

# Pest plant and animal strategy

for the Limestone Coast Landscape Board  
2021-2026

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# Our challenge

Pest plants and animals cost the Limestone Coast community millions of dollars a year through control costs, production losses, environmental impacts, social impacts and infrastructure damage.

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board (LC Landscape Board) has responsibility under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act) to ensure declared pest plants and animals (pests) are effectively managed across our region and that all landholders carry out effective control of declared pest species on their properties. At a property scale, managing pests is the primary natural resource management issue for landholders and this requires the cooperation and coordination of private landholders, the general community, industry and government to make a difference across the entire region.

This strategy seeks to identify the highest risk pests in our region, which are 'declared' under the Act, as well as emerging pests to prevent them becoming established, and will guide the LC Landscape Board's pest management actions and investment across the region for the next five (5) years. The risk management approach taken in developing the strategy builds upon previous work and is in response to additional pest declarations, changes in pest distribution, management success and new legislation. This continual improvement ensures technical information remains current and pest plant and animal management can continue strategically into the future with the LC Landscape Board, landholders and wider community remaining informed on the region's priority pest species to ensure the most effective use of our collective efforts.

This strategy is a summary of a comprehensive risk assessment that was completed to identify the priority pests for the Limestone Coast region. It does not address domestic cats and dogs, disease, insects, freshwater fish, marine pests or genetically modified organisms.

One limitation of undertaking regional prioritisation of pests is that it does not take into account the circumstances where more comprehensive local action may be justified. For example, many willing landholders volunteer to protect remnant native bushland and have the capability to control a wider suite of priority weed species or to prevent their spread or establishment into a local area. A multi-species and more comprehensive approach may be justified at the local scale in important biodiversity areas. Another limitation of the regional prioritisation is it does not account for site-specific locations of threatened species or properties with Heritage Agreements or Conservation Parks that have legislative requirements to be protected.

## Helping landholders use this strategy

The 'Focussing our management' section of this strategy provides guidance and direction to the LC Landscape Board and key stakeholders and assists in creating transparency and accountability for our actions.

Within the 'Setting the priorities' section of this strategy, the declared pest plants and animals for the region have been prioritised by land use category to help landholders tailor their pest management to their situation. However, to guide the best possible outcome at the regional scale a regional prioritisation has also been applied.

Importantly, some species of pest are not present in our region and the 'Alert species' section of this strategy flags the key species requiring diligence and surveillance to ensure they do not establish. Other species such as feral deer have established to the point of becoming a significant challenge that require specific, targeted action to achieve eradication (see 'Spotlight on deer').

Guidance is provided towards the end of this strategy for landholders and managers to apply optimal pest management practices above the standards set at the regional scale to protect priority environmental assets such as national parks, threatened species or remnant bushland. This is in recognition that regional assessment of risk can overlook the detail required at the site scale for priority environmental areas.

The 'Measuring success' section provides a framework to measure and track our success at making a difference to pest plant and animal control across the region. Finally, 'we are here to help' provides some quick links and contact details to help you find additional resources on how to practically manage pests.

## Guiding local action

Importantly, the intention for this strategy is to not only guide regional priorities for the LC Landscape Board but to help guide landholders in property-scale decision making. For example, the below table demonstrates a practical way of how this strategy can be practicably used in conjunction with pest control tools such as the weed control handbook for declared plants in South Australia ([link here](#)) or pest animal toolkits available from pestsmart ([link here](#)) to identify practical property scale action.

Land use categories	Priority pests on my property	Management Actions
Grazing	Red Deer	<b>Eradicate</b> ( <i>destroy all infestations</i> )
Native vegetation	Fallow Deer	Eradicate feral deer across the entire property through participating in ground and aerial shooting programs.
Cropping	Rabbits	<b>Contain</b> ( <i>prevent the ongoing spread in the region</i> )
	Foxes	Spot spray Variegated thistle rosettes in late Autumn to prevent seed dispersal into crops and onto neighbouring properties
	Variegated thistle	<b>Protect sites</b> ( <i>prevent spread to key sites or assets</i> )
	Ivy	Prevent the spread of Ivy along fence line shelter belts spreading into patches of priority, intact native vegetation.
		<b>Manage pest</b> ( <i>reduce overall impact through targeted management</i> )
		Target fox baiting twice a year in Autumn and Spring and supplement with shooting to protect prime lambs and native wildlife.
		Conduct late summer rabbit poison baiting and spring warren ripping along native vegetation / crop interface areas.
		<b>Monitor</b> ( <i>detect any changes</i> )
		Monitor the property for new pest species and rapidly respond if needed.

