

Pest Plant and Animal Control Policy



Pest Plant and Animal Control Policy Statement

Controlling existing pest species while minimising the risk of new pest threats is critical for reducing impacts to agricultural productivity, biodiversity and human health. This policy provides guidance to land managers, Landscape Board staff and other relevant stakeholders in regard to their responsibilities for pest animal and plant control under the *Landscape South Australia Act, 2019*. The policy also identifies the priority pest animals and plants for the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board region (the region), and nominates a level of control for pest management. The policy further outlines the principles the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (the Board) will consider when issuing or refusing permits for the movement, sale and possession of a declared pest animal or plant.

An individual's responsibilities for pest animal and plant control

Part 9 of the Act sets out the requirements for the control of pest animal and plants in South Australia. Under Section 185 of the Act, the Minister may declare a class of animal or plant that requires specific control within the State or specific area of the State.

Once a pest animal or plant is declared, the type of controls that may be prescribed for the region or State include:

- Prevent the movement of a declared animal or plant as per Section 186 of the Act;
- Prevent the possession of a declared animal or plant as per Section 187 of the Act;
- Prevent the sale of a declared animal or plant, and prevent the sale of a product containing a declared plant or animal as per Section 188 of the Act;
- Prevent the sale of a contaminated item(s) containing a declared plant or animal as per Section 188 of the Act;
- Prevent the release of a declared animal or plant as per Section 189 of the Act;
- A requirement to notify the Board of the presence of a declared animal or plant as per Section 190 of the Act;
- A requirement to control a declared animal or plant in accordance with the instruction of an authorised officer as per Section 191 of the Act; and
- A requirement to destroy or control a declared animal or plant as per Section 192 of the Act.

It is the individual's responsibility to comply with these statutory requirements as they apply to a declared pest species. Failure to comply with these provisions may involve penalties. Please visit the Biosecurity SA website

(www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity) for the latest information on declared pest animals and plants, and which statutory requirements apply for the region. Regional information is also available on the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board website.

A compliance intervention may become necessary when an individual is unwilling to destroy or control a declared pest animal or plant, and is in breach of subsections 192(1),(2) or (3) of the Act. In these instances the following order of actions will be implemented:

1. The Board or delegate to pursue the individual to implement voluntary action to destroy or control the pest species of concern.
2. The Board or delegate may issue an order (an action order) under section 193 of the Act, requiring the owner of the land to control the pest species of concern.

Control of priority pest animals and plants

To guide pest control across a large geographical area with limited resources, a risk assessment was undertaken by staff of the Board to determine the region's priority pest animal and plant species (Table 2). This risk assessment was guided by the South Australian Weed Risk Management Guide, which involves:

- An assessment of the relative risk of pest species;
- An assessment of the feasibility for the pest's control; and then
- Assigning a level of control based on the pest's assessment scores (Please refer to Table 1 to understand level of pest control).

To accommodate future change and local land-use considerations, the Pest Management Plans published on the Board's website will be used as the most up-to-date reference for determining the required level of pest plant and animal control within the region. To avoid any doubt, the Pest Management Plans take precedence over the information contained in Table 2.

It is important to note that the risk assessment was conducted at a regional level using a generalised land use, however there are instances when a pest species poses a greater or lesser risk for a local area and/or specific land use. There is also the potential that the relative pest risk and/or the feasibility of control will change in the future from what was assigned in Table 2. For both these instances the required level of pest control may be escalated or downgraded.

Alert Species

The Eyre Peninsula's geographic isolation places the region in a unique position, with comparatively lower pressure from new pest incursions.

Despite the lower likelihood of incursion, the Board maintains active vigilance, monitoring likely entry pathways, staying across emerging threats in neighbouring regions, and encouraging community reporting of unusual or suspect sightings. We aim to achieve early detection and a rapid, coordinated response when required.

Invasive Grasses

Invasive grasses are a major biosecurity threat for the Eyre Peninsula and are treated as a regional priority. Species such as Buffel Grass, Fountain Grass and African Lovegrass present significant risks to biodiversity, fire regimes and agricultural productivity.

The Board undertakes ongoing monitoring and targeted control to prevent the establishment and spread of these species. The Board has also identified a number of other invasive grass species—both declared and emerging—that are targeted for control.

