

Close Encounters of the Unusual Kind



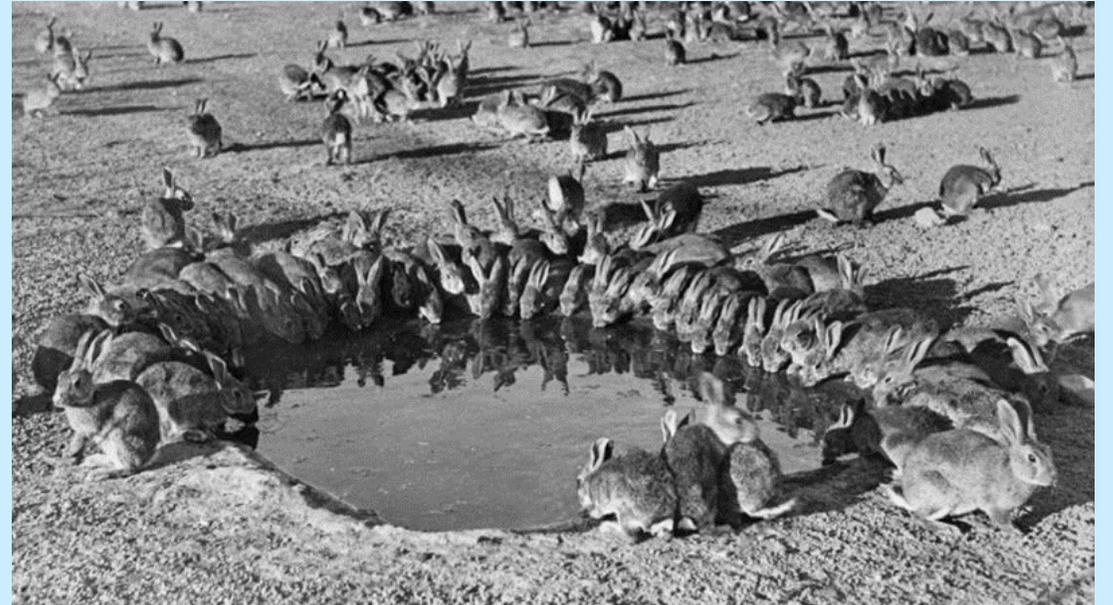
Oh the things you'll
see!