## Focussing our management

The strategy aims to embed current best practice pest management in the region to protect the environment, the economy and the community from the adverse impacts of pests. The diversity of land use in the region creates many opportunities for pest invasion and spread. Prevention, early detection and initiation of rapid responses are the cornerstones of effective and efficient management of new pest plants and animals with ongoing management needed for established pests that are unable to be eradicated.

The framework below will guide the key programs, activities and tasks for pest management in the region and provides direction for the LC Landscape Board to develop a clear and detailed works programs and to develop strategies for effective community engagement.

Program area	Key activities	Tasks
<b>Established pests</b> Effective management of established pest species	<b>Services</b> Provide a range of pest management services to the community	1.1 Manage a team of well trained and knowledgeable authorised officers 1.2 Implement pest management policies and procedures 1.3 Meet responsibilities for declared pests on roadsides
	<b>Compliance</b> Implement the animal and plant control provisions of the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i>	1.4 Seek voluntary compliance 1.5 Implement inspections of properties and roadsides 1.6 Undertake enforcement action as required 1.7 Promote and implement best practice management
	<b>Collaborate</b> Work closely with local government, non-government organisations, agronomists, chemical suppliers and advisory committees	1.8 Provide pest identification and advisory services to the community 1.9 Operate viable fee-for-service pest management 1.10 Assist with research and deploy biological controls 1.11 Promote and implement hygiene protocols 1.12 Establish cooperative partnerships to coordinate pest management programs 1.13 Develop capacity within contractors to provide suitable pest control services

Program area	Key activities	Tasks
<p><b>New incursions</b> No new pests become established in the Limestone Coast</p>	<p>Detection and response Ensure early detection of and rapid response to new incursions</p> <p>Biosecurity Support state and national biosecurity programs</p>	<p>2.1 Develop and implement an incursion response strategy</p> <p>2.2 Surveillance of pest invasion pathways</p> <p>2.3 Rapid response to new incursions</p> <p>2.4 Make use of and support the State Herbarium to precisely identify new pest plant species</p>
<p><b>Community participation</b> Encourage the involvement of all stakeholders to proactively undertake pest management activities</p>	<p>Support and encouragement Landscape Officers to provide support and engage with landholders and the community in best practice pest management</p> <p>Awareness raising Education campaigns for priority pests</p> <p>Urban and youth Target activities towards urban landholders and young people to encourage involvement</p> <p>Celebrate success Motivate and inspire ongoing on-ground efforts</p>	<p>3.1 Community education on new pests</p> <p>3.2 Develop a range of best practice pest management education materials</p> <p>3.3 Establish dialogue with Aboriginal communities</p> <p>3.4 Support volunteers to manage pests</p> <p>3.5 Primary school education programs</p> <p>3.6 Provide pest education topics to secondary schools</p> <p>3.7 Develop networks to the north (Murraylands and Riverland) and east (Glenelg Hopkins and Wimmera CMA's)</p> <p>3.8 Provide technical expertise</p> <p>3.9 Maintain links, contribute and participate in Commonwealth and state committees</p>

Program area	Key activities	Tasks
<b>Learning and adapting</b> Apply a continuous improvement approach to all aspects of pest management	<p>Plan</p> <p>Apply a risk-assessment approach to pest management in the Limestone Coast</p> <p><b>Data management</b></p> <p>Maintain a regional pest management database</p> <p><b>Integration</b></p> <p>Integrate pest management into all LC Landscape Board activities and relevant plans.</p>	<p>4.1 Review pest plant and animal declarations</p> <p>4.2 Repeat the community survey in 2025 to detect changes in attitude and behaviour.</p> <p>4.3 Review policies for control of individual species based on risk assessment results</p> <p>4.4 Update species risk assessments and priorities</p> <p>4.5 Identify priority areas to target activities</p> <p>4.6 Maintain and improve the pest management skills and knowledge of staff</p> <p>4.7 Regularly review activities to monitor and report on progress</p> <p>4.8 Review this plan (2025)</p> <p>4.9 Map priority pests</p> <p>4.10 Upgrade the regional pest database</p> <p>4.11 Share data with stakeholders</p> <p>4.12 Actively seek alternative funding</p>



