

# Declared Animal Policy

*This policy relates to natural resources management, as per section 9(1)(d) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (the Act), enabling co-ordinated implementation and promotion of sound management programs and practices for the use, development or protection of natural resources of the State. Specifically, this policy provides guidance on the use and management of natural resources relating to the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of animals/plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community, in accordance with section 7(1)(f) of the Act.*

## New and emerging introduced animals

This policy summarises the requirements to manage new and emerging introduced animals under the following legislative instruments: *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the LSA Act), *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020* (the General Regulations, the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#), and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*'s [List of Specimens Taken to be Suitable for Live Import](#). This policy provides interpretation and recommended best practice on how legislative requirements can be met.

### Preamble

There is an ongoing risk that new and emerging introduced (i.e. exotic/non-native) animals could form established populations in South Australia. Adequate prevention, incursion detection and eradication measures are required to prevent the establishment of introduced animals that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community in South Australia. Prevention, early detection and intervention are the most cost-effective investments in biosecurity.

Following the national [Guidelines for the Import, Movement and Keeping of Non-indigenous Vertebrates in Australia](#), South Australia has implemented a managed risk approach for the import, movement and keeping of introduced animals. A similar approach is used to determine the risk posed by animals that have been imported by accident.

This policy covers introduced animals not present in South Australia, but which may or may not be present in other States, and introduced animals that are kept in captivity. This policy does not cover introduced animals that have established populations in the wild within South Australia. This policy covers mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, but does not cover fish (excluded by regulation from the LSA Act). The policy also covers inter- or intra-specific hybrids of introduced animals.

This policy outlines the framework used for the management of new and emerging introduced animals in South Australia. The primary mechanism for the management of new and emerging introduced animals is the LSA Act through the List of Declared Animals.

### Purpose

To reduce and eradicate incursions of introduced animals to prevent them from establishing populations in the wild.

## Objectives

- Regulate the movement and keeping of introduced animals to prevent incursions into the wild.
- Detect and eradicate incursions of new and emerging introduced animals.

## Pest risks of new introduced vertebrates

Animals introduced into Australia can establish wild populations that impact agriculture and forestry by damaging crops, plantation and livestock industries. Introduced animals can impact on Australian native species and ecosystems through resource competition and predation, and can act as pathways and reservoirs for diseases. Introduced animals also have social and psychological effects on individuals and communities following predation of livestock and pets, and following damage to physical infrastructure and sites of cultural significance.

The risk posed by introduced animals is categorised as extreme, serious, moderate, or low (Bomford 2003), depending on the risks posed to public safety, establishment in the wild and the potential to become a pest. When these animals are livestock, common pets, avicultural birds or other animals which are common in captivity, some of the strategies recommended in the national guidelines are not required for practical, economic and social reasons. **Where an introduced animal has not been assessed, the precautionary approach is taken to categorise that animal as extreme (provisional), and management strategies are implemented.**

## Feasibility of Containment

The prevention, early detection and eradication of newly introduced animals are the most cost-effective methods to long term control of pest species (Fig. 1). Removal of newly emerging populations has been demonstrated to be a better strategy than the reduction of well-established species.

