

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 agricultural land. In 2004 it was estimated that weeds cost Australia over \$4 billion every year in management and lost agricultural production.

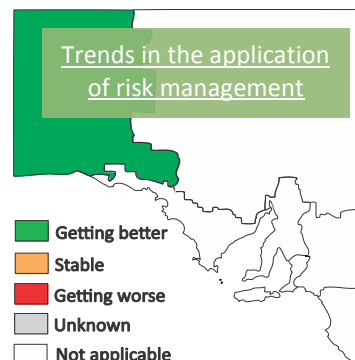
Pest animals prey on and compete with native animals and livestock, and damage native vegetation, landscapes and agricultural businesses. In 2009, it was estimated that pest animals cost Australia over \$740 million every year.

It is not feasible to eradicate all weeds or pest animals in the Alinytjara Wilurara 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.



Trends in the application of risk management



State target

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

Trend

Getting better

Natural Resource Management staff prioritise weed and pest animal management activities

To prioritise pest species for management, staff from the Alinytjara Wilurara 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 risks posed by a pest species and feasibility to contain it.

Where we are at (2013)

Good

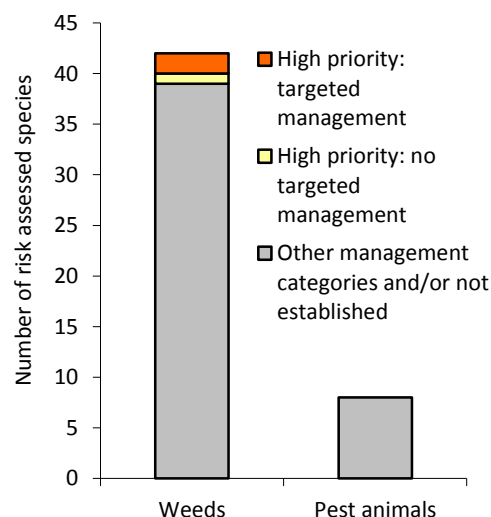
Risk assessments have been completed for 42 weeds and 8 pest animals

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 Alinytjara Wilurara NRM region have assessed 42 weeds. Based on those assessments, 3 established weeds rank as high priorities for management (eradicated, destroyed or contained), and of those 2 are monitored and controlled.

Staff have also assessed 8 pest animals; while some species were considered high risk they were not ranked as a priority to be eradicated, destroyed or contained because the cost of containment is too high (such as camels). These species are managed through localised control activities that protect natural or built assets.

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 camels 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](#)