Photo credit: Nick Hunt

# Setting the priorities

## Regional priority pests

The detailed risk assessment accompanying this report provides important data to assist Landscape Officers to work with the community to identify priority pests at the district (e.g. Local Government Area) scale for local priority issues to be identified and addressed when legitimate concerns exist about pest species not deemed a regional scale priority. However, in a regional context the priority management action is applied to the pest plant and animals to achieve the best possible outcome of control for all land uses. The following table provides a summary of the regional priority species and their highest Management Action across all land uses.

<b>Management action</b>	<b>Declared pest plants</b>	<b>Declared pest animals</b>
<u>Eradicate</u> <i>Eradicate from the region</i>	Bridal veil Golden dodder Mexican feathergrass	Dingo / Wild dog Feral pig Goat Chital deer Rusa deer Sambar deer Hog deer Red deer Wapiti deer Fallow deer
<u>Destroy infestations</u> <i>Significantly reduce the extent</i>	Blackberry Western cape bridal creeper Buffel grass Fountain grass Innocentweed Khaki weed Pampas grass Silverleaf nightshade Texas needlegrass White weeping broom	
<u>Contain spread</u> <i>Prevent the ongoing spread</i>	African boxthorn African feathergrass African lovegrass Aleppo pine Asparagus fern Bathurst burr Bluebell creeper Boneseed Caltrop Cape tulip (1 & 2 leaf) Coolatia grass Creeping knapweed Berry Heath (Erica baccans) Gorse Hoary cress Madeira vine Prickly pear Salvation jane Three corner jack Three horned bedstraw Variegated thistle	Brown rat Rabbit
<u>Protect</u> <i>Prevent spread to key sites / assets</i>	Apple of Sodom Arum Lily Bladder campion Coastal tea tree Cape broom	Black rat



	Cutleaf mignonette Dolichos pea English broom False caper Field bindweed Gazania Horehound Italian buckthorn Lincoln weed Mirror bush Muskweed Noogoora burr Olive Polygala Spiny Rush Swamp Oak Willow spp.	
<u>Manage pest</u> <i>Reduce the overall impact through targeted management</i>	Bridal creeper (common form) Desert ash Yellow burweed	Feral cat Fox House mouse Starling Eurasian blackbird Domestic pigeon Hare
<u>Manage sites</u> <i>Reduce the overall impact through targeted management</i>	Dog rose Skeleton weed Sweet briar Sweet pittosporum	
<u>Monitor</u> <i>Detect any significant changes</i>	Athel pine Chilean dodder Red dodder Hawthorn / May / Azzarola Wild artichoke	
<u>Limited action</u> <i>Undertake control measures if required</i>	Bulbil watsonia	

## Alert species

Alert species are those pest plants and animals that may pose a threat to economic, environmental or social land uses in the region. The species are not present but may be suited due to their biological attributes and have been automatically categorised into the highest priority management action of the risk assessment process. The management principles for Alert species is to prevent entry to the region through education and awareness, eradicate any arrivals including juveniles, investigate reported sightings and undertake surveillance to locate all populations.

### Pest plants

Alisma	Cane needlegrass	Leafy elodea	Rhus tree
Alkali sida	Distichlis	Nightstock	Sagittara
Alligator weed	Dune onion weed	Parrot's feather	Salvinia
Arrowhead	Elodea	Perrenial thistle	Senegal tea plant
Blue mustard	Eurasiona watermilfoil	Plumerillo	Serrated tussock
Broadkernel espartilo	Horsetail	Poison buttercup	Tree Heath
Broomrape	Hydrocyle	Poison Ivy	Water caltrop
Cabomba	Lagarosiphon	Primrose willow	Water dropwort
Calomba daisy	Lantana	Ragwort	Water hyacinth
			Water soldier