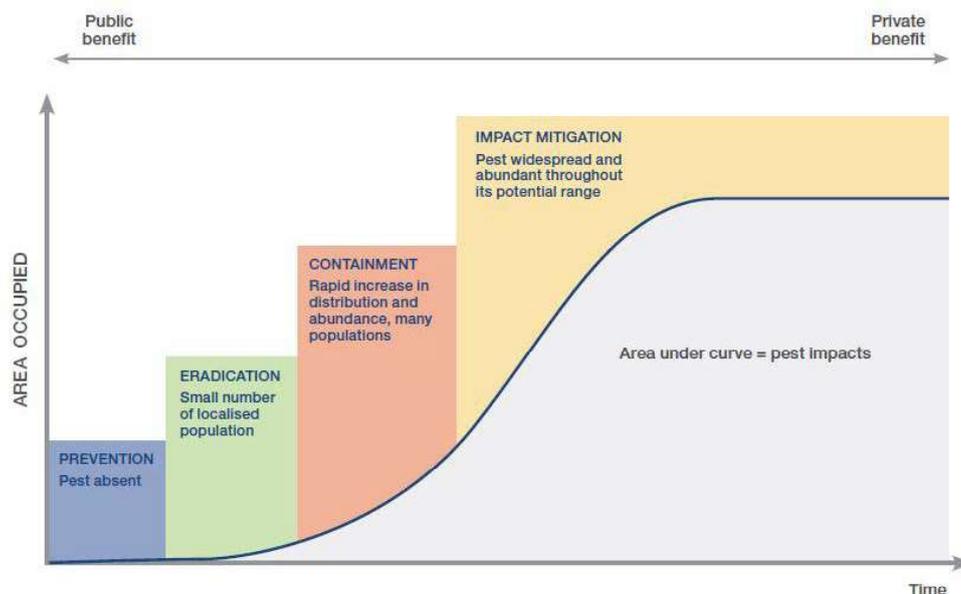


Figure 1: Generalised invasion curve indicating the four stages of an invasion – prevention, eradication, containment and impact-mitigation.

## Monitoring effectiveness

The implementation of management strategies will reduce the number of incursions and the number of introduced animals that establish new populations in the wild, because the strategies will improve:

- Surveillance to detect incursions;
- Reporting of incursions;
- Responses to incursions; and
- Compliance with keeping, sale and movement requirements for introduced animals.

The most common detections of introduced animals are by members of the community, who either report them to regional landscape boards, the National Pest Alert Hotline 1800-084-881 or Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), Biosecurity Division. The number of reports, and the number of animals within each of these reports, provides useful information on the effectiveness of the management strategies. For example, Fig. 2 shows that a targeted response to an incursion by an introduced animal increases the number of reports received.

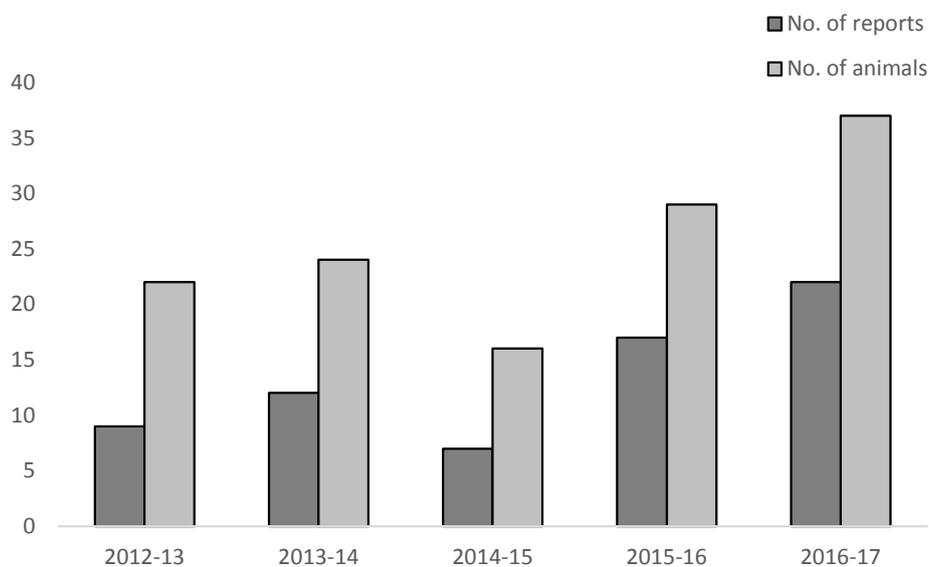


Figure 2: Number of reports and animals of new pest animals in South Australia. Reports increased in 2015-16 and 2016-17 due to a red-whiskered bulbul incursion response in 2016, where increased survey effort located birds that may not have otherwise been reported.

