

Revising the Australian Pest Animal Strategy

What you need to know

Managing pest animals is vital to Australia's onshore biosecurity. Pest animals not only impact the habitats of native species, but also affect agricultural industries. We are currently revising Australia's national strategy on managing pest animals.

The Australian Pest Animal Strategy

The Australian Pest Animal Strategy (APAS) describes how biosecurity policy and governments work together with the community and industry to manage pest animals. The strategy aims to prevent the spread of new pest animals, while managing the impact of established pests, such as rabbits and wild dogs.

The APAS aims to:

- Recognise the significant challenges and negative impacts pest animals create
- Encourage leadership and coordination from landholders, industry and community groups, keepers of exotic animals and governments
- Illustrate the national importance of a strategic approach to the management of pest animals
- Outline the principles which underpin Australia's approach to pest animal management
- Identify where national effort, leadership and coordination has the potential to reduce the risks of pest animal impacts.

The APAS is being revised

As the strategy is almost ten years old, we are revising it to improve consistency with updated biosecurity policies, including most notably, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB). The outcomes of an independent evaluation of the strategy in 2012 suggested a revision was necessary to reflect changes in pest animal management in Australia.

Key Messages

1. In Australia, pest animals have major economic, environmental and social impacts.
2. The Australian Pest Animal Strategy is an important part of Australia's biosecurity framework.
3. Biosecurity is the shared responsibility of government, industry and landholders.
4. The strategy has national goals and priorities to assist stakeholders to successfully manage pest animals.
5. The revised strategy is now available for public consultation.
6. All views are important and will help shape the future direction of pest animal management in Australia.



Changes to the way you manage pest animals

The revised APAS does not necessarily change the way you manage pest animals on your property. It sets the direction, goals and priorities for national pest animal management. This includes principles that can be applied by all stakeholders. The strategy provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities of individuals and encourages them to work together to improve the way we manage pest animals.

Public consultation

The public consultation process on the revised APAS is being conducted from 5 September to 14 October 2016. Submissions received during this process will be collected, reviewed and considered when finalising the strategy. The revised APAS will be submitted to the National Biosecurity Committee for endorsement prior to publication in 2017.

Impacts on other pest animal strategies

The revised APAS will support existing pest animal strategies and provide more up-to-date information on new priorities. This includes national action and coordination plans. The National Wild Dog Action Plan complements the revised strategy and provides an example of the success that can be achieved when governments, industry and individuals work together.

The APAS and government investment

While there is no specific funding attached to the strategy; governments, community groups and landholders continue to make significant investments to manage and prevent the establishment of pest animals.

The revised APAS will set the direction for pest animal policy in Australia, which will help to ensure that this investment is coordinated and targeted at the right areas.

Get involved

Public consultation on the revised APAS is intended to capture community, industry and government views. The Invasive Plants and Animals Committee welcomes all submissions. The consultation period is open until **5pm AEDST 14 October 2016**.

When reading the revised Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017 to 2027: consultation draft, please consider the following:

- This strategy is a part of Australia's national biosecurity system
- The link between Australia's biosecurity system and the revised strategy should be easy to understand
- The roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders should be clearly understood
- The priorities in the revised strategy should be focused on important and relevant areas.

Have your say

Consultation drafts:

www.agriculture.gov.au/apas-revision

The Australian Weeds Strategy is also being revised:

www.agriculture.gov.au/aws-revision

Questions can be emailed to:

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Call 1800 900 090