### Pest animals

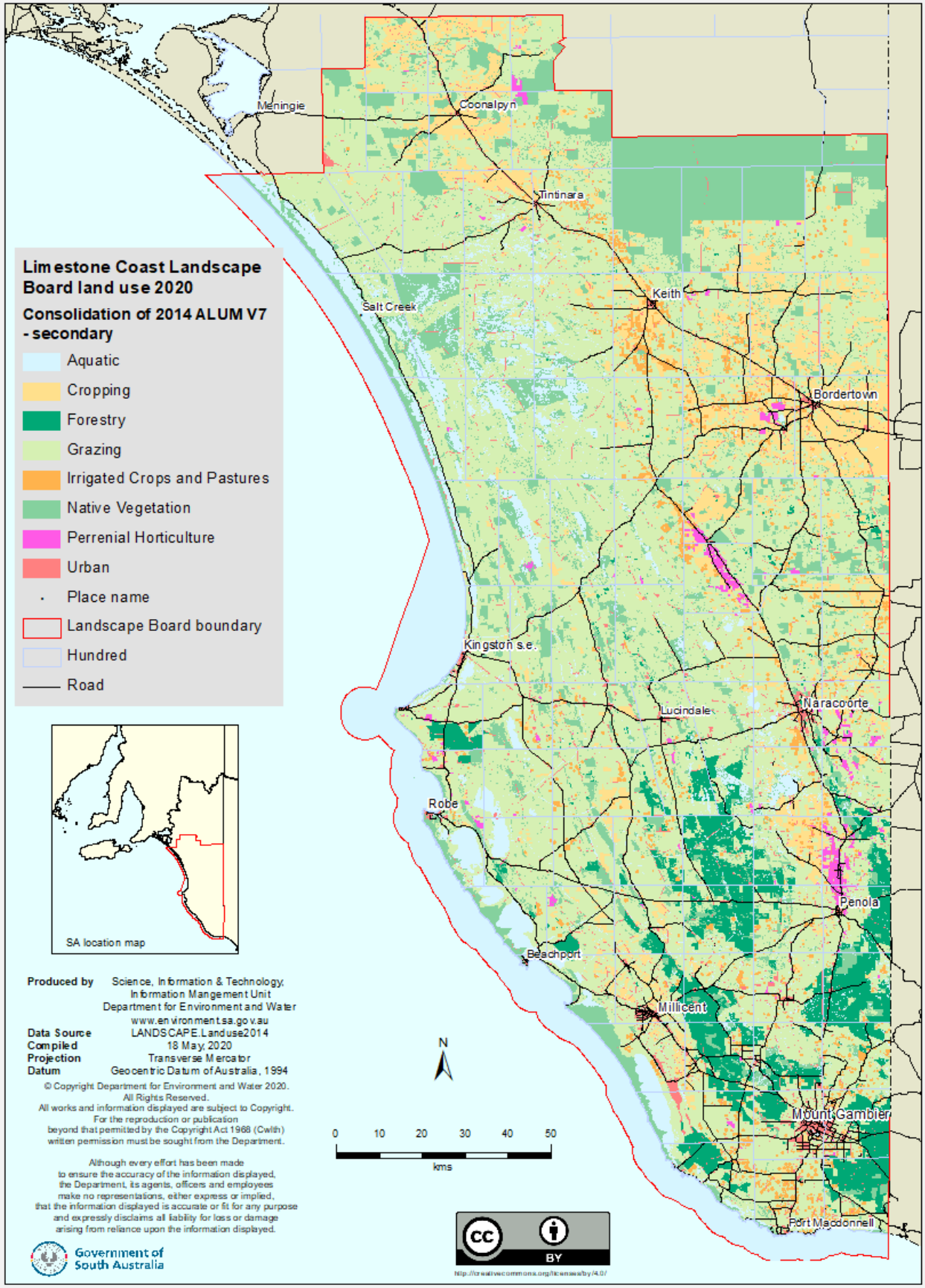
Asian black spined toad	House crow	Red Whiskered bulbul
Cane toad	Indian ringneck parakeet	Song thrush
Corn snake	Laughing dove	Tree sparrow
Common (Indian) myna	Red-eared slider	Water buffalo

## Land uses

Climate, soil types, land management practices and availability of natural resources are very important factors which allow pest plants and animals to invade their environment. The Australian Land Use and Management classification scheme has been adapted to identify eight land uses for the Limestone Coast region to help ensure management of pest plants and animals is tailored to the various factors present in each land use.

