

Foxes

Other control methods (cont)

- Ensure potential food scraps, offal and carcasses are disposed of, compost bins covered and turn off outside lights at night to minimise insect activity.
- Remove fallen fruit around fruit trees
- Reduce and control weeds
- Don't leave pet food out at night
- Guardian animals can also be a deterrent

Signs of foxes

- Missing/ dead animals (chickens & stock)
- Fox faeces
- Prints
- Active dens
- Visible sightings-day and night

For more information contact Greater Sydney Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.

You can also record sightings and activity via FeralScan www.feralscan.org.au

Contact Us



1300 795 299



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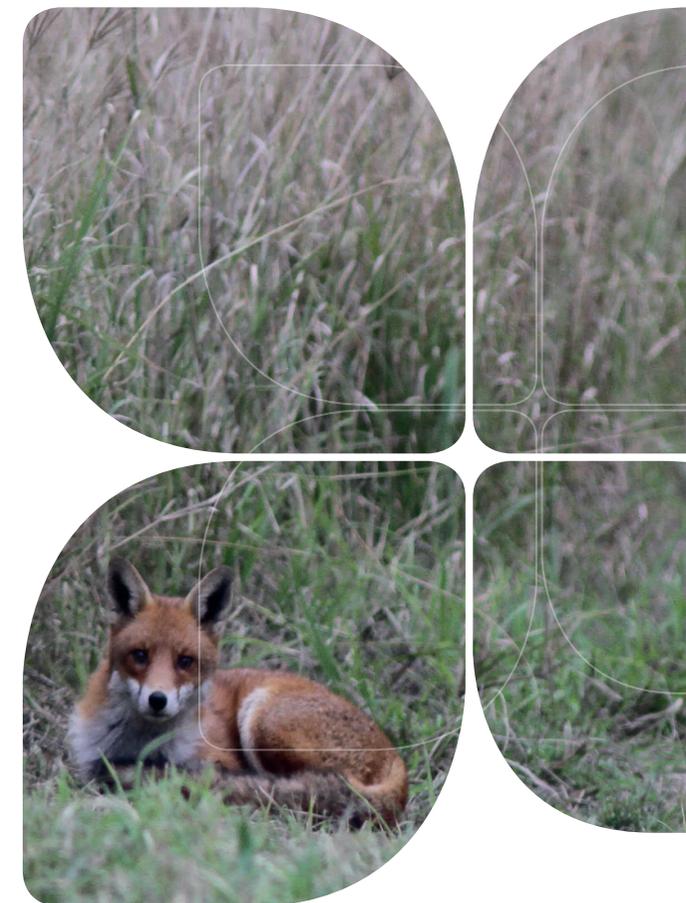
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Foxes

Foxes are opportunistic animals with few natural predators in Australia. They pose a serious threat to livestock, prey on poultry, lambs and goat kids which has devastating impacts on agricultural production. In high density areas they are a public nuisance and pose significant risks to humans and pets, through transmission of diseases such as distemper, parvo virus and mange.

Evidence suggests red foxes are the primary cause in the decline and extinction of many small and medium-sized rodent and marsupial species in Australia. They also prey on many bird species.

Foxes are estimated to cost Australian producers more than \$37 million annually in livestock losses and cause more than \$227.5 millions of damage to Australia's unique native environment and economy every year.

Greater Sydney Local Land Services is committed to ensuring foxes do not impact on native flora and fauna and working with farmers, landholders and the community to minimise the impact of this highly invasive pest.

Control options

There are several ways you can control foxes and help reduce their impact on the environment and agricultural production. A single control method used in isolation may provide limited local control of fox populations however, a coordinated program involving neighbours using multiple control methods will prove more successful over a broader area.

Baiting

- Our biosecurity team coordinates broad scale pest animal control programs in partnership with landholders and can provide expert advice and assistance on best practice baiting practices.

- 1080 is the only chemical legal for use to control foxes. It is considered the most efficient method of control. The use of 1080 is governed by a Pesticide control Order which restricts its use. Some restrictions include minimum distances from neighbours, public notifications and strict limitations on the number of baits that can be laid on a property.
- You must obtain a qualification in order to use 1080 which can be organised through our biosecurity officers.
- Poison can be injected into several different bait types, including chook heads, tongues, meat or liver. Manufactured baits such as Foxoff are also available.
- Baits should be tethered, shallow buried, checked and destroyed at the end of the program.
- Baiting should be done prior to lambing or kidding in Spring and Autumn.
- Effective control can be achieved through a coordinated, broad scale and nil-tenure approach involving your neighbours and local community.
- Domestic pets should be restrained while 1080 is in use.

Trapping

- Mesh cage traps or modified soft/ rubber jawed leg hold traps are a good option for controlling foxes, particularly for residents in urban areas.
- We have cage traps for hire for a small monthly fee.
- Lures such as a urine-based mixture or chicken carcasses inside the cage can be effective.



- Traps should be placed around chicken enclosures and at gaps in fences. They can be set continuously throughout the year, especially when predation is occurring.
- By law, traps must be checked every 24 hours.
- By law, a transport permit is needed to move a cage trapped fox to a Veterinarian or to a property where it can be safely euthanised. This can be organised through our Biosecurity Officers.

Other control methods

- Electric fences may be useful protect chook pens. However, are expensive and often impractical for large areas.
- If you have a firearms licence, shooting can be useful as a continuous control measure and as a follow up method after baiting.