

# Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027.

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Last year “The Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027” (APAS) was released, updating the original version from 2007.

The three goals of the strategy are to:

- Prevent the establishment of new pest animal species
- Minimise the impact of established pest animals
- Improve leadership and coordination for the management of pest animals

It’s estimated at least 73 introduced species of vertebrates have established in the wild on mainland Australia—25 mammals, 20 birds, 4 reptiles, one amphibian and at least 23 freshwater fish. Many of those, such as the fox, cat and rabbit have become pests, adversely affecting both biodiversity and agriculture.

A recent conservative estimate puts the impact of pests on the Australian economy at between \$720 million and \$1 billion annually, based primarily on

**There has been at least 73 vertebrates introduced to Australia since the First Fleet**

**A number of those introduced vertebrates have become pests, with an impact on biodiversity and agriculture eg: foxes, cats & rabbits**



natural resource management program



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data from agricultural systems. However due to the limited information available about the economic impact of pests in Australia the true cost across all sectors is likely to be much greater.

On top of the damage caused by pest animals in a production context, they also have a significant impact on Australia's natural environment. Several pest species are implicated in Australia's extinction crisis, with Australia facing the worst mammal extinction rate in the world.

Land managers of both public and private land have various roles and responsibilities, including:

- Detecting and reporting new pest animal occurrences
- Controlling and managing established pest animals on their own properties, especially where required under legislation
- Taking reasonable steps to minimise the impact of pest animals on other landholders, this can include joining Recognised Biosecurity Groups and participating in other collective pest control programs
- Cooperating with and planning pest management activities with their neighbours and government bodies to undertake landscape scale actions
- Using multiple approaches such as chemical, physical and biological to help prevent pest animals adapting to existing controls

The Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027 can be found <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/pests-diseases-weeds/consultation/apas-final.pdf>

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