

2016 State Report Card

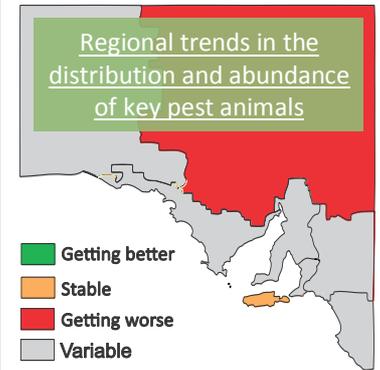
What are the distribution and abundance of pest animals?

Pest animals prey on and compete with our native and agricultural plants and animals, costing Australian industries about \$740 million every year. For example, foxes and cats are efficient hunters of native animals, and rabbits damage crops and habitat for native animals. Pest animals also compete with native animals for water and food. They also foul water in springs and rock-holes, which are also important cultural sites for Aboriginal people. Many of our pest animals are nationally listed as *key threatening processes* due to their environmental impacts.

The most effective way to manage pest animals is to prevent new species from arriving and becoming established.



Regional trends in the distribution and abundance of key pest animals



State target

Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impact of existing pests

Trend (2012–16)

Variable

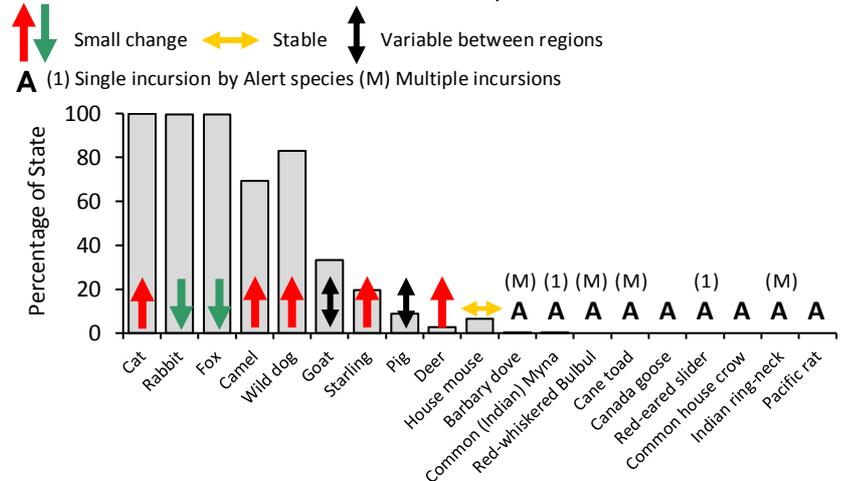
The distributions and abundance of 5 pest animals are increasing, 2 are decreasing, 1 is stable and 2 are variable

The distributions and abundance of some important pest animals are increasing in the SA Arid Lands NRM Region, but the trend is variable elsewhere (map above).

The distributions and abundance of many important pest animals are increasing (arrows in graph). Feral cats, dogs, camels and deer have increased since 2012. Fox and rabbit numbers have decreased as a result of baiting and calicivirus and myxomatosis diseases.

In 2015–16, six pest animals on the [Alert](#) list (non-established) were reported and destroyed in South Australia (graph on right).

Trends in the distribution and abundance of pest animals

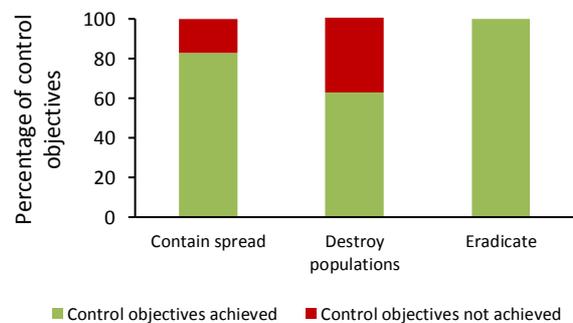


Where we are at (2016)

Poor

Managing pest animals continues to be a complex challenge

Risk assessments set objectives for pest animal control programs. Between 2012–16, the percentage of pest animal programs that met their objectives ranged from 63 to 100 per cent (graph on right). For example, feral deer and goats were eradicated from Kangaroo Island. Some programs met their objectives by containing the spread of pest animals, but this was not the case for carp. Some programs did not meet their objectives, to destroy populations of rabbits, feral deer and feral pigs, but some populations were contained and valuable sites were protected from impacts of these animals.



Reliability of information



Poor. There are insufficient data on the trends in the abundance and distribution of pest animals.

Further information: [Technical information for this report card](#), [Pest animals in South Australia](#)