- **Grazing:** The dominant land use in the region with dryland grazing comprising approximately 53% of generally improved pasture. The main method of pest plant management is herbicide application and grazing management.
- **Native vegetation:** Only 13% of native vegetation remains across the Limestone Coast region with the largest areas present as national parks or crown land. Pest plants invading bushland are difficult to control due to access and often require bushcare techniques for control.
- **Cropping:** Predominantly in the northern sections of the Limestone Coast, dryland cropping is a lucrative industry that occupies around 9% of the region's land area. The majority of pest plants of concern within a cropping situation are controlled through everyday weed management practices and strategic crop rotation.
- **Forestry:** In 2020, forestry comprised 6% of the landscape and is focussed in the higher rainfall areas. Softwood plantations have historically dominated the landscape. General pest plant management is principally at pre-planting with targeted campaigns to control declared species. Established tree cover can generally reduce weed infestations.
- **Urban:** The Limestone Coast region supports a population of 69,000 people with half the population located in the City of Mount Gambier and surrounding area. Urban areas encompass 3% of the region. Control methods for pest plants and animals is often targeted.
- **Irrigated crops and pastures:** Approximately 2% of the region supports irrigated cropping. Grazing with dairying, prime lambs, and annual horticulture such as potatoes occupy the south with irrigation for Lucerne and small seed production such as clover in the north. Weed control occurs predominantly during pasture establishment.
- **Aquatic:** Historically, prior to artificial drainage programs, a large proportion of the Limestone Coast region was seasonally or permanently inundated with water. The inland aquatic land use category now only comprises approx. 2% of the region and includes wetlands, lakes, creeks and streams, drains and any area with permanent surface water.
- **Perennial horticulture:** Encompassing 1% of the region, perennial horticulture is dominated by the viticulture industry with the main wine growing areas in the Coonawarra, Padthaway, Wrattontully, Cape Jaffa, Mt Benson, Robe, and Kingston. Some stone fruits and citrus are grown in small pockets. Cover crops may be grown between rows of vines to prevent weed growth with new and established pests targeted for control.

# Limestone Coast Landscape Board - Land Use Summary



## Priority pests for each land use at the regional scale

A risk assessment underpins this strategy and examined 66 pest plant and animal species to identify the priority declared pests within each of the 8 land uses and assigned an appropriate 'Management Action' to guide control efforts. This approach ensures effort within each land use is directed to where it will be most effective, but also noting that local management plans may involve control of additional species not listed here.

Land use	Limited Action <i>Undertake control measures if required</i>	Management Action						
		Manage sites <i>Maintain key sites / assets through improved general weed management</i>	Manage pest <i>Reduce the overall impact through targeted management</i>	Monitor <i>Detect any significant changes</i>	Protect Sites <i>Prevent spread to key sites / assets</i>	Contain spread <i>Prevent the ongoing spread</i>	Destroy infestations <i>Significantly reduce the extent</i>	Eradicate <i>Destroy all infestations including seedbank</i>
<b>Aquatic</b>			Desert Ash *Black rat	Dodder	Swamp oak Spiny rush Arum lily Noogoora burr Willows (seeding)	Blackberry Athel pine *Brown rat		*Pig
<b>Cropping</b>	Skeleton weed Apple of Sodom *Hare	Salvation jane Yellow burrweed			Horehound Bathurst burr Cutleaf mignonette Field bindweed Lincoln weed Bladder campion Field garlic Variegated thistle *Black rat	Silverleaf nightshade Broomrape Calomba daisy Caltrop Creeping knapweed Hoary cress Three horned bedstraw *Pig *Rabbit	Innocent weed	*Goat *Red deer *Wapiti deer *Rusa deer *Sambar deer *Chital deer *Fallow deer *Hog Deer
<b>Forestry</b>	Bridal creeper *Hare		African boxthorn African feathergrass		Bluebell creeper Cape broom	Bathurst burr Boneseed Gorse Innocent weed Pampas grass	Blackberry White weeping broom	Bridal veil *Wapiti deer *Fallow deer *Red deer

