

New incursions of invasive species



South Australia's environmental trend and condition report cards 2023

Biodiversity | Terrestrial



Trend
Unknown



Condition
Unknown



Reliability
Fair

PRESSURE

Trend

Insufficient information is available to determine a trend in the number of new incursions of terrestrial invasive species.

This assessment is of new incursions of terrestrial weeds and pest animals reported by the general public and land managers from 2018 to 2022.

The 3 years with the highest number of incursions (2018, 2021 and 2022) were influenced by high numbers of bird reports (top figure). Fluctuations observed year to year for pest animal incursions can be largely attributed to targeted campaigns for red-whiskered bulbuls in 2018, and for Alexandrine parakeets (bottom figure) in 2021 and 2022. The increase in incursions since 2019 could be a result of these campaigns or incursion numbers may be increasing.

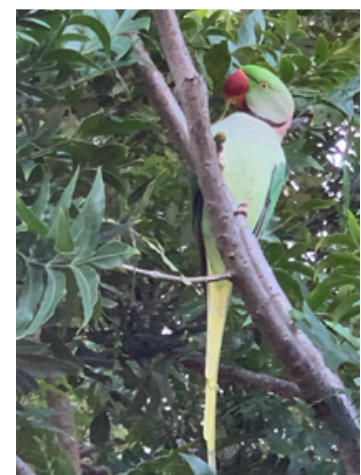
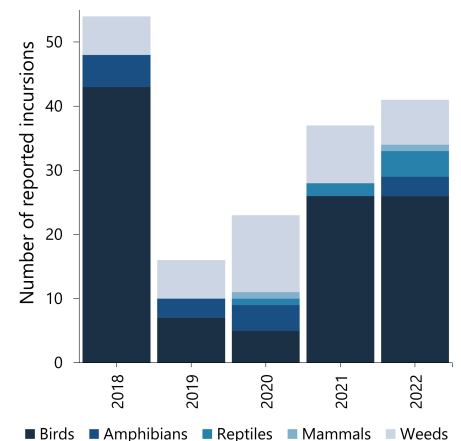
Incursion reports for weeds are not as reliable as those for pest animals. The number of incursions for a pest animal can be measured by the number of individual animals observed. Each weed incursion report is only considered as a single incursion, whether it is for one plant, multiple plants or occupies a large area.

Condition

At a statewide scale, the current condition of terrestrial invasive species incursions is unknown.

In 2022, 7 incursions of non-established weeds and 34 incursions of non-established pest animals were reported across South Australia. More than half of the reports were for birds, including 11 Alexandrine parrots and 13 Indian ringnecks.

In 2022, 41 new incursions of terrestrial invasive species were reported, but there is insufficient information to determine a trend.



Why is managing terrestrial invasive species important?

Invasive species kill and compete with crops, pasture, livestock, and native flora and fauna; carry and spread diseases; reduce the value of our natural and built areas, including areas of cultural significance; and impact the structure and function of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Since 1960, invasive species have cost Australia more than \$389 billion in impacts and management. Each year landholders spend on average more than \$11,000 on weed and pest animal control.

What are the drivers?

There is an ongoing risk that new invasive species could form established populations in South Australia. Human activities including travel, transportation of freight, legal pets and illegal trade enable new weeds and pest animals to enter South Australia. Many factors can alter the ability of a species to form an established population, e.g. climate change. Adequate prevention, incursion detection and eradication measures are required to prevent the establishment of invasive species. Prevention, early detection and intervention are the most cost-effective investments in biosecurity.

What is being done?

In the event of a new detection, management activities for non-established terrestrial invasive species include monitoring, regulating high-risk species, and developing response measures (e.g. eradication or containment). Terrestrial invasive species are managed through environment legislation, and biosecurity policies.

Targeted campaigns have been used for known species of concern. Observations of incursions of terrestrial weeds and pest animals are reported through the national pest alert hotline on 1800 084 881.

For further information see: [technical information](#)



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