

Land: invasive species

Abundance and distribution of established invasive species

SA trend and condition report card 2020



STATEWIDE



Trend
Stable



Condition
Fair



Reliability
Poor

Trend

Overall, the trend in the abundance and distribution of established invasive plants and animals is stable.

This report card assesses the abundance and distribution, between 2015 and 2019, of 23 nationally important invasive plants and animals that are established in South Australia.

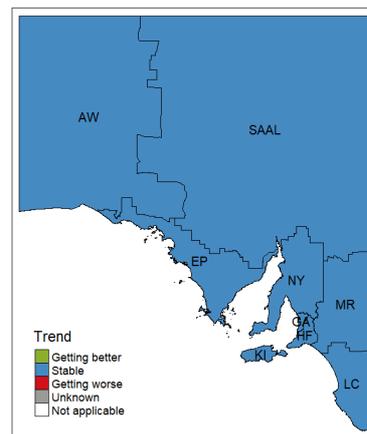
Feral deer numbers continue to increase in Hills and Fleurieu (HF), Murraylands and Riverland (MR), and Limestone Coast (LC). As of 2019, landholders are required to cull all feral deer in an effort to reduce the deer's environmental, economic and social impacts. Buffel grass has also increased in Alinytjara Wilurara (AW), Northern and Yorke (NY), and South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL). It has spread from being planted for pasture, mine rehabilitation and erosion control across much of northern and inland Australia. Buffel grass forms dense monocultures that displace native vegetation. Bushfires have severely affected numbers of feral pigs on Kangaroo Island (KI). Targeted pest control is currently under way to manage the remaining pigs.

Condition

The condition of established invasive species is rated as fair.

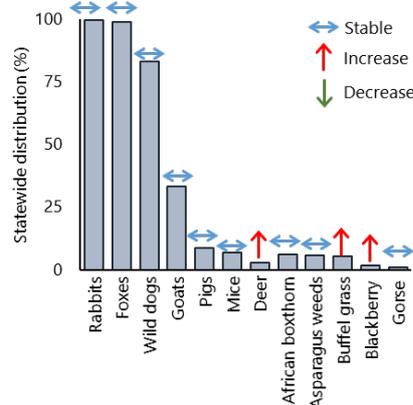
Invasive species are currently having a moderate impact on the environmental, social and economic values of natural resources in South Australia. On average, South Australian land managers spend between \$10,000 and \$40,000 on weed and pest management.

Education, community awareness and management programs have led to local reduction in feral goats and gorse. Ongoing efforts are needed to prevent further increases in the abundance, distribution and impact of other invasive species.



The trend of established invasive species is stable in South Australia.

Trends in the abundance and distribution of key species (2015-19)



Why are land invasive species a problem?

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 affect the structure and function of ecosystems and native biodiversity. Some weeds also increase the intensity and heat of bushfires.

Each year, weeds cost the Australian economy \$4 billion, and pest animals cost \$720 million in control measures and lost production.

What are the pressures?

Pest animals and weeds have dispersed beyond their natural range and become established naturally or by human activity, either deliberate or accidental. With increasing trade, transport and development, the risk of new incursions is high.

Invasive species distribution and abundance can change in response to climate, fire, land clearance, and land management and farming practices.

What is being done?

Regional programs seek to manage established invasive pest animals and weeds, and prevent new ones from establishing.

Management and control methods are tailored for each species in line with current threats and opportunities. These methods may include community education, support for on-ground works, coordinated shooting or removal of pest animals, and chemical treatment of weeds.

For further information, see [Technical information](#)



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