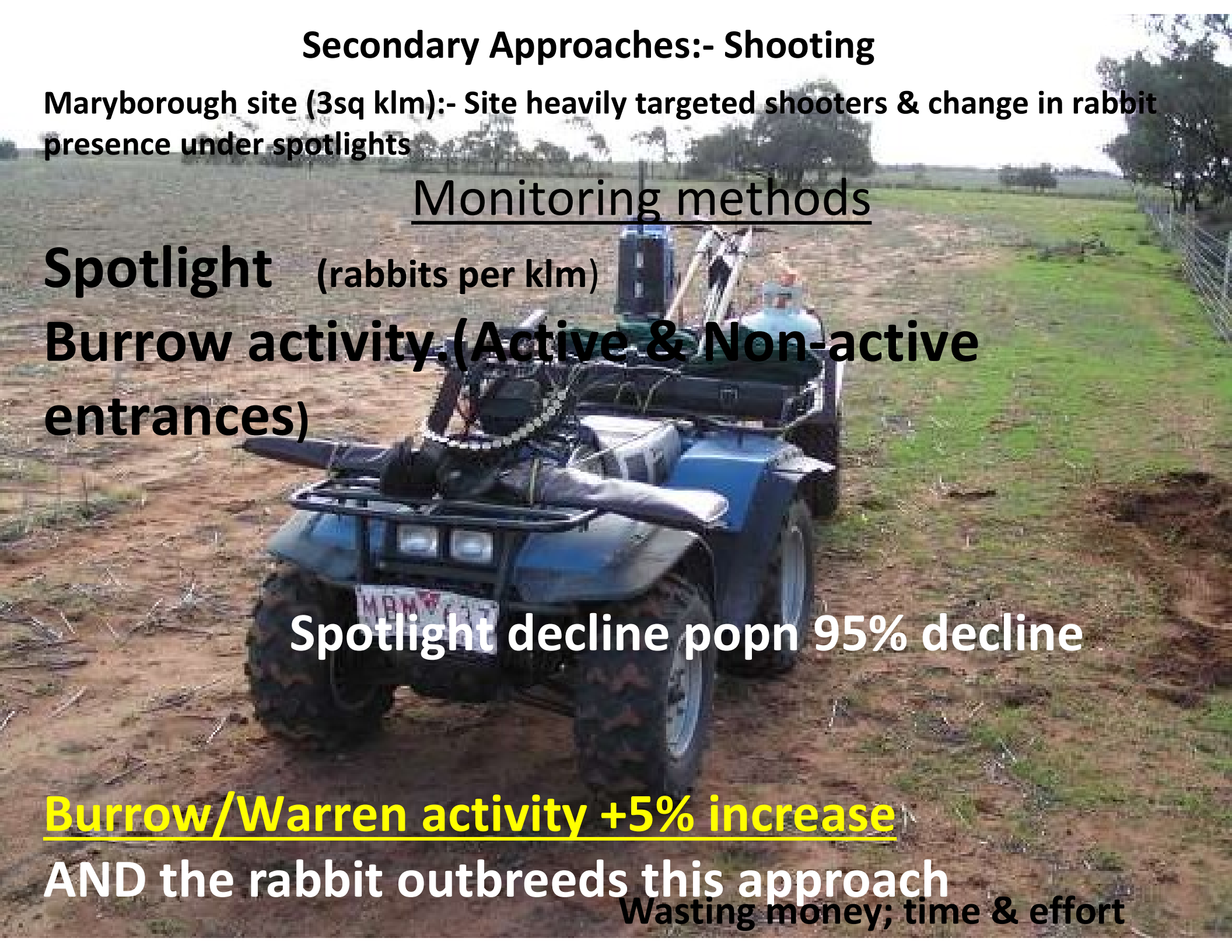
Burrow activity. (Active & Non-active entrances)

