2014 Regional Snapshot

Are control programs focused on high priority weeds and pest animals?

Weeds compete with native plants and damage native animal habitat and agriculture land. In 2004 it was estimated that weeds cost Australia over $4 billion every year in management and lost agricultural production.

Pest animals prey on and compete with native animals and livestock, and damage native vegetation, landscapes and agricultural businesses. In 2009, it was estimated that pest animals cost Australia over $740 million every year.

It is not feasible to eradicate all weeds or pest animals in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region. Risk management is used to minimise their impacts. Risk management helps to coordinate and prioritise control efforts and investments to protect the environment, agricultural production and public health and safety.

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

State target

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

Trend	Getting better	Risk assessments have been completed to help prioritise weeds and pest animals for control

To prioritise pest species for management, staff from the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region use the SA Weed and Pest Animal Risk Management Guides, which were developed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA. These guides recommend management actions based on assessments of the risks posed by each pest species and the feasibility to contain them.

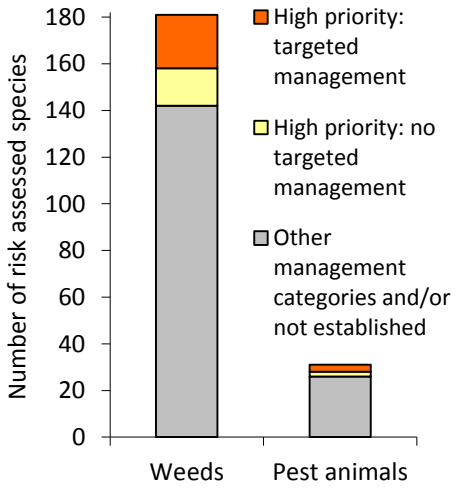
Where we are at (2013)	Good	Risk assessments have been completed for 181 weeds and 31 pest animals

For the purpose of this report, a weed or pest animal is considered a high priority for control if risk assessments conclude that it should be eradicated, destroyed or contained. Of the high-risk weeds and pest animals, the number that are monitored or controlled gives an indication of the extent to which risk management is used.

Staff from the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region have assessed 181 weeds. Based on those assessments, 39 established weeds rank as high priorities for management (eradicated, destroyed or contained), and 23 of those are monitored and controlled (graph on right).

Staff have also assessed 31 pest animals. Based on those assessments, 5 established pests rank as high priorities for management (eradicated, destroyed or contained), and of those 3 are monitored and controlled.

Some of the other management categories include limited action if a species poses a low risk, and protect sites by managing the weed or pest animal if it poses a high risk but is not feasible to contain (such as false caper or foxes), management of their impacts may still be required to protect high-priority natural resources.



Reliability of information	★★★★★	Excellent

Further information:
Technical information for this report
South Australia Weed Risk Management Guide
South Australia Pest Animal Risk Assessment Guide

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