



# Hunter Local Land Services Become a Citizen Scientist



Community members can play a vital role in livestock protection and native wildlife by reporting sightings of fauna, both pest animals and native wildlife.

There are a range of specialist citizen science platforms, also with their own simple Apps, to record species observations across Australia and NSW.

Since recent drought and fire impacts, native and pest animals are more displaced than ever. Stock and native wildlife are currently under pressure from pest animal populations, competition with food sources, and other impacts such as loss of habitat, shelter, available water and nesting sites.

For pests in particular, no matter how small your property it's important to manage pest animals on, and actively reporting them helps. LLS staff work with landholders DPI, National Parks and Wildlife Service and other agencies, to coordinate pest control programs in the region, using the data to target programs. LLS can also assist with training and advice.

You don't need to be an expert to become a citizen scientist, just remember:

- report your sighting as soon as possible
- try not to disturb native wildlife, especially if they are nesting or feeding
- never try to catch or harm an animal (all native animals are protected)
- do not approach an animal that may be dangerous
- if you think an animal is a pest, confirm with LLS or DPI staff first (especially **cane toads**, which are easily confused with many native frogs), before taking any action.

If you are not "technology" confident, you can also report sightings to LLS or relevant agencies direct. *See the last page for more information.*

Overleaf is a range of citizen science tools available.



Local Land  
Services

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter)



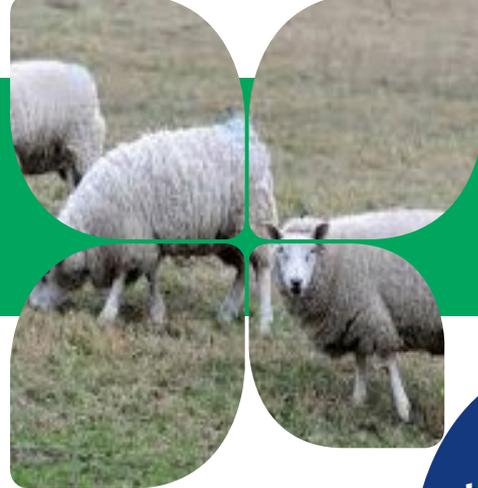
# Citizen Science Tools & Mobile Apps

Citizen Science Platform	Website and Info	Where to get App	Access and Data Collection
Atlas of Living Australia (ALA)-iNaturalist Australia 	<p><a href="https://www.ala.org.au/">https://www.ala.org.au/</a></p> <p>The ALA now manages the Australian node of iNaturalist – the world’s leading social network for biodiversity.</p> <p>It is recommended ALA users upload individual observations to iNaturalist Australia.</p>	Download the Inaturalist App from the App or Play Store	<p>Log in required. Data goes to CSIRO national data collection.</p> <p>Data is publicly available.</p>
NSW BioNet	<p><a href="http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/">http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/</a></p> <p>NSW BioNet is the repository for biodiversity data products managed by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.</p> <p>BioNet aims to improve biodiversity outcomes by enabling the community and government to proactively manage and enhance biodiversity in NSW through comprehensive, credible and robust information.</p>	No App currently available, access via web page	<p>Registered/licensed users only, generally experts contributed data to this collection.</p> <p>Data is accessible by public.</p> <p>Data used by NSW agencies.</p>
ALA-Bushfire Recovery Project (2020)-special platform	<p><a href="https://www.ecosystem.unsw.edu.au/research-projects/terrestrial-ecosystems/environment-recovery-project-australian-bushfires">https://www.ecosystem.unsw.edu.au/research-projects/terrestrial-ecosystems/environment-recovery-project-australian-bushfires</a></p>	No App currently available, access via web page	Data is collated through the Atlas of Living Australia database with UNSW
FeralScan 	<p><a href="https://www.feralscan.org.au/">https://www.feralscan.org.au/</a></p> <p>Help map feral animal sightings in your local area, and add to over 200,000 community records for Deer, Fox, Cane Toad, Rabbits, Feral Pig(pictured), Goat and more!</p>	App available from App or Play Stores	<p>Data is collected by community, and accessible by community.</p> <p>LLS, DPIE-EES and NPWS also access data to support coordinated programs.</p>



You don't need to be an expert to contribute to science!