Pest control on road reserves

Under subsection 192(8) of the Act, the Board is responsible for destroying or controlling declared pest animals and plants on road reserves within the Region. In addition, the Board may recover costs for pest control on road reserves from each adjoining landholder as per Section 194 of the Act.

To maintain an adequate level of pest control across the region's vast network of road reserves while limiting potential financial impacts on adjoining landholders, the Board will focus pest control on species with the greatest potential to spread and cause adverse impacts. To guide this, the following principles apply:

1. Pest species that are identified as 'eradicate' or 'destroy' in Table 2 or within a Pest Management Plan, will be destroyed by a delegate of the Board if pest species are located within a road reserve.
2. Pest species that are identified as 'contain' or 'protect sites' in Table 2 will be controlled by a delegate of the Board in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Pest Management Plan if the pest species are located within a road reserve.
3. Pest species that are identified as 'manage', 'monitor' or 'limited action' in Table 1 or within a Pest Management Plan, will be controlled when there is evidence of a significant increase in the pest's distribution or the pest is causing adverse impacts as a result of the road reserve infestation.

It is important to note that the recovery of pest control costs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



Table 1 – Control actions in order of priority

Category	Aim	Controls
Alert	to prevent new pest species of significant threat from arriving and establishing in the region	a. Prevent entry into the region and prevent the movement, sale and possession of pest species b. Ongoing surveillance for incursions of new pest species c. Report incursions of alert species to enable early eradication. For the latest information of alert species visit the Biosecurity SA website d. Conduct awareness raising activities to enable early detection
Eradicate	to remove the pest animal and plant species from the region	a. Detailed surveillance and mapping to locate all distributions b. Enforce destruction of all pest plant infestations including seed banks, or destroy all pest animal populations including juveniles c. Prevent entry into region and prevent the movement, sale and possession of pest species d. Remove all cultivated plants and prevent plantings e. Monitor progress towards eradication
Destroy	to significantly reduce the extent of the pest animal and plant species in the region	a. Detailed surveillance and mapping to locate all distributions b. Enforce destruction of all populations, aiming for local eradication where feasible c. Prevent entry into region and prevent the movement, sale and possession of pest species d. Consider quarantine provisions and prevent plantings e. Monitor progress towards reduction
Contain	to prevent the ongoing spread of the pest animal and plant species in the region	a. Surveillance and mapping at a level sufficient to detect changes in distribution and determine whether management actions are preventing further spread b. Encourage control of all populations, aiming for a significant reduction in pest density c. Prevent entry, movement, sale and possession of pest species unless under permit conditions d. Monitor change in current distribution
Protect sites	to prevent spread of the pest species to key assets of high economic, environmental and/or social value	a. Locate distributions and assess the pest's ability to migrate to key assets in the region b. Encourage control of populations in close proximity to key assets, aiming for a significant reduction in pest density c. Prevent entry, movement, sale and possession unless under permit conditions d. Monitor change in current distribution within and in close proximity to key assets
Manage species	to reduce the overall economic, environmental and/or social impacts of the pest animal and plant species through targeted management	a. Research and develop integrated pest management (IPM) packages for the species, including chemical and biological control where feasible b. Promote IPM principles to landholders and raise community awareness c. Encourage Control of populations in close proximity to key assets, aiming for a significant reduction in pest density d. Monitor change in pest animal and plant impacts with improved management e. Identify key sites/assets in the region and provide adequate resources to manage the pest animal and plant species

Category	Aim	Controls
Monitor	to detect any significant changes in the pest risk	a. Promote IPM principles to landholders and raise community awareness b. Work with key stakeholders including landholders, council and industry groups
Limited action	take no action unless local pest spreads to a land use where the pest is a higher priority	a. Undertake control measures if required for the benefit of other land uses at risk b. Provide limited advice to landholders

Table 2– Risk matrix for priority declared pest animals and plants for the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board region*