Land use	Limited Action <i>Undertake control measures if required</i>	Management Action						
		Manage sites <i>Maintain key sites / assets through improved general weed management</i>	Manage pest <i>Reduce the overall impact through targeted management</i>	Monitor <i>Detect any significant changes</i>	Protect Sites <i>Prevent spread to key sites / assets</i>	Contain spread <i>Prevent the ongoing spread</i>	Destroy infestations <i>Significantly reduce the extent</i>	Eradicate <i>Destroy all infestations including seedbank</i>
<b>Grazing</b>		Skeleton weed False caper Perennial thistle *Hare	Yellow burr weed *Rabbit *Fox	Dodder Dog rose Wild artichoke	Apple of Sodom Cutleaf mignonette Hoary Cress Lincoln weed Swamp Oak	Variogated thistle African feathergrass African lovegrass Bathurst burr Blackberry Calomba Daisy Caltrop Cape tulips Coolatai grass Creeping knapweed Gorse Innocent weed Three Corner Jack	Silverleaf nightshade Coolatai grass Khaki weed Buffel Grass Texas needlegrass *Goat	Mexican feathergrass *Wild Dog / Dingo *Pig *Fallow Deer *Red Deer *Wapiti Deer *Hog Deer *Rusa Deer *Sambar Deer *Chital Deer
<b>Irrigated Crops and Pastures</b>	Blackberry	Skeleton weed False caper *Hare	Yellow burr weed *Rabbit *Fox	Dodder Cutleaf mignonette	*Black rat	Salvation jane Caltrop Silverleaf nightshade Bathurst burr Broomrape Creeping knapweed Innocent weed Noogoora burr Three corner jack Variogated thistle	Golden dodder Blackberry Khaki weed *Goat	*Wild dog / dingo *Pig *Hog deer *Chital deer *Rusa deer *Sambar deer *Red Deer *Wapiti deer *Fallow deer
<b>Native Vegetation</b>	Bathurst burr Blackberry Horehound Bulbil watsonia	Cape tulip (both) False caper Skeleton weed Apple of Sodom Dog rose Sweet briar Spiny rush Sweet pittosporum *Hare	Bridal Creeper #Coastal wattle Desert ash Swamp oak *Starling *Cat *Fox *Black rat *Rabbit *Mouse	Dodder May / Hawthorn Prickly pear Wild artichoke Yellow burr weed Athel pine Wandering jew Arum lily	Coastal tea-tree Cotoneaster Italian buckthorn Olive Polygala Gazania Dolichos pea Cape broom Coolatai grass English broom Mirror bush Ivy Blue psoralea	African lovegrass Asparagus fern African feathergrass Bluebell creeper Erica baccans Maderia vine Gorse Texas needlegrass Rhus tree *Wild dog / Dingo	Fountain grass Buffel grass Pampas grass White weeping broom Western cape bridal creeper *Goat	Bridal veil Mexican feathergrass *Rusa deer *Chital deer *Sambar deer *Red deer *Fallow deer

Land use	Management Action							
	Limited Action <i>Undertake control measures if required</i>	Manage sites <i>Maintain key sites / assets through improved general weed management</i>	Manage pest <i>Reduce the overall impact through targeted management</i>	Monitor <i>Detect any significant changes</i>	Protect Sites <i>Prevent spread to key sites / assets</i>	Contain spread <i>Prevent the ongoing spread</i>	Destroy infestations <i>Significantly reduce the extent</i>	Eradicate <i>Destroy all infestations including seedbank</i>
<b>Perennial Horticulture</b>		Skeleton weed Olive *Rabbit	Bridal creeper *Hare *Black rat *Blackbird *Mouse *Starling *Fox		Cutleaf mignonette Field bindweed Silverleaf nightshade *Goat	Bathurst burr Caltrop Innocent weed Texas needlegrass	Khaki weed	Golden dodder *Red deer *Wapiti deer *Fallow deer *Hog deer *Chital deer *Sambar deer *Rusa deer
<b>Urban</b>	*Hare		Bridal creeper Desert ash *Black rat *Mouse *Cat *Starling *Fox *Blackbird *Pigeon *Rabbit	Athel pine	Apple of Sodom African boxthorn Blackberry Coolatai grass False caper Gazania Innocent weed Willow (seeding) *Brown rat	Aleppo pine Caltrop Prickly pear *Wild dog / dingo	Khaki weed	