Citizen Science Platform	Website and Info	Where to get App	Access and Data Collection
<b>PlatypusSpot</b> 	<p align="right"><a href="https://platypusspot.org/">https://platypusspot.org/</a></p> <p>Report your sighting on platypusSPOT and become a contributor to the ongoing conservation and research of this iconic Australian species.</p>	<p>App available from App or Play Stores</p>	<p>Independent data collection in Victoria- Annually uploaded to the ALA</p>
<b>Birdata App</b> 	<p align="right"><a href="https://birdata.birdlife.org.au/">https://birdata.birdlife.org.au/</a></p> <p>Birdata is the way to collaboratively and scientifically collect data to gain insight and protect Australia's Birds.</p> <p>Hunter LLS and BirdLife have also developed 2 videos on our YouTube channel. <a href="#">Birdata Tutorial</a> and <a href="#">Birdata Surveys</a></p>	<p>App available from App or Play Stores</p>	<p>Data is collated by BrdLife Australia to support national data and monitoring programs.</p>
<b>Report Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater* &amp; Swift Parrot</b> <i>*pictured</i>	<p>With only 400 Regent's and 2000 Swift Parrots in the wild, and spread across the east coast of Australia, all sightings are important.</p> <p align="right">Report sightings to <a href="mailto:woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au">woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au</a></p>	<p>Report via email. Submit photos, location.</p>	<p>Data is collated by BrdLife Australia to support national data and monitoring programs.</p>
<b>I Spy Koala</b> 	<p align="right"><a href="https://koala.nsw.gov.au/2019/08/26/new-koala-app-launched-i-spy-koala/">https://koala.nsw.gov.au/2019/08/26/new-koala-app-launched-i-spy-koala/</a></p> <p>Developed by NSW Government. Reporting koala sightings is essential to help koalas in the wild. Better information about koalas leads to better koala conservation and better planning decisions.</p>	<p>App available from App or Play Stores</p>	<p>Data is stored in the BioNet NSW data sets, via the SEED portal.</p>
<b>Echidna CSI</b> 	<p align="right"><a href="https://grutznerlab.weebly.com/echidna-csi.html">https://grutznerlab.weebly.com/echidna-csi.html</a></p> <p>Established by Adelaide University, researchers want to learn more about echidnas! Where they are, what they are doing, if they are healthy- so we can work towards their conservation. How can you help? By taking photos and collecting scats (i.e. poo).</p>	<p>App available from App or Play Stores</p>	<p>Data is stored in the Atlas of Living Australia- Inaturalist national data sets.</p>
<b>TurtleSat</b> 	<p align="right"><a href="https://turtlesat.org.au/turtlesat/default.aspx">https://turtlesat.org.au/turtlesat/default.aspx</a></p> <p>Australia's turtle populations and land managers need your help in answering these important questions to protect turtles into the future.</p> <p>Record where you see turtles, where you see their nests, where turtles are seen or killed on the road, or evidence of turtles (such as skeletal remains).</p>	<p>App available from App or Play Stores</p>	<p>Data is collected by community, and accessible by community.</p> <p>NSW LLS, DPIE-EES and NPWS also access data to support coordinated programs.</p>
<b>WomSat</b> 	<p align="right"><a href="https://www.womsat.org.au/womsat/default.aspx">https://www.womsat.org.au/womsat/default.aspx</a></p> <p>WomSAT is a new resource for communities to record sightings of wombats across the country</p>	<p>App available from App or Play Stores</p>	<p>Data is collected by community, and accessible by community. LLS, DPIE-EES and NPWS also access data</p>



Report **cane toads** (pictured) using the App or report to DPI or LLS. **Never kill, only catch** a suspected toad.



## Monitoring tips!

Want to know more about what native or pest animals are in your area or on your property? Below are some tips that may help:

- Install a game or wildlife camera
- Take a camera/mobile with you and take photos, use this to identify animals. Submit photos with your data.
- Some of the Apps and websites listed, also link to species identification information
- Email or use messenger to send photos to experts, LLS or DPI to have fauna identified for you before submitting your record
- Carry binoculars on you, especially for birds or smaller animals you may wish to observe from a distance
- Keep a species list for your property
- Purchase ID booklets for native wildlife
- If you suspect it is a Cane Toad, **ALWAYS wear gloves** to collect it in a bucket/container (with breath holes) for formal identification.



## Not a technology whiz?

You can still report sightings without having to access a web site or App. Not everyone has good internet access or is as confident with modern technology!

Below are some alternatives for reporting native wildlife and pest animals over the phone:

- **FeralScan/Feral Animal Sightings to your local LLS:** 1300 795 299 or email [admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au) **or unusual pests to NSW DPI:** 1800 680 244 or
- **Report to NSW BioNet any native wildlife that are unique/threatened species:** 1300 361 967 or 9995 5555 (DPIE NSW agency)
- **Cane Toads/suspected toads:** 131 555 or [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)
- **Swift Parrot or Regent Honeyeater to BirdLife Australia** on 1800 621 056

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