Paul Marynissen
Lisa Wellman

19 October 2023

Origin and spread of invasive animals

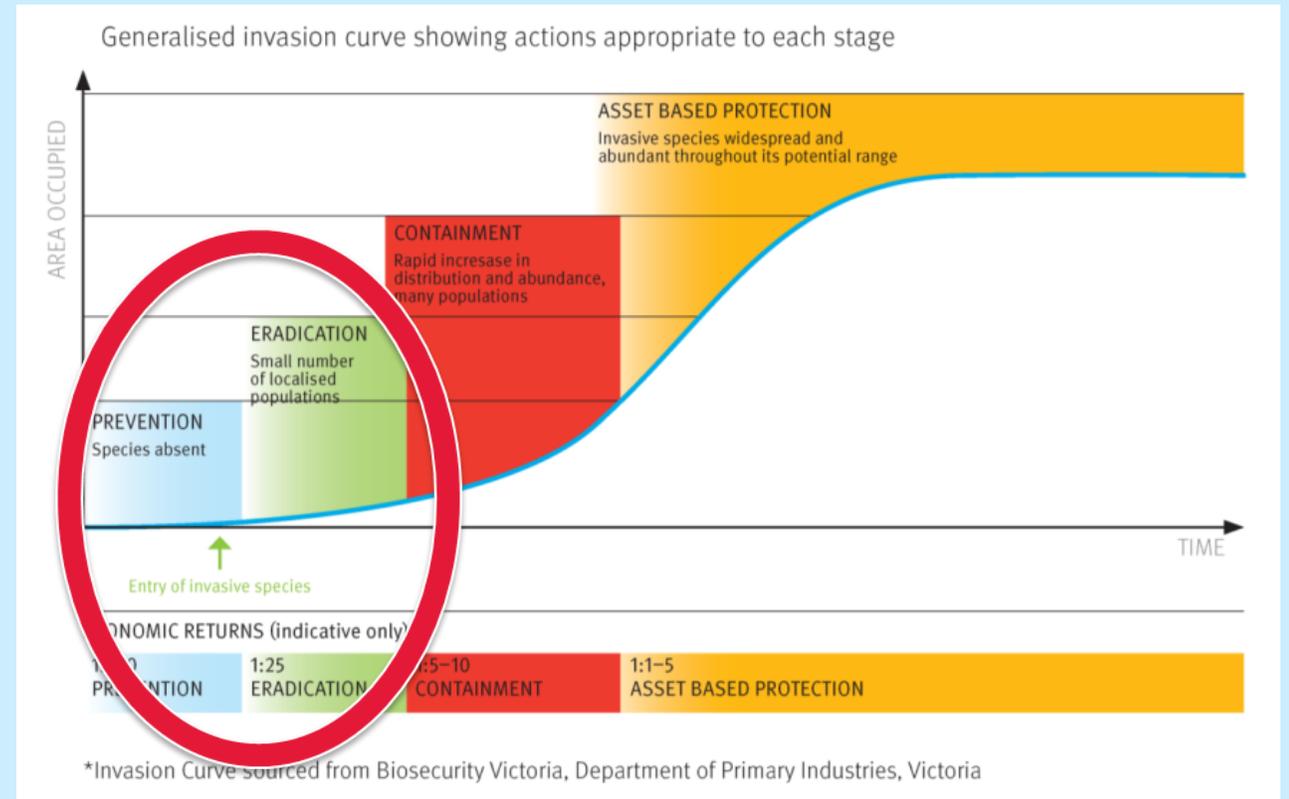
- 73 established non-indigenous animals
- Impacts:
 - Environment
 - Economy
 - Community



