

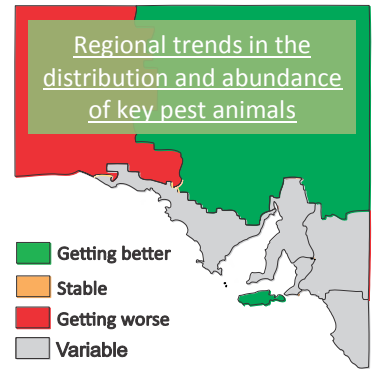
# 2013 State Report Card

## 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 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.

The most effective way to manage pest animals is to prevent new species from arriving and becoming established. No new pest animals have established new populations in South Australia in several years.

From 2011 to 2013, four new pest animals were detected by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA. These were either found dead or quickly destroyed, with the exception of a single bird (a red-whiskered bulbul).



**State target**  
Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impact of existing pests

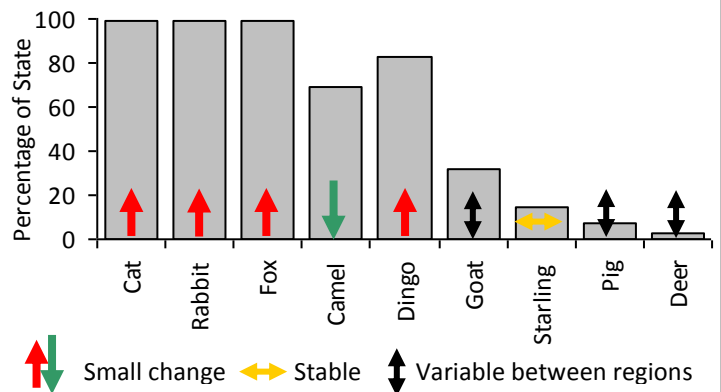
Trend (2008–12)

Variable

The trend for key pest animals varies between species: 4 species are increasing, 1 is decreasing, 1 is stable and 3 are variable

The distribution and abundance of some key pest animals are improving in some regions (map above), however the trend in many areas is variable.

In general, the distribution and abundance of key pest predators including cat, fox and dingo are increasing (arrows in graph). Rabbit numbers are increasing in many areas as they develop resistance to calicivirus and myxomatosis, and camels are decreasing due to control efforts.



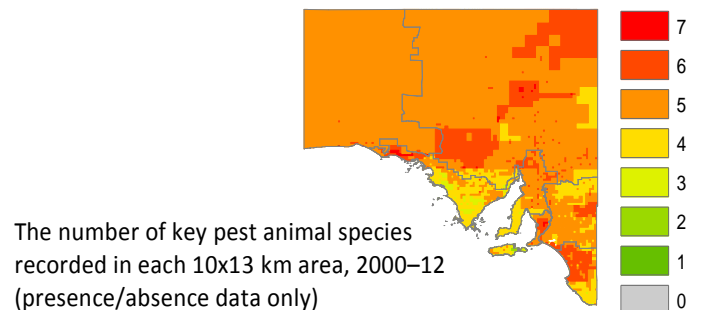
Where we are at (2012)

Poor

Managing pest animals continues to be a complex challenge

Key pest animals have been recorded throughout the State. Cats occupy all parts of South Australia while foxes and rabbits have been recorded everywhere except Kangaroo Island (map to right and graph above).

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.



Reliability of information



Poor. There are insufficient data on the abundance and trends of pest animals.

Further information:

[Technical information for this report card](#), [Pest animals in South Australia](#)