Guidelines for the application for a Permit to move a Category 1 and 2 Declared Animal under the *Landscape South Australia Act* *2019*

October 2021

Guidelines for the application for a Permit to move a Category 1 or 2 Declared Animal under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019

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# Objective

Non-native animals pose a range of risks to the South Australian economy, environment and the wider community. The primary objective of regulating the movement of high-risk non-native animals in South Australia is to ensure that appropriate standards of risk management and animal welfare are implemented, in order to mitigate the risks of the animal(s) being moved.

These guidelines were developed to assist people and organisations who hold permits to keep or possess Category 1 or 2 Declared Animals (hereafter Declared Animal) under the *Landscape South Australia Act (2019)* (LSA Act), by providing guidance on the procedure for applying for a permit to move.

These guidelines also outline the decision-making process that PIRSA undertakes to assess the risks associated with each permit to move application.

# Background

**Declared Animals**

In accordance with a national risk management approach recommended by the Natural Resources Management Standing Committee, the Government of South Australia restricts the keeping (possession), movement and sale of certain non-native (introduced) vertebrate animals because of their potential threats to agriculture, the environment and public safety.

The [List of Declared Animals and Plants](https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/231924/animal-declaration-list-august-2021.pdf) (pursuant to section 185 of the LSA Act) lists the provisions of the LSA Act that apply to each species.

**Permits to move a Declared Animal**

A permit is required to move any animal where section 186 of the LSA Act is listed against that animal in the [List of Declared Animals and Plants](https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/231924/animal-declaration-list-august-2021.pdf). A permit to move may be issued based on the information provided by the applicant, the proposed movement activity, the risk of the proposed movement activity and the ability of the permit holder to manage the risks associated with moving a Declared Animal(s).

A permit can only be approved by the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water (the Chief Executive) or a delegate thereof.

**Decision to issue a permit**

Decisions on the import, keeping and movement of Declared Animals have been delegated to PIRSA Biosecurity Division by the Chief Executive. The PIRSA delegate makes decisions on whether a permit should be granted taking into consideration advice from the PIRSA Biosecurity Officer. This decision is based on the species’ potential impacts on the environment, the economy, and on social values, including public safety.

The risks of keeping non-native species of high pest potential are managed by ensuring that permits are only issued to facilities that demonstrate high standards of security, staff expertise, housing and animal management, and those that provide a benefit to the community through education.

Decisions on permit applications must be compliant with relevant legislation and consistent with international and national agreements and conventions, including but not limited to, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity and the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement. Decisions also need to be based on risk assessment and risk management protocol at both the [Australian Government](https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/06/VPCGuidelinesJan14.pdf) and jurisdictional levels.

**Fees**

Permit fees are set in accordance with the *Landscape South Australia (Fees) Notice 2021.*

**Right of appeal**

A person who has applied for a permit under Section 197 of the LSA Act may appeal to the Environment, Resources and Development Court against a decision of the relevant authority to refuse the application, or to impose conditions.

# Application and permit assessment process

# 1. Application form to move a Declared Animal

The application form to move a Declared Animal is included as Appendix 1.

Before a permit to move a Declared Animal can be issued, a movement application form is required to be completed by the permit holder or nominated authority of the permit holder. The form needs to be submitted to the [PIRSA Biosecurity Officer](mailto:Kate.Fielder@sa.gov.au). The application form provides the PIRSA Biosecurity Officer with the information required to assess the risks inherent to the proposed movement.

The movement application form requests:

* applicant name and institution
* movement to and from (name of organisations, address of organisations)
* information about the animal(s) (species name, how many, sex, individual identifier)
* proposed date of transfer
* transport details (mode of transport, containment type, security of container)
* any other relevant information that may impact a risk assessment (e.g. animal not of breeding age or animal de-sexed)
* any policies associated with this movement

The information allows the PIRSA Biosecurity Officer to assess the risk of the proposed movement activity based on the criteria below, to provide sound advice to the delegate on whether the permit should be approved or not.

# 2. Risk Assessment of movement

When the PIRSA Biosecurity Officer receives an application to move a Declared Animal, they will assess the risk posed by the proposed movement. This risk assessment will inform the PIRSA Biosecurity Officer’s recommendation to the delegate on whether a permit should be issued and whether specific conditions are required. The PIRSA Biosecurity Officer will assess the risks by addressing several questions.

**Question 1: Is the receiving institution allowed to keep this species?**

* The PIRSA Biosecurity Officer will check the receiving institution’s permit possess category 1 or 2 declared animals to determine whether the species is listed on their permit and whether there are any conditions.
* **If the receiving institution is not permitted to keep this species, a permit to move will not be issued. This decision and the reason for, will be communicated to the requesting organisation.**
* **If the receiving institution is allowed to keep this species, the risk assessment will proceed to question 2.**

**Question 2: Will the animal be adequately contained?**

* Using the information provided, husbandry manuals and International Air Transport Association guidelines, the PIRSA Biosecurity Officer will assess whether the animal(s) will be securely contained during the transport.
* **If the animal containment is not considered secure the movement is considered an extreme risk and a permit to move is not issued.** **This decision and the reason for, will be communicated to the requesting organisation.**
* **If the animal is being adequately contained, the risk assessment will proceed to question 3**.