Spotlight decline popn 95% decline

Burrow/Warren activity +5% increase

AND the rabbit outbreeds this approach

Wasting money; time & effort

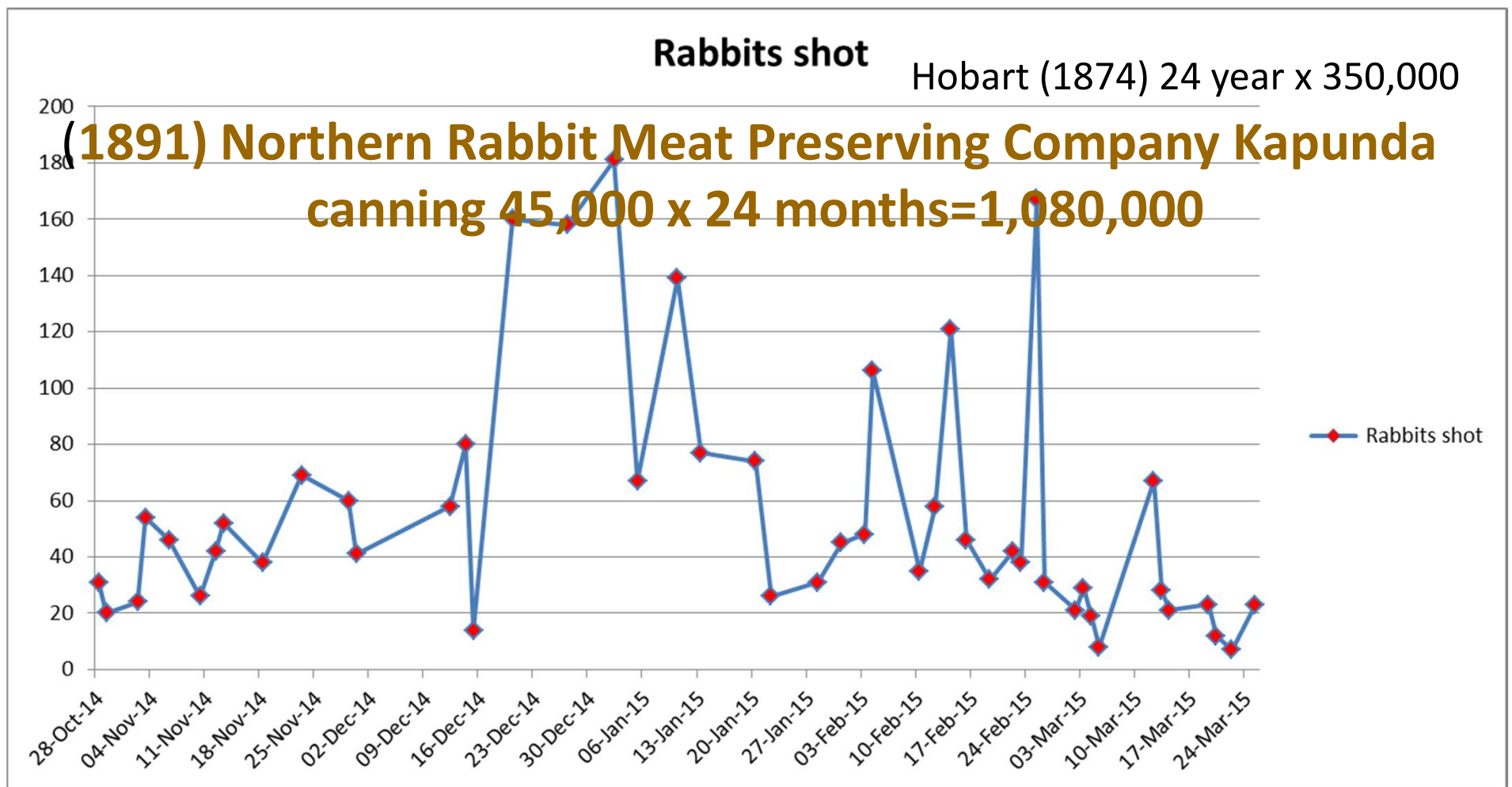


Why don't we eat our way out of this ?

4 billion skins 1904-1947

1871 Colac 6,650,000 -: 15 years

NSW Govt gave away 1,543,000(pounds) @penny each



There is a well-defined recipe proven by research (+1960s) for the management of rabbits, which includes;

Baiting prior to ripping to reduce rabbit numbers to lessen the potential of rabbits re-opening warrens

Followed by the removal of rabbit harbour, destruction of warrens and removal of surface harbour (woody weeds etc)

Followed by maintenance of ripped warrens through fumigation or re-ripping re-opened entrances.

Research has shown that to deviate from this basic recipe reduces the efficacy of the rabbit management program. *(i.e. u will fail)*