\* pest animal

## Spotlight on feral deer

Multiple deer species are identified as requiring management across a suite of land uses and achieving eradication of feral deer is a key objective for the Limestone Coast Landscape Board. To meet this challenge, the LC Landscape Board has developed a Deer Action Plan with the following focus:

- Increase the scale and intensity of lethal control for feral deer.
- Ensure deer farms have effective fencing and all farmed deer have ear tags.
- Change behaviour of landholders to eradicate feral deer.
- Better understand feral deer population size and distribution.
- Develop and evaluate feral deer control tools.

Feral deer eradication requires a focussed investment to utilise all tools possible to bring the issues under control.



Male fallow deer



## Best practice where possible

The risk assessment completed for this strategy provides a broad basis for controlling declared pests in accordance with the recommended 'management actions'. This guidance is valuable at the regional scale however, finer scale detail is required when formulating local action.

Opportunities may arise where landholders may want to, or are legislatively bound to implement management actions above-and-beyond the directions provided in this strategy. For example, landholders may have legislative obligations to control pests on Heritage Agreement bushland or community groups may wish to undertake pest control in Conservation Reserves or protect and enhance threatened species habitats.

In these instances, it is important for landholders to meet their legislative obligations which may require pest management action over-and-above the broad direction provided by this strategy. The directions within this strategy should not discourage a landholder or community group from doing critically important environmental asset protection work if they have capacity to do pest control to a higher standard than those set within this strategy.



Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo

### Case study: local land management

At the regional scale, Boneseed is listed as 'contain' to prevent the ongoing spread of the species. However, a cooperative of adjoining landowners have joined forces, aiming to eradicate Boneseed in their local area to protect a patch of Heritage Agreement bushland and revegetate degraded areas for Red-tailed Black-cockatoo habitat.

Rather than target Boneseed seedlings to contain the spread, the landholders cut and remove the mature parent plants aiming to locally eradicate the boneseed and replace it with native vegetation.

Just because Boneseed is listed as 'contain' within this strategy, 'eradication' can still be achieved at the local scale if resources are available or other legislative obligations exist.

# Measuring success

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board will measure the success of this strategy through the activities that are delivered (activity measures), the effectiveness of these activities to change the trajectory of pest plants and animals or improve landholder attitudes and behaviours (effectiveness measures) and ultimately achieving the vision and focus areas of the LC Landscape Board (outcome measures).

## Activity measures

- Number of landowners and groups engaged / advice provided
- Number of education / workshop activities delivered
- Kilometres of roadside inspected
- Number of property inspections completed
- Number of new infestation pest pathways inspected
- Number of compliance actions undertaken
- Number and size (Ha) of pest observations mapped
- Number and size (Ha) of pest infestations treated
- Pest control products: number of fox baits sold, kg of rabbit bait oats sold
- Pest control services (effectively and efficiently filling contractor shortfalls): km of rabbit bait trail laid, Ha of declared weeds sprayed

## Effectiveness measures

- Number of new incursions detected and removed
- Number of compliance actions successfully voluntarily resolved
- Number of pest species in the region (stable or decreasing)
- Hectares of weed infestation in the region (reducing)
- Community survey indicates positive change in attitude and behaviour (5 yearly)
- Annual works program developed and implemented, targeted to each Local Government Area

## Outcome measures

- See the Limestone Coast Landscape Board Business Plan 2021-22 for further details

# We are here to help

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board has a number of resources and staff available to help you. You can find further information and pest control factsheets on our website [www.landscape.sa.gov.au/lc](http://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/lc) or call us on (08) 0835 1204 to talk with our staff, apply for funding through our Grass Roots Grants or further your knowledge by attending an education session. Information is also available on our partners websites such as the South Australian weed control handbook available from PIRSA ([link here](#)) or national pest animal toolkits available from pestsmart ([link here](#)). We have something for everyone to ensure we all make a difference to our region.



Photo credit: Tim Rosenthal

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