2014 Regional Snapshot

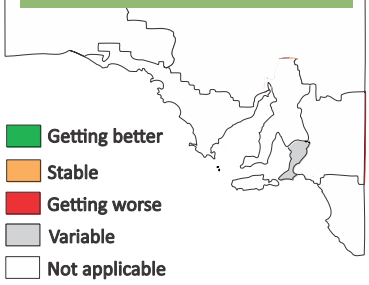
What are the distribution and abundance of pest animals?

Pest animals prey on and compete with our native and agricultural plants and animals. For example, foxes and cats are efficient hunters of native animals, and rabbits damage native animal habitat and reduce agricultural productivity. Foxes, cats and rabbits are nationally listed as *key threatening processes* due to their environmental impacts. In 2009, pest animals were estimated to cost Australia about $740 million every year.

In 2007, about two thirds of agriculture businesses in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region reported pest animal problems and implemented some pest animal control activities.

This report summarises information on the distribution and abundance of pest animals and should be read alongside reports on the management of weeds and pest animals.

Trend in the distribution and abundance of key pest animals



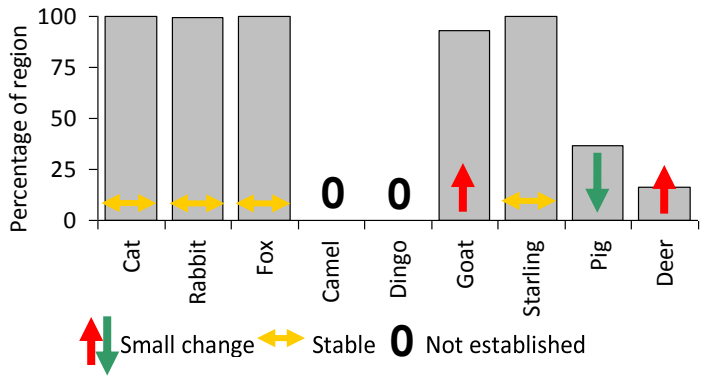
State target

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

Trend (2008–12)	Variable	The trend for key pest animals varies between species: 2 species are increasing, 1 is decreasing, 4 are stable

The trends in the distribution and abundance of key pest animals in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region vary by species (map above, graph to right).

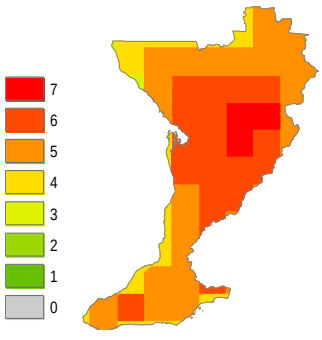
Goat and deer populations are increasing. An infestation of pigs has been managed and pigs are thought to have been eradicated from the NRM region. Other key pest animals are stable (arrows on graph).



Where we are at (2012)	Poor	Managing pest animals continues to be a complex challenge

Key pest animals have been recorded throughout the NRM region. Based on records from 2000-12, cats, foxes, starlings and rabbits have been recorded across the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region and their populations are considered stable. Goats were also recoded in much of the region though they are generally low in abundance (map to right and graph above).

The areas where key pest animals have been recorded (map to right) do not reflect their abundance and do not reflect the impacts of recent control efforts.



The number of key pest animal species recorded in each 10x13 km area, 2000–12

Reliability of information	★☆☆☆☆	Poor, there are insufficient data on the abundance and trends of pest animals

Further information:
Technical information for this report
Pest animals in South Australia

This report is a work in progress. As resource monitoring improves, so too will our ability to describe trends in condition.

Government of South Australia