



ACT
Government

Environment and
Sustainable Development

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ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy

The ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012-2022 (the strategy) will help the ACT reduce the social, environmental and economic damage caused by pest animals. This is necessary to protect biodiversity, primary production and public amenity across the ACT.

The strategy sets out how to manage animals that are already pests in the ACT and those that may invade the Territory, such as rabbits, wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs, European wasps and some introduced fish and freshwater crustaceans.



Native animals such as kangaroos, cockatoos and possums are also capable of causing unacceptable damage to social, environmental or economic resources. The strategy considers how damage may be reduced while protecting the overall conservation status of these native animal populations in the ACT.

The strategy will guide resource allocation to target the species causing the most damage and protect the social, environmental and economic assets of highest value that are at highest risk.

It will be used by governments, land managers, community groups and individuals with responsibility for, or interest in, cost-effective, efficient, humane and enduring pest animal management.

A Pest Animal Management Group will be established under the strategy to coordinate activities across management and policy areas within the ACT Government, and oversee coordinated control programs across the ACT and into NSW.

The strategy was prepared by the ACT Government in consultation with the NSW and Australian governments, researchers, ecologists and community groups. It complies with pest animal, animal welfare and other relevant legislation, and complements regional and national pest animal policies and management initiatives. It builds on the ACT Vertebrate Pest Management Strategy 2002 by including invertebrate pests and management of pest animals in urban areas.

Key objectives

1. Prevent the incursion of new pest animal species and detect and eradicate or contain incursions.
2. Reduce damage caused by established pest animal species.
3. Manage native animals appropriately to achieve damage reduction and conservation.
4. Increase awareness, understanding, coordination and capacity building.





Key principles

1. Pest animals are exotic species that cause unacceptable social, environmental or economic damage.
2. It is essential to seek and understand the attitudes and concerns of the key individuals and groups that have a significant interest in the pest animals.
3. Prevention and early intervention are the most cost-effective management techniques.
4. Management programs should strategically target actual (rather than perceived) pest problems.
5. Pest animal damage should be managed using a whole-of-system approach.
6. Management priorities and resources require a risk management approach.
7. Accurate monitoring and evaluation of management programs is required.
8. Coordination among all levels of government in partnership with industry, land and water managers and the community is required.
9. Native animals may require management for damage reduction but management programs should take into account the value and vulnerability of affected assets and the expected benefits from intervention, with reference to the overall conservation status of the species in the ACT.
10. Effective management requires capacity building across all stakeholder groups.

Pest management

The most cost-effective way to manage pest animals is to prevent their arrival in the first place. Australia has national biosecurity and quarantine initiatives which the ACT supports and implements. If these fail, effective surveillance and action improves the chances of eradicating or containing the species.

The ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012-2022 is integral to this process.

The strategy recommends developing management programs based on a risk management approach. Damage caused by pest animals, or their potential to cause damage, is assessed to determine:

- whether damage levels are unacceptable
- whether a management program for damage reduction is feasible and cost effective
- the highest management priorities.

The strategy describes a range of options available for managing pest animals. Integrated pest management, where several management options are applied, is usually the most effective way to reduce pest animal damage levels.

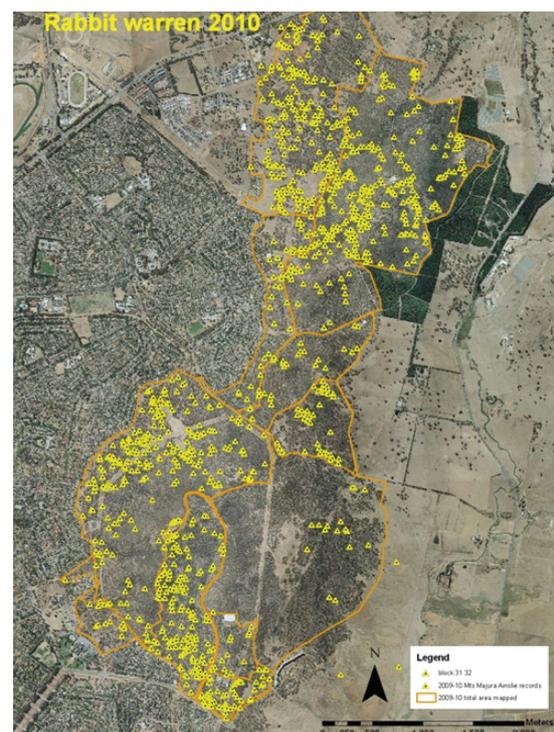
Many pest and native animals that cause damage in the ACT range across different land tenures and into NSW, so coordinated management programs that reduce damage, engage all affected stakeholders, have clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and are well communicated are the most successful.

Management options aim to avoid or minimise the pain, suffering and distress of pests and other non-target animals in accordance with animal welfare legislation and codes of practice.

Community involvement

Many community groups already provide valuable support in managing pests. The ACT Government is keen to increase this involvement by promoting community awareness and understanding of pest and native animal management issues through web-based information, media releases, brochures and signs, and through community engagement.

The ACT Government also facilitates stakeholder communication and cooperation through leadership of, and participation in, stakeholder meetings and coordinated management programs.



Canberra ParkCare groups have assisted in mapping rabbit warrens on Mt Ainslie and Mt Majura