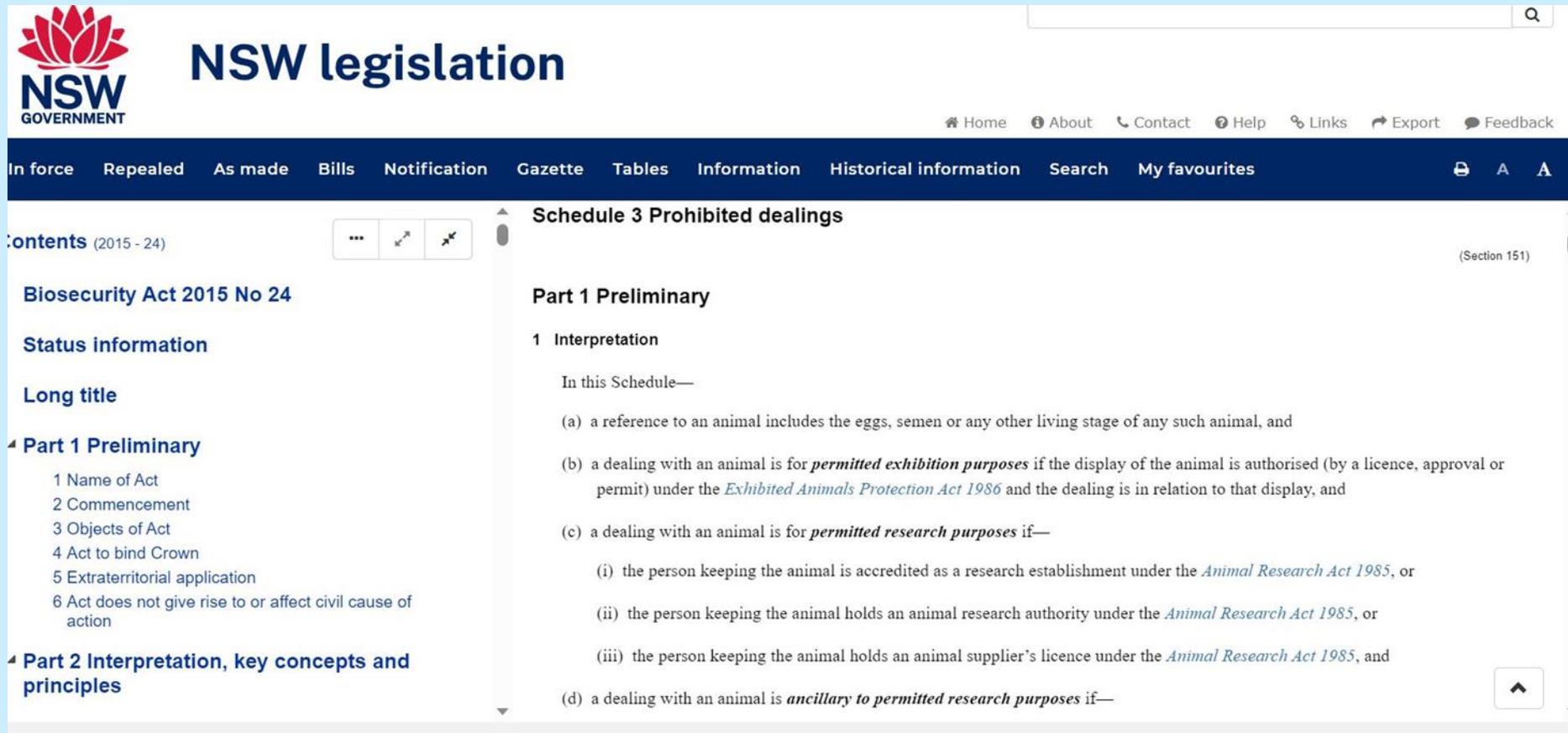
NSW Biosecurity Act 2015

Objectives are to manage biosecurity risks by

- preventing entry
- quickly finding, containing and eradicating
- effectively minimising the impacts



NSW Biosecurity Act 2015



The screenshot displays the NSW Government's legislation website. The header includes the NSW Government logo and the text "NSW legislation". A navigation bar contains links for Home, About, Contact, Help, Links, Export, and Feedback. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with categories like In force, Repealed, As made, Bills, Notification, Gazette, Tables, Information, Historical information, Search, and My favourites. The main content area is split into two panes. The left pane shows a table of contents for the Biosecurity Act 2015 No 24, listing sections from 1 to 6. The right pane displays the text of "Schedule 3 Prohibited dealings", specifically "Part 1 Preliminary" and "1 Interpretation". The interpretation section states: "In this Schedule— (a) a reference to an animal includes the eggs, semen or any other living stage of any such animal, and (b) a dealing with an animal is for *permitted exhibition purposes* if the display of the animal is authorised (by a licence, approval or permit) under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* and the dealing is in relation to that display, and (c) a dealing with an animal is for *permitted research purposes* if— (i) the person keeping the animal is accredited as a research establishment under the *Animal Research Act 1985*, or (ii) the person keeping the animal holds an animal research authority under the *Animal Research Act 1985*, or (iii) the person keeping the animal holds an animal supplier's licence under the *Animal Research Act 1985*, and (d) a dealing with an animal is *ancillary to permitted research purposes* if—".

NSW GOVERNMENT

NSW legislation

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Contents (2015 - 24)

Biosecurity Act 2015 No 24

Status information

Long title

Part 1 Preliminary

- 1 Name of Act
- 2 Commencement
- 3 Objects of Act
- 4 Act to bind Crown
- 5 Extraterritorial application
- 6 Act does not give rise to or affect civil cause of action

Part 2 Interpretation, key concepts and principles

Schedule 3 Prohibited dealings

(Section 151)

