

2014 Regional Snapshot

What are the distribution and abundance of pest animals?

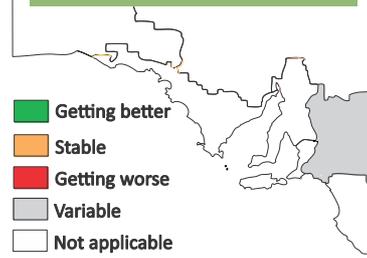
Pest animals prey on and compete with our native and agricultural plants and animals. For example, foxes and cats are efficient hunters of native animals, and rabbits damage native animal habitat and reduce agricultural productivity. Foxes, cats and rabbits are nationally listed as *key threatening processes* 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 SA Murray-Darling Basin 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.

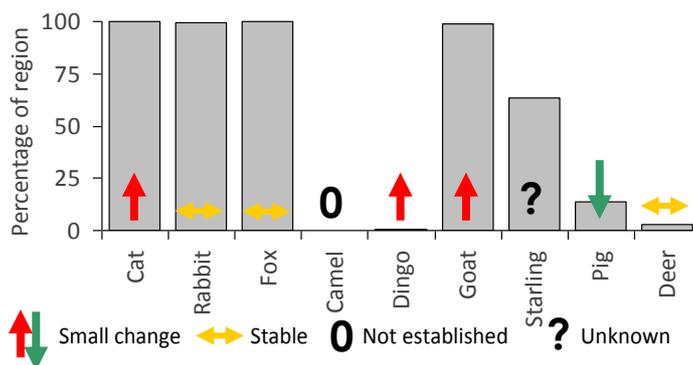
Trend (2008–12)

Variable

The trend for key pest animals varies between species: 3 species are increasing, 1 is decreasing, 3 are stable and 1 is unknown

In the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region, trends in the distribution and abundance of key pest animals vary by species (map above, graph to right).

The distribution and abundance of cats and goats are increasing in the region, despite a considerable number of goats being killed annually (arrows on graph). Rabbit and fox populations are stable due to ripping and baiting, and pigs are decreasing due to control efforts in the Riverland.



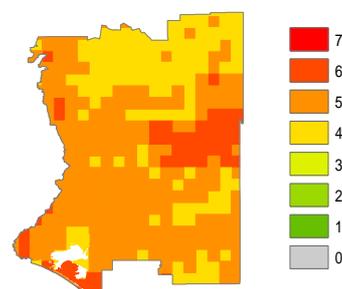
Where we are at (2012)

Poor

Managing pest animals continues to be a complex challenge

Based on records from 2000-12, cats, rabbits, foxes and goats have been recorded throughout the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region (map on right and graph above). In 2012, pigs occupied 12 per cent of the NRM region.

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](#)