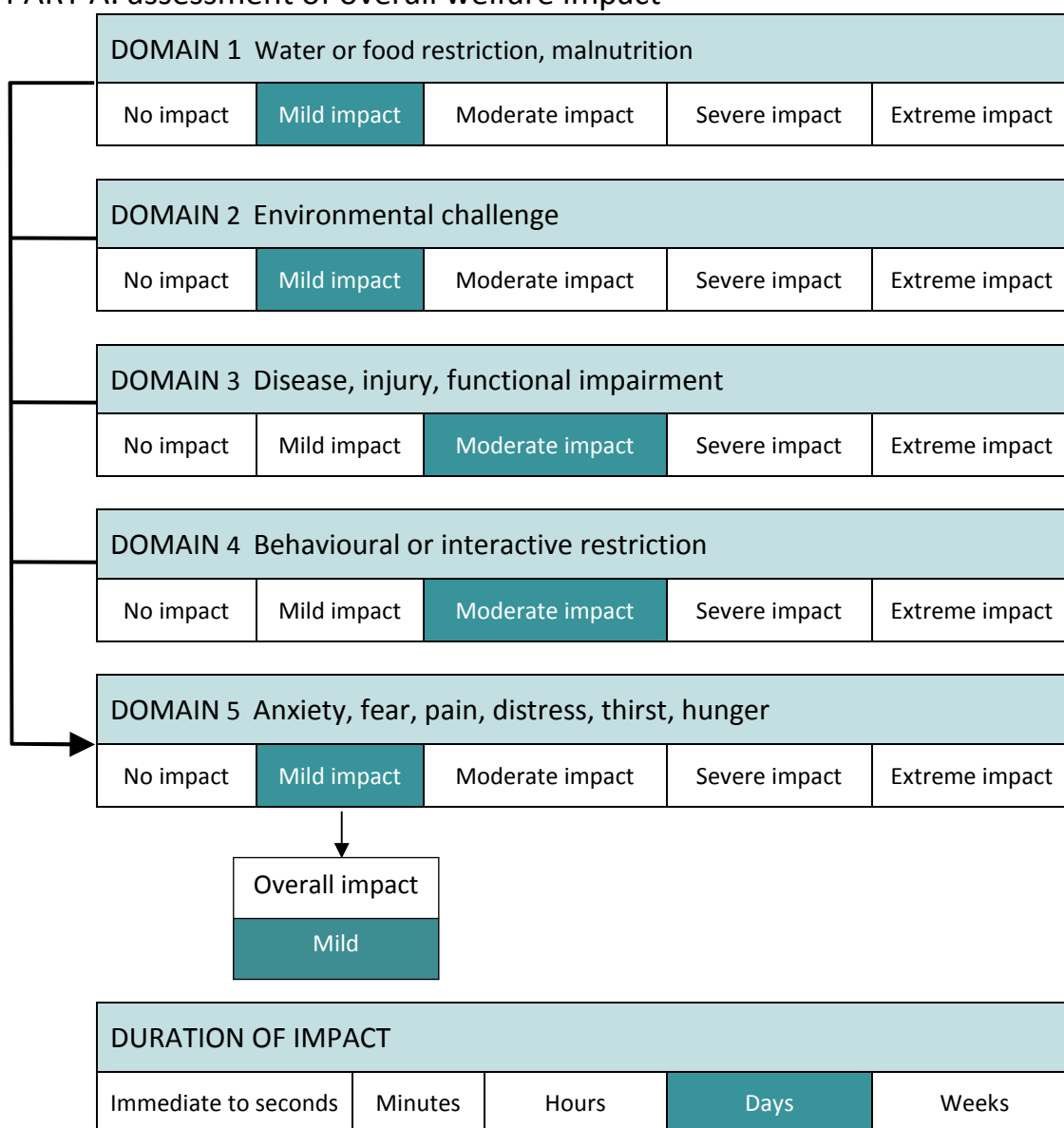


Control method: Trapping of feral horses

Assumptions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Best practice is followed in accordance with the standard operating procedure HOR004. ▪ This assessment applies from the time of entering the trap until traps are checked and the horses moved to the next stage (which could be any combination of holding, drafting and transporting, shooting). ▪ The impact of trapping should not be considered in isolation from subsequent stages (i.e. drafting and transporting, shooting). The cumulative effects of these stages will compound welfare impact. Assessments of these stages are beyond the scope of the current assessment. ▪ Traps are checked daily and that water is provided. Although preferred, it is not always possible to provide access to food or shade. Removing trapped horses from the trap yard every day reduces overcrowding and associated stresses. ▪ The traps could be operating over several days to allow horses to accumulate in the confined area.
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PART A: assessment of overall welfare impact



SCORE FOR PART A:	5
Summary of evidence:	Note: The decision on impact grades reported here are those that were reached by the majority of the panel. Some of the domains were graded higher by one of the invited panel members. These assessments were done at the first meeting of the panel, at subsequent meetings consensus was reached on all impact grades.
Domain 1	There would be no impact in this domain if adequate food and water are provided in the trap and the trapped horses accept the feed and water. Salt licks are usually used as an attractant. There is a risk that hay or other palatable forage might not be recognised as feed. Also, some traps may not have adequate feed for all animals. Some horses will be reluctant to enter gates despite being denied access at their normal water source.
Domain 2	Some traps may not provide enough shade for all horses to have access.
Domain 3	Although it is assumed that the yard is large enough to avoid overcrowding and that each horse has enough space to avoid social stress, there is a potential for unfamiliar horses to be trapped together prior to being drafted off into separate holding yards. Enforcing a new social structure on horses and confining them with strange horses can cause injury e.g. trapping stallions together can result in aggressive interactions and serious injuries.
Domain 4	Animals that used to be free-roaming are now enclosed in a yard therefore some aspects of their behaviour will be restricted.
Domain 5	Animals are not forced to enter the trap but once they are enclosed, they cannot get out. They are therefore likely to experience mild levels of apprehension and anxiety/fear especially when they are being moved into a holding pen or loaded onto a truck. Previous human contact would be limited.

PART B: assessment of mode of death

Not performed – non-lethal method

Summary

CONTROL METHOD:	Trapping of feral horses
OVERALL HUMANENESS SCORE:	5
Comments There is no published information on the behaviour of horses after being trapped in a yard. It was assumed that horses entering a trap yard at their own pace will be less stressed than those that are forced into the yard by mustering.	

Bibliography