

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 90 per cent of pastoral businesses in the SA Arid Lands 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)

Getting Better

The trend for key pest animals varies between species: 2 species are decreasing, 2 are stable, 5 are unknown

In the SA Arid Lands NRM region, the trends in the distribution and abundance of key pest animals vary by species, but are improving for 2 pests (map above).

The distribution and abundance of camels and pigs are decreasing in the region (arrows on graph). The trends in the distribution and abundance of cats, rabbits, foxes, and dingoes are unknown.



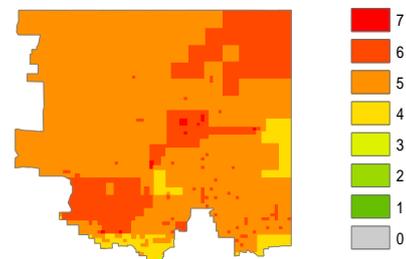
Where we are at (2012)

Poor

Managing pest animals continues to be a complex challenge

Based on records from 2000-12, cats, rabbits, and foxes have been recorded throughout the SA Arid Lands NRM region (map to right and graph above). Camels occupy significant areas of the region and their distribution and abundance are decreasing due to control efforts. Dingoes have been recorded over most of the region, but are only considered a pest south of the dog fence. Pigs have been recorded in the North East pastoral district, between Olary and the NSW border.

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](#)