		Feasibility of control			
		High	Medium		Low
Relative Pest Risk	High ALERT	Eradicate • Buffel Grass • Pig • Deer • Gorse	Contain • Bathurst Burr • Boneseed • Carrion Flower • Innocent Weed • Khaki Weed • Opuntia sp. • Silver-leaf Nightshade		Manage Species • Caltrop • Gazania • Horehound • Cat • Fox • Rabbit • Yellow-burr Weed
	Medium	Destroy • Creeping Knapweed • Camel • Wild Dog / Dingo • Goat • Fountain Grass	Protect Sites • Bladder Campion • Silver-leaf Nightshade • Salvation Jane • Three-horned Bedstraw • White Weeping Broom	• African Love Grass • Bridal Veil • African • Boxthorn • Gazania • Desert Ash • Sweet Pittosporum	Manage Sites • Olive • Skeleton Weed • Three Corner Jack • Hoary Cress • Polygala • Aleppo Pine • Italian • Buckthorn
	Low	Monitor • Horse/ Donkey • Bifora • Cut-leaf Mignonette • Coast beach daisy**	• Bridal Creeper • Blackberry • Dolichos • Spiny rush • South African Weed • Orchid**	Limited Action • False Caper • Mouse • Pigeon • Starling • Lincoln Weed • Dog Rose	

*For latest assessment of priority pests please see Pest Management Plans on the [Board's website](#).

Permits for the movement, sale or possession of a pest animal or plant

The Board, as a relevant authority under the Act for pest animal and plant control, may issue a permit to allow the sale, import to the region, or road transport of a Category 3 declared animal(s) or plant(s) as per subsection 197(1) of the Act. The Board can also make recommendations to the Chief Executive on the issuing of permits for the sale, import or road transport of a Category 1 or 2 declared plant, or for the sale, movement or keeping of a declared animal.

In these instances the Board will consider the following principles for issuing or refusing a permit:

1. A permit is unlikely to be granted for the proposed movement, sale or possession of a pest animal or plant if:
 - a. identified as an alert pest species on the [Biosecurity SA website](#); or
 - b. identified as 'eradicate' or 'destroy' within Table 2 or a Pest Management Plan.
2. Subject to Principle 1, a permit is likely to be granted for the proposed movement, sale or possession of a pest animal or plant identified as 'contain' or 'protect' within Table 2 or a Pest Management Plan.
3. A permit application for pest animal and plant identified as 'contain' or 'protect' within Table 2 or pest management plan must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board or delegate that it will not increase the distribution or abundance of a pest animal(s) or plant(s) beyond what is proposed in the application.
4. A permit application for the possession of a pest animal(s) or plant(s) must:
 - a. detail the management practice(s) to prevent impact(s) to the property where the possession of a pest animal(s) or plant(s) is proposed to be located; and
 - b. demonstrate no impact to surrounding properties.
5. A permit application for the movement of a pest animal(s) or plant(s) must:
 - a. detail how the pest species is to be transported; and
 - b. demonstrate how the pest species is to be enclosed to prevent any spread or escape.
6. A permit application for the sale of a pest animal or plant must include an agreement between the vendor and purchaser in how the pest animal(s) or plant(s) is to be controlled once the sale is finalised.
7. The applicant may be required to prepare and provide a risk management plan to the satisfaction of the Board or delegate.
8. The risk management plan must assess and address the risks involved with the movement, sale or possession of a pest animal or plant.
9. The risk management plan may require the inclusion of monitoring arrangements for the applicant to undertake.
10. The Board or delegate may request the applicant to resubmit the risk management plan if risks or monitoring arrangements are inadequately addressed.
11. The Board may refuse a permit application if the applicant fails to address principles within this section.
12. The Board may specify conditions on the permit as per section 197(3) of Act.
13. For the purposes of this section, the Pest Management Plans take precedence over information contained in Table 2 if there is any discrepancy.

Apply for a permit

Permit applications can be made through your local Landscape Officer.

See www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/contact to find your local Landscape Officer.

Alternatively, email EPLBadm@sa.gov.au.

Impact-causing native animals

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, the Board has a general function to assist with the management of native animals where their impacts adversely affect the natural or built environment, infrastructure, primary production or communities.

In line with this function, the Board's role is limited to providing coordination and information-based support where appropriate and within available resources. This may include:

1. sharing information or referring landholders to recognised management approaches;
2. promoting or highlighting mechanisms or support programs that may assist landholders to manage impacts; and
3. facilitating basic coordination or connections between stakeholders if required.

The Board does not authorise the destruction of native animals. It is an offence to kill most native animals without a permit, and permits for the destruction or control of native animals are issued by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW). The Board will direct landholders to DEW where lethal control is being considered.

Any investigation into impacts, or contributions to the development of regional strategies for managing impact-causing native species, will be undertaken only where feasible and within available resources.

Reference

- ¹ Virtue JG (2008), *South Australian Weed Risk Management Guide*, the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.





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Published by the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board
2026 | FIS1109242

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