

Declared Animal Policy

New and emerging introduced animals

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.

This risk is not just a legacy from the past, because introduced animals currently kept in captivity or recently imported could find their way into the wild. 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 accidentally imported.

This policy covers introduced animals not present in South Australia, but which may be present in other States, and introduced animals which are kept in captivity. This policy does not cover introduced animals that have already established populations in the wild. This policy covers mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, but does not cover fish (excluded by regulation from the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* [NRM 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 NRM Act through the List of Declared 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 culturally significant sites.

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 commonly and widely kept 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**, 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.

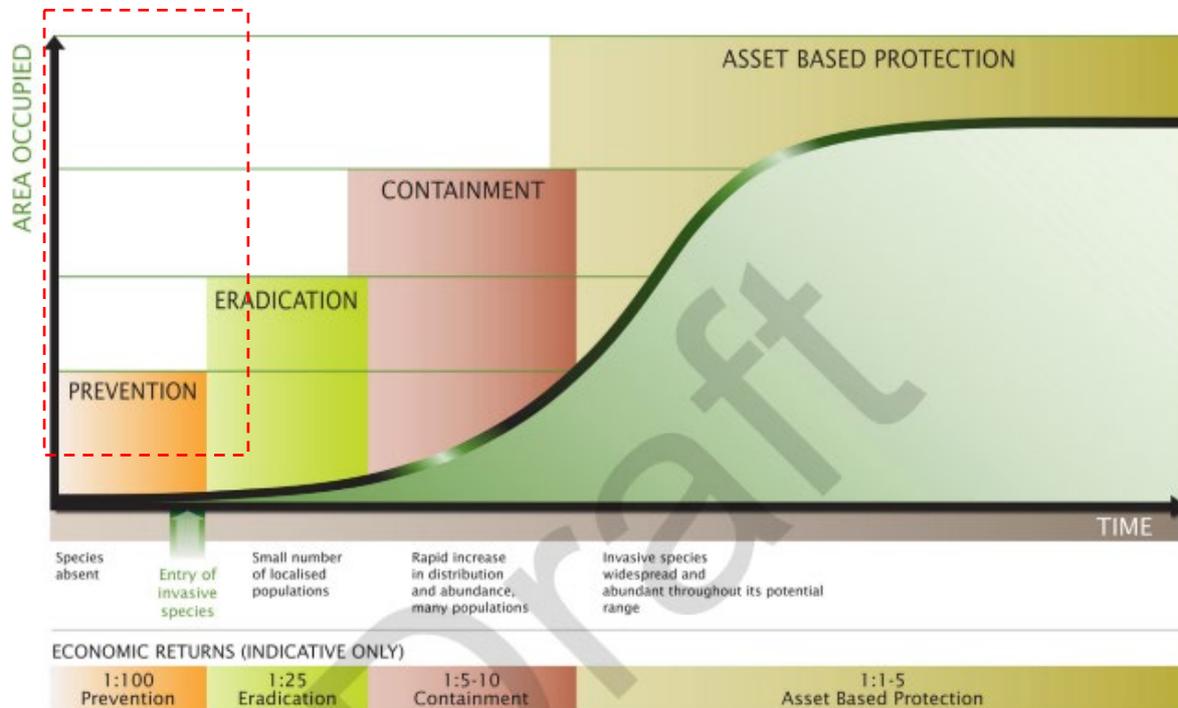


Figure 1: Generalised invasion curve indicating the four stages of an invasion – prevention, eradication, containment and asset-based protection (Source: Victorian Government 2010). The stages of incursion covered by this policy and the economic returns for management at these stages are within the dashed-red box.

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.

Introduced animals are typically detected by members of the community, who either report them to natural resources management (NRM) boards or the National Pest Alert Hotline 1800-084-881. 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.

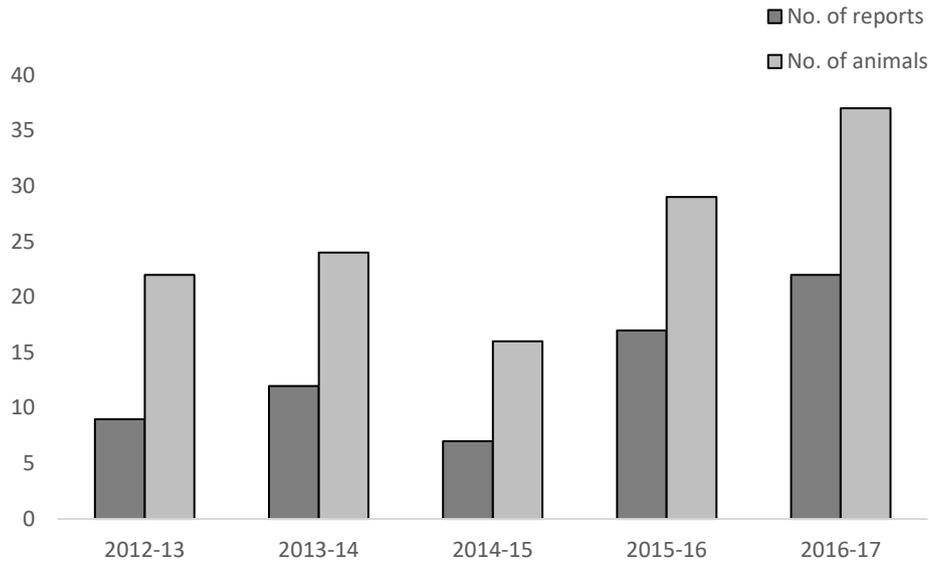


Figure 2: The number of reports and animals of new pest animals in South Australia. Reports increased in 2015-16 and 2016-17 due to a red-whiskered bulbul incursion response, where increased survey effort located birds that may not have otherwise been reported.

Policy statement

Incursions of new and emerging introduced animals increase the risk that new populations will become established in the wild. The strategies outlined in the management plan aim to reduce this risk.

Outcomes

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.

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. Biosecurity SA, the Department for Environment and Water and the NRM 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.

Biosecurity SA and regional NRM boards oversee programs and activities to prevent incursions of introduced animals by:

Class 4	Whole of the State (3)								
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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 NRM 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 [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999's [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 2023 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 2018 and 2023.
- Whether the number of new established populations of introduced animals decreased between 2018 and 2023.
- 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).

Victorian Government (2010) *Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework*, DPI Victoria, Melbourne. <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/protecting-victoria-from-pest-animals-and-weeds/invasive-plants-and-animals/invasive-plants-and-animals-policy-framework>