Rabbits help make woody weed harbour

Rabbits 40-60% diet of foxes

more rabbits the more foxes



Zone 1 WTP

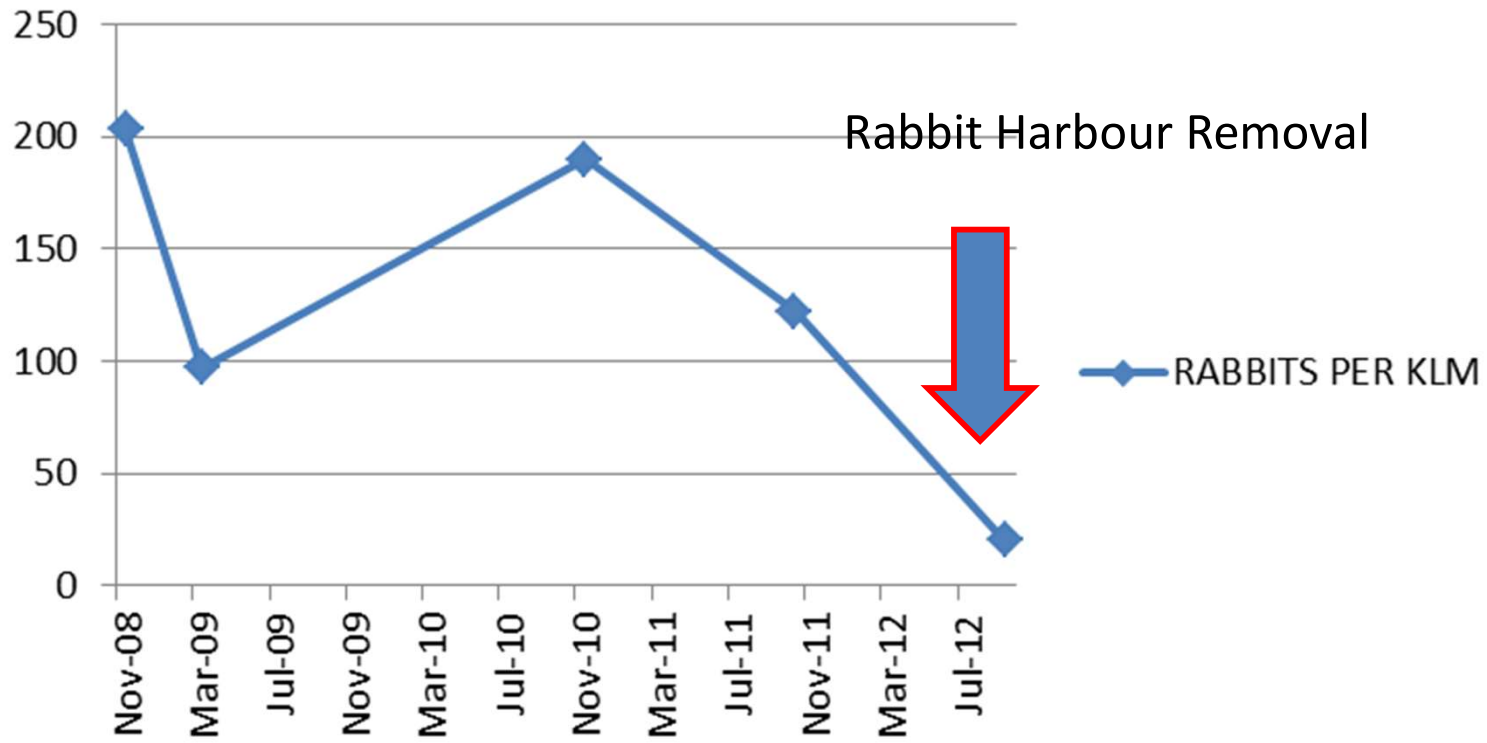
1000 Ha

Legend

-  Cocoroc Historic Township
-  Werribee Open Range Zoo
-  Werribee South Beach



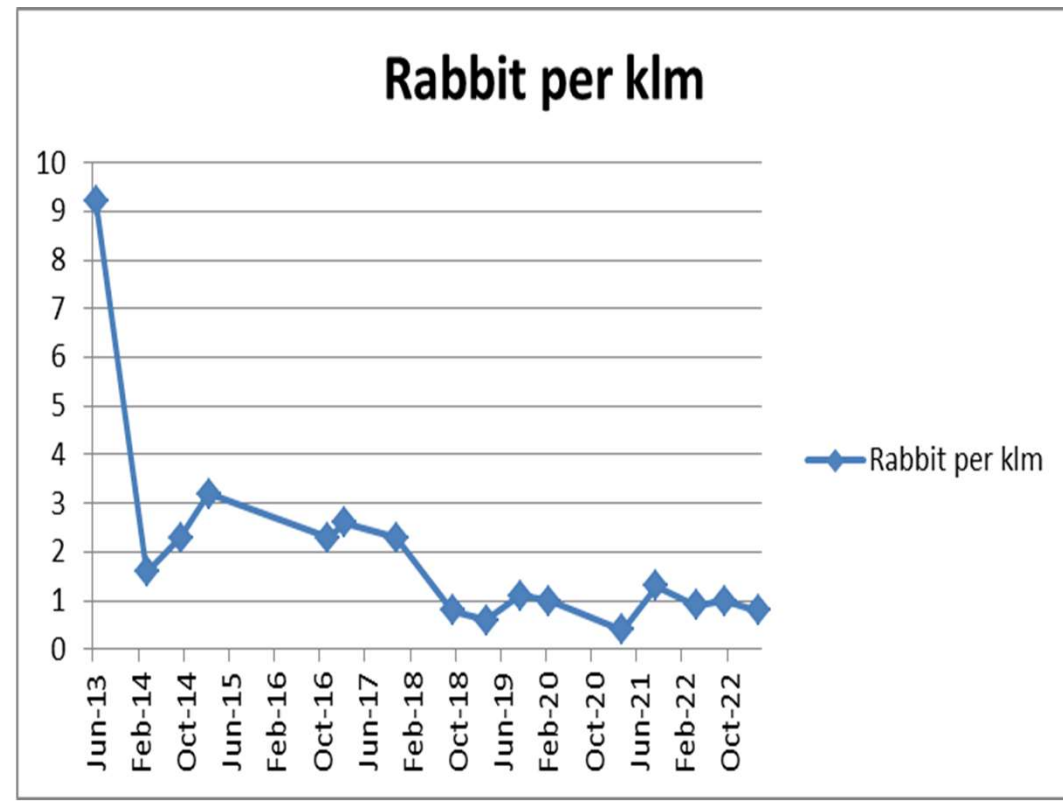
RABBITS PER KLM





WTP
2006-
2010+
16-21
foxes
per
square
klm







Nams vulpes multijugis dolis se tuetur adversus venatores

For the fox defends itself against the hunter by using many different guiles

FOX CONTROL OPTIONS

- **Predator exclusion fences**
- **Poisoning buried baits/FDDD (m44)**
- **Den fumigation and destruction**
- **Dogging dens with small terriers or driving cover with hounds**
- **Trapping**
- **Shooting**

1080 Bait @1.6 -15.0X + FF 10 + P10=70-97%

Bait density (per km ²)	Fox density (per km ²)	Duration (days)	Pop'n reduction (%)	Location	Reference
12	7.2	10 (ground) 10 (free feed)	70	NSW tablelands – farm land	Thompson and Fleming 1994
1.7 - 3.1*	.05 - .2*	10 -14 (ground) 9 -14 (free feed)	91	NSW tablelands – forest	Fleming 1996 *pers. comms.
4.4	1.3 - 1.9	2 (ground) 16 free feed	50	NSW tablelands – farmland	Fleming 1997
7	2-3	10 (ground) 13 (free feed)	97	NSW coast	Dexter and Meek 1998
