



Density of **urban foxes** is greater than rural

General **diet includes pet food**, frogs, birds, lizards, possums, native rats, fruit, garbage...

Foxes are a major **cause** of domestic **dog barking**

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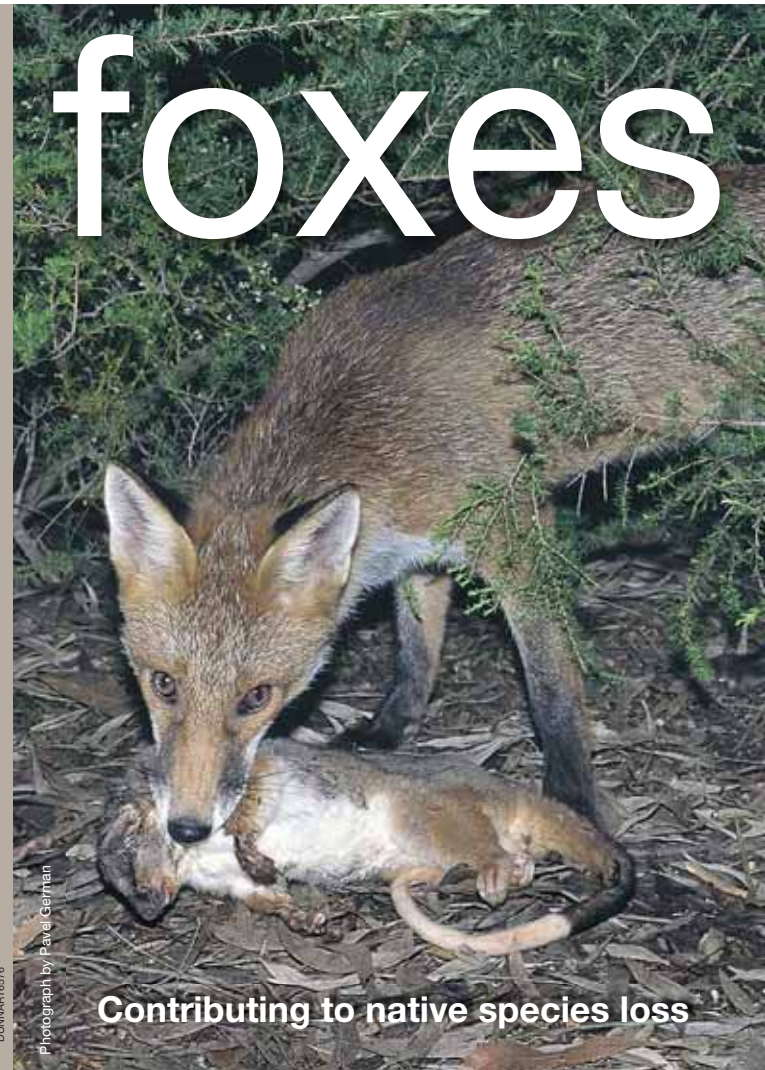
The Sydney South Region Animal Management Committee (SSRAMC) is made up of a number of Local Councils and State Government agencies committed to reducing the impacts of introduced vertebrate pests on local biodiversity. As part of a regional approach to nuisance animal management, the SSRAMC is developing a series of brochures to help the community to better understand the impacts of nuisance animals on our local urban wildlife. The brochures also detail meaningful ways that we can contribute to reducing pest populations through simple changes in our everyday behaviour.

For more information contact your local agency

Ashfield Council	9716 1800
Bankstown City Council	9707 9999
Blacktown City Council	9839 6074
Campbelltown City Council	4645 4601
City of Botany Bay	9366 3666
Centennial Park Trust	9339 6699
City of Canada Bay Council	9911 6555
City of Canterbury	9789 9300
City of Sydney	9265 9333
Department of Environment & Climate Change	9542 0630
Department of Primary Industries	4828 6601
Hurstville City Council	9330 6222
Kogarah Council	9330 9400
Leichhardt Municipal Council	9367 9222
Marrickville Council	9335 2222
RailCorp	1300 656 999
Randwick City Council	9399 0999
Rockdale City Council	9562 1666
Rural Lands Protection Board	4655 9165
Strathfield Council	9748 9999
Sutherland Shire Council	9710 0333
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust	8969 2167
Sydney Olympic Park Authority	9714 7300
Waverley Council	9369 8000
Woollahra Council	9391 7000



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Contributing to native species loss

Help to reduce the threat of foxes in our urban areas

These cunning predators may seem a distant threat, but they're closer to your home than you realise. The density of foxes can be up to 10 times greater in urban environments than in rural areas, where they are provided with an abundance of food and shelter.

The Red Fox was introduced in southern Victoria in 1871 for recreational hunting. Foxes have now spread to ~ 80% of the Australian mainland (except the tropics), showing their ability to adapt to new environments.

Foxes have contributed to the decline and **extinction of numerous Australian native animals**. Today foxes are one of the most widespread pest animals in Australia.

The trouble with foxes

They have a very general diet, which is one of the reasons they have become so widespread and survive so well in urban and rural areas. In suburban areas, they happily scavenge for food scraps; such as pet food that has been left out, and also threaten our domestic livestock. Being opportunistic hunters, fox attacks often result in many animals being killed and left uneaten, and this behaviour intensifies their impact on our local native birds and animals.

Foxes will turn over garbage bins looking for food scraps, dig holes in lawns and gardens, and cause disturbance by causing nuisance dog barking in urban areas.

Some foxes may also be infected with the hydatid tapeworm, posing a threat to human health. Tapeworms are passed on via faeces, and can cause hydatid disease in humans.



Fox profile:

- Also known as the Red Fox and the European Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).
- Can reach eight kilograms in weight at maturity, around the same size as a small dog, and have similar dog-like features.
- Have a red/brown coat of hair on top, a white chin, throat, chest and belly. They also have a bushy tail, often with a white tip.
- Breed under buildings, in parks, in cemeteries and in our quiet backyards. Foxes breed once a year, giving birth to litters of more than four cubs in August to September each year.
- Foxes have a wide dietary range, eating a variety of small native mammals, lizards, frogs, birds and insects, as well as introduced rabbits, but will consume insects, fruits and berries in summer when their favourite foods are less abundant. Foxes also harass and kill domestic pets such as chickens, guinea pigs and rabbits, and will happily eat food scraps and pet food that is left out for family pets.

How to out-smart the fox

There are a few simple steps that can be taken to reduce fox numbers in urban areas, and to protect our backyards and local area from the threat and nuisance caused by foxes. That's why the Department of Environment and Climate Change, local councils and other groups are seeking community assistance.

Photograph courtesy of Department of Primary Industries

Foxes live under buildings/domestic houses (in quiet backyards), parks, vacant land.

Photograph courtesy of Commonwealth Research Centre

You can help by:

- Not leaving pet food out overnight
- Using enclosed compost bins
- Removing fruit at the base of garden trees and on lower branches
- Keeping garbage bins and skips covered
- Blocking entry points to drains and underneath buildings
- Keeping domestic animals such as poultry in fox-proof enclosures
- Reducing the cover from weeds such as lantana, pampas grass and blackberries
- Turning outside lighting off at night to prevent attracting insects
- Reporting fox sightings (or kills) to your local council.

