

# Best Practice Rabbit Control

## WHAT IS THE BEST PRACTICE RABBIT MANAGEMENT APPROACH?

Best Practice Rabbit Management (BPRM) uses integrated and proven methods that are applied in the correct sequence in the right seasonal conditions. The proven efficiency and effectiveness of best practice rabbit control methods is based on more than 20 years of research from long-term monitoring sites across Victoria.

## WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF BEST PRACTICE RABBIT MANAGEMENT?

Completing each of the steps in the BPRM approach will ensure all rabbits are exposed to some treatment. The BPRM steps are:

- 1 Assess the rabbit problem:** locate burrows and estimate rabbit numbers, e.g. spotlighting or survey of damage and rabbit abundance using a tool such as the **Rapid Rabbit Assessment Guide**.
- 2 Baiting:** applied across the whole area, to reduce the rabbit population by 90-98% and slow re-use of breeding burrows. Monitor bait uptake to ensure effectiveness.
- 3 Warren modification:** e.g. ripping or destroying every burrow to stop any opportunity of burrows being used for shelter or rearing of young.
- 4 Follow up and maintenance:** a program of further baiting, fumigation or burrow modification to maintain gains and protect your investment.
- 5 Monitoring:** e.g. measuring changes in burrow activity (number of active burrows), recording rabbit abundance, undertaking spotlight counts (rabbits seen per km), taking photo points to monitor damage and regeneration.



## LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Landholders must be careful to avoid further damage to the environment (including waterways) and Aboriginal cultural heritage sites when using machinery. Be aware of your legal obligations and obtain the necessary permits. If you are unsure, seek advice from Agriculture Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Aboriginal Victoria or your local council.

**More Information:** [www.vran.com.au](http://www.vran.com.au)

This project is an initiative of the Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) and is funded a project by the Australian Government Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper in collaboration with Agriculture Victoria

This publication may be of assistance to you but the Victorian Rabbit Action Network and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication. While every effort has been made to ensure the currency, accuracy or completeness of the content we endeavour to keep the content relevant and up to date and reserve the right to make changes as require. The Victorian Rabbit Action Network, authors and presenters do not accept any liability to any person for the information (or the use of the information) which is provided or referred to in the report.