5	0.5 - 1.0	<u>1 (air)</u>	79	WA wheat belt and rangelands	Thomson and Algar 2000
10	0.5 - 1.0	<u>1 (air)</u>	82	WA wheat belt and rangelands	Thomson and Algar 2000
10.5	3-4	+/-30 (ground)	90	Central Vic (army / farmland)	Coman et al 1994
5	0.5	<u>1 (air)</u>	95	WA rangelands	Thomson et al. 2000

3.5-2.6x



Do the lot.
Everything
.....all the time

Be more
persistent &
determined than
foxes &
bureaucrats

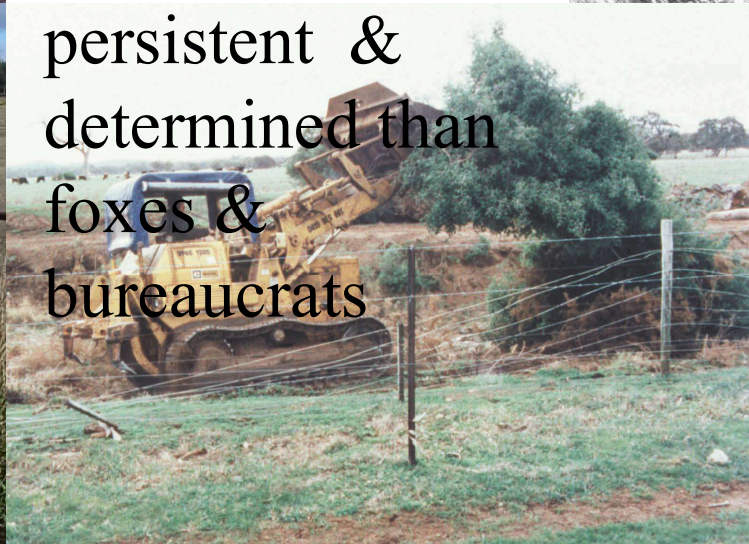


Photo Environment First©

Photo Environment First©

Try Different Things

Check the Results

Adapt & Adjust

Repeat

Check the Results

Try Different Things

Adapt & Adjust

Repeat





Want to stop **them**.....

Know this: Fox density

Do this: Bait > fox density

Know this: Fox territorial ranges

Do this: Cover > fox range

Know this: Breeding den sites

Do this: Fumigate

Know this: Lay ups, trails, movements

Do this: Hunt 'em increase cull intensity

What more natives, and many more lambs?

Know this: what they need to prosper

Do this: provide habitat

Know this: how many you can have

Do this: monitor numbers

Know this: fox carrying capacity

Do this: monitor effect of control effort