## **Best Practice Implementation of management actions for new and emerging introduced animals**

Preventing and managing incursions of new and emerging introduced animals relies on coordinated action from all stakeholders. PIRSA Biosecurity, the Department for Environment and Water and the regional landscape boards prepare for and enact responses in the prevention, early detection and control of introduced animals. Landholders, industry and community groups, and individuals who hold permits to keep introduced animals share this responsibility and assist in these responses. Penalties apply for non-compliance with the LSA Act and maximum penalties are often greater for new and emerging animals than for established pest animals.

PIRSA and regional landscape boards oversee programs and activities to prevent incursions of introduced animals by:

PIRSA (delegated by the Minister to administer and control permits)

- Regulating the import of introduced animals;
- Providing oversight and coordination for emergency responses to incursions of introduced animals;
- Maintaining a database of incursions of introduced animals, and reporting these to the relevant national body;

Regional landscape boards

- Developing and implementing regional management strategies for new pest animal incursions, outlining procedures and stakeholder responsibilities;

PIRSA and regional landscape boards

- Managing the keeping, movement and sale of introduced animals through the issue of permits and conducting regular audits to ensure compliance with permit conditions;
- Engaging with and providing advice to local governments, industry, community groups and the public;
- Recording, monitoring and responding to reports of new detections of introduced animals;
- Supporting national policies and programs related to the prevention and management of new incursions;
- Facilitating research into improving systems and tools, which support better prevention, detection and eradication approaches; and
- Using local and regional networks to gather information on the illegal keeping, release or escape of introduced animals.

Landholders, industry and community groups, and individuals who hold permits for the keeping of introduced animals share responsibility through:

- Understanding legislative responsibilities, in particular relating to the possession, movement, sale, release, control or destruction of introduced animals; and
- playing a regional surveillance role, and reporting introduced animals detected through illegal keeping, release or escape to their regional landscape board, [PIRSA](#), or the [National Pest Alert Hotline](#).

### **Declarations for new and emerging introduced animals**

Introduced animals in South Australia are declared under the LSA Act. The following sections of the LSA Act apply to introduced animals that are not established in South Australia, that is, animals in Classes 1-4. For specific sub-sections, refer to the [List of Declared Animals](#). Other classes refer to introduced animals such as livestock, pets or introduced animals that already have established wild populations.

Class	Declared Area (& Category)	Sections of the Act							
		186 – Movement of animals	187 – Possession of animals	188 – Sale of animals	189 – Offense to release animal	190 – Notification of presence	191 – Requirement to control	192 – Owner to take action to destroy or control	194 – Landscape boards may recover certain costs
Class 1	Whole of the State (1)								
Class 2	Whole of the State (1)								
Class 3	Whole of the State (2)								
Class 4	Whole of the State (3)								

Class 1 includes introduced animals of high invasive potential, as well as all other introduced animals not listed in any other class.

The category of an animal reflects its risk status, be that for its impact on the environment, the economy or public safety. Different penalties for breach of provisions under the LSA Act apply to the different categories.

The import, keeping and movement of introduced animals may be subject to regulation under national legislation such as the Commonwealth’s [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) and [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 List of Specimens Taken to be Suitable for Live Import](#).

The [National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement](#) provides the mechanism for cost-shared national incursion responses of new introduced animals.

### Review of the policy

This policy is to be reviewed by PIRSA by 2025 or in the event of a change in one or more regional management plans for introduced animals.

The review will evaluate:

- Whether the management strategies were implemented.
- Whether the numbers of reported incursions into the wild decreased between 2020 and 2025.
- Whether the number of new established populations of introduced animals decreased between 2020 and 2025.
- Whether there were any unintended consequences from the managed risk approach implemented by South Australia.

### References

Bomford, M (2003) *Risk assessment for the import and keeping of exotic vertebrates in Australia*. (Bureau of Rural Science, Canberra).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Speirs', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

**DAVID SPEIRS MP**

**Minister for Environment and Water**

27/07/2021