**Question 3: Is the species listed as highly dangerous?**

* This question is based on the species National Risk Assessment Stage A1: Risk to people from individual escapees.
* If this species has not been risk assessed the PIRSA Biosecurity Officer will decide the Public Safety Risk Score based on the question asked in the National Risk Assessment (Bomford, 2008[[1]](#footnote-2)).
  + A1: Risk to people from individual escapees (0-2)

Assess the risk that individuals of the species could harm people. (NB, this question only relates to aggressive behaviour shown by escaped or released individual animals). Aggressive behaviour, size, plus the possession of organs capable of inflicting harm, such as sharp teeth, claws, spines, a sharp bill, or toxin-delivering apparatus may enable individual animals to harm people. Any known history of the species attacking, injuring or killing people should also be taken into account. Assume the individual is not protecting nest or young. Choose one of the following:

* + - Animal that sometimes attacks when unprovoked and/or is capable of causing serious injury (requiring hospitalisation) or fatality = 2
    - Animal that can make unprovoked attacks causing moderate injury (requiring medical attention) or severe discomfort but if highly unlikely (few if any records) to cause serious injury (requiring hospitilisation) if unprovoked OR animal that is unlikely to make an unprovoked attack but which can cause serious injury (requiring hospitilisation) or fatality if cornered or handled = 1
    - All other animals posing a lower risk of harm to people (ie animals that will not make unprovoked attacks causing injury requiring medical attention, and which, even if cornered or handled, are unlikely to cause injury requiring hospitalisation) = 0
* Once this question has been answered, the score will determine the risk category. A score of 0 = Not dangerous, a score of 1 = Moderately dangerous and a score of 2= Highly dangerous. The PIRSA Biosecurity Officer will document the reasons.
* **If the species being transported is considered highly dangerous, a permit to move may only be issued if PIRSA has received a copy of an approved policy (or other documentation) addressing the escape – destruction of any escapees, from the organisation who is transporting the animal.**
* **If the species is not considered as highly dangerous, the risk assessment will proceed to question 4**.

**Question 4: Could the individual breed in the wild?**

* This question is about the individuals being transported, and not the species in general. For example: an entire male and entire female of breeding age could potentially breed in the wild. A single animal of most species could not breed in the wild, but the risk of breeding with closely related species is also considered.
* **If the animal(s) being transported cannot breed in the wild, the movement will be evaluated as Low risk and a permit to move will be issued.**
* **If the animal(s) can breed in the wild, the risk assessment will proceed to question 5.**

**Question 5: What threat category has this species been given in the** [**Australian List of Threat Categories of Non-indigenous Vertebrates**](https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/06/EIC-OOS-2019-02-Att-A-Vertebrate-Threat-Categories-List.pdf)**?**

* If the species has not been formally risk assessed, species are given the Extreme (provisional) category.
* **If the species is listed as Low risk, a permit to move is issued.**
* **If the species is listed as Moderate, High, Extreme or Extreme (provisional), the movement is considered Medium risk and a permit may only be issued if PIRSA has received a copy of an approved policy (or other documentation) addressing the escape – recapture of any escapees, from the organisation who is transporting the animal.**

# Decision and issuing of permit

Once the PIRSA Biosecurity Officer has risk assessed the application they will make a recommendation to the PIRSA delegate of the Chief Executive on whether a permit should be granted with the reasoning behind the decision. The PIRSA delegate will make the final decision on whether or not to issue the permit.

If the decision is made to not issue a permit, an email will be sent to the requesting organisation. This email will detail why the permit will not be issued and what additional information the requesting organisation may need to provide in order to get a permit issued.

If the delegate of the Chief Executive agrees to issue the permit, based on the PIRSA Biosecurity Officer’s recommendation, the permit will be signed and emailed to the requesting organisation. Only once the signed permit has been received by the requesting organisation can the movement go ahead.

# Appendix 1.

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# Application form for a permit to move a Category 1 or 2 Declared Animal

Complete the below fields and submit to the PIRSA: [Biosecurity Officer](mailto:Kate.Fielder@sa.gov.au) with any relevant transportation policies.

Applicant Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Moving from (name and address):Click or tap here to enter text.

Moving to (name and address):Click or tap here to enter text.

Animal details:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number / Sex | Common name | Scientific name | Individual Identifier(s) |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Transport Details:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mode of transport (car/plane) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Containment type (eg. Pet pack, wooden crate) – Attached pictures welcomed | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Extra security (eg. zip tie, padlock, trained firearm operator) | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Any other relevant information that may inform the risk assessment for moving this animal(s) e.g.: Male castrated

Click or tap here to enter text.

Policies attached  or name of policy previously provided: Click or tap here to enter text.

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Is this a movement for medical procedure?

1. Bomford, M. (2008) Risk Assessment Models for Establishment of Exotic Vertebrates in Australia and New Zealand. Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Canberra. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)