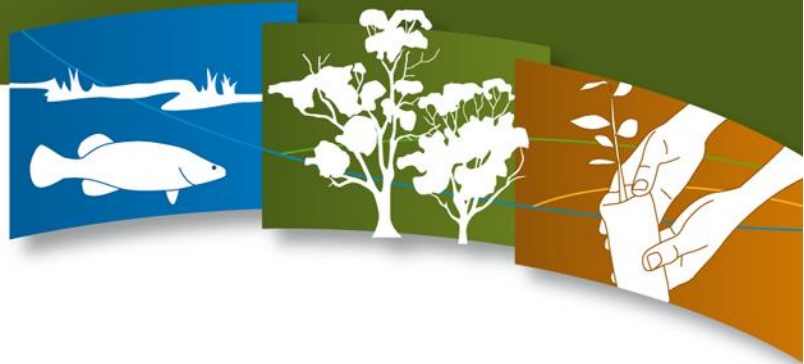


Fox management

Vulpes vulpes



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People



Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

History

The European Red Fox was first introduced to Australia in 1855 for recreational hunting, and became established in the wild in the 1870s. They are now widespread across the country. Foxes are declared as established pests under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

Impacts of foxes

Foxes pose a serious ongoing threat to biodiversity values through direct predation of native species such as ground dwelling birds and medium-sized mammals. They are thought to have played a significant role in the decline of threatened species.

As well as their impact on native species, they can cause significant economic losses by preying on livestock such as newborn lambs and poultry.

Predation by European red foxes has been listed as a key threatening process under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The Australian Government has developed a Threat Abatement

Plan for predation by the European Red Fox, which sets out to reduce the impact of predation by foxes.

Management

Fox control relies heavily on traditional techniques such as shooting, poisoning and fencing.

Hunting has had some positive impact on fox numbers, but a lasting impact has not been achieved.

Poisoning and fencing methods have been moderately successful in many areas. Poisoning, however, needs to take into consideration possible negative impacts on other non-target animals.

Fox control ultimately needs to be coordinated with other activities such as on-ground protection of threatened species and control of other invasive species such as rabbits.

Benefits of fox management

Effective management of foxes has benefits for both public and private land. Fox management can:

- reduce predation on native species;
- reduce competition with native species for food and other resources;

- reduce predation on stock such as newborn lambs; and
- allow species that are susceptible during breeding to successfully rear young.



Red Fox (source: www.gosford.nsw.gov.au)

For further information contact North Central CMA on 03 5448 7124 or visit:

*Fox Management Strategy:
www.dse.vic.gov.au

*Foxes and their impact:
www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Information contained within this fact sheet has been sourced from:
www.dse.vic.gov.au,
www.dpi.vic.gov.au and