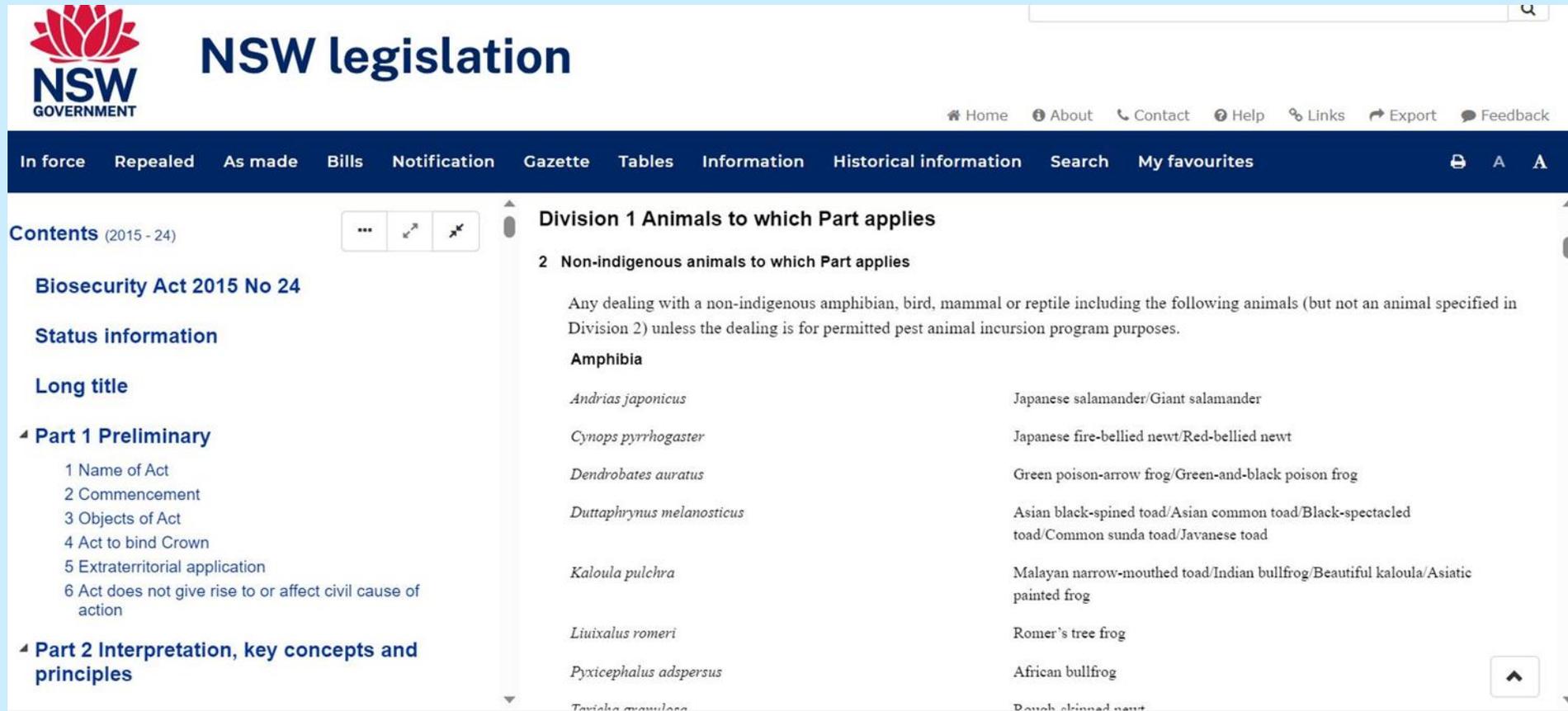
Part 1 Preliminary

1 Interpretation

In this Schedule—

- a reference to an animal includes the eggs, semen or any other living stage of any such animal, and
- a dealing with an animal is for *permitted exhibition purposes* if the display of the animal is authorised (by a licence, approval or permit) under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* and the dealing is in relation to that display, and
- a dealing with an animal is for *permitted research purposes* if—
 - the person keeping the animal is accredited as a research establishment under the *Animal Research Act 1985*, or
 - the person keeping the animal holds an animal research authority under the *Animal Research Act 1985*, or
 - the person keeping the animal holds an animal supplier's licence under the *Animal Research Act 1985*, and
- a dealing with an animal is *ancillary to permitted research purposes* if—

NSW Biosecurity Act 2015



NSW legislation

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Division 1 Animals to which Part applies

2 Non-indigenous animals to which Part applies

Any dealing with a non-indigenous amphibian, bