



Fox education guide

The problem with foxes in Australia

Foxes didn't evolve with our native animals, so they have no natural predators and are devastating to smaller native animals. Ground-dwelling animals are most at risk, with foxes responsible for the extinctions of four ground-birds in NSW alone. Many at-risk species are present in the Georges River area, such as the Green and Golden Bell Frog and Powerful Owl

Even small numbers of foxes can destroy populations of native animals. Foxes are known for surplus killing: savaging animals but not eating most or all of their victims. In June 2015, a single fox killed 25% of the little penguin colony in Manly in under two weeks.

Foxes also cause economic and social damage, costing Australia more than \$227 million annually. They will often savage privately owned poultry and pets in our area and leave their kills in public areas like golf courses.

Endangered or vulnerable species currently known to be threatened by fox predation in Georges River include:

- Pied Oyster Catcher
- Little Tern
- Green and Golden Bell Frog
- New Holland Mouse
- Bush Stone-curlew
- Powerful Owl
- Giant Burrowing Frog
- Long-Nosed Bandicoot
- Eastern Pygmy-Possum
- Rosenberg's Goanna





Everyone can do their part

Predation by the Red Fox is listed as a Key Threatening Process both nationally and in NSW.

Recent legislation in the *Biosecurity Act 2015* identifies Red Foxes as a biosecurity risk and states all community members have a duty to help prevent, minimise and eliminate biosecurity risks.

Councils are undertaking a joint control program, but you can help by reducing their preferred habitat by following the checklist (see right).

As part of the program, a web portal has been set up to allow anyone to report fox sightings across the region. You can report a fox and play a part in the effort to control foxes and protect native species. The more people who record their fox observations, the more we can protect our native species and ecosystems.

 Visit www.foxscan.org.au or download the **FeralScan Mobile App** to help protect native species.

What you can do to prevent foxes inhabiting your local area

- Don't leave pet food outside overnight
- Use enclosed compost bins
- Keep domestic animals secure at night
- Remove fallen fruit around fruit trees
- Keep garbage bins covered
- Close off access underneath buildings
- Use fox-proof enclosures for poultry
- Turn off outside lights that might attract insects
- Report fox sightings to Council or on the FeralScan Mobile App
- Reduce weeds that provide food and shelter, like blackberry bushes

