



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Addressing feral cat impacts: progress and priorities

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DCCEEW.gov.au



Acknowledgment of Country

Our department recognises the First Peoples of the nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Looking back 8 years...

...2015

- Environment Ministers declaration
- IA CRC Feral Cat Symposium
 - Topics: Impacts, monitoring, control tools, management strategies and community engagement.
 - High priority future work items:
 - Quantify impacts
 - Gain First Nations management insight
 - Monitoring - transitioning to using cameras over sand pads etc
 - New tools - Felixer and Curiosity were highlighted as coming
 - More mainland safe havens, understanding management in open landscapes
 - Community engagement important, including a national coordinator.



Credit DPIPWE, Tasmania



WA has led the way

- Feral cat management has been part of conservation management for many years.
- World leading.
- Open landscape control, island eradications, multi-species programs.
- Willingness to share has infused knowledge across the country and world.
- WA Feral cat symposium 2018
- WA Feral Cat Working Group



WAFCWG

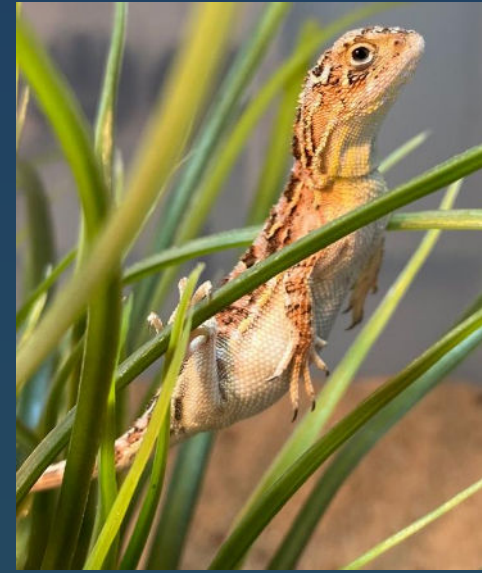
WA Feral Cat Working Group

Protecting WA's Biodiversity

Australian Government action

Feral Cat Taskforce

- 12 meetings since 2015
- Helped governments navigate the path to removing barriers to feral cat control – as asked by environment ministers
- Guided and a reporting mechanism for the Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats
- Helped with implementation of Threatened Species Strategy feral cat targets
- Knowledge exchange between government, scientists, NGOs and others
- Discussed new tools and navigating the regulatory environment



Australian Government action

- Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats
 - <1999, 2008, 2015, 2023 (draft)
 - national framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response
 - identifies the research, management and other actions needed
 - *to ensure the long-term survival of native species and ecological communities affected by predation by feral cats.*



Australian Government action

- National Environmental Science Program 2015-2021
 - *Threatened Species Recovery Hub and Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub*
 - \$3.24 million into feral cat work

Improved our understanding of the impacts and ecology of feral cats, and what actions we need to take for mitigation.

- Quantified impacts, species
 - Disease
 - Feral and domestic predation
 - Susceptibility.
- NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub is continuing the work



Credit State of Queensland



Australian Government action

- Threatened Species Strategy 2015-2020
- Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032
 - Towards zero extinctions
- **Target 8.** Feral cats and foxes are managed across all important habitats for susceptible priority species using best practice methods
- **Target 9.** Feral cats and foxes are managed in all priority places where they are a key threat to condition, using best practice methods for the location
- 110 priority species, 20 priority places – includes islands for feral cat management (Christmas, Kangaroo, French, Bruny)



Priorities

The threat is still very real: predation, disease
- exacerbated by other threats.

Ministers recognise this, with feral cats and other invasive species being raised at the last Environment Ministers Meeting in 2022.

Needs to be done in partnership for conservation outcomes.

Inclusive of community – enthusiasm to achieve threatened species recovery.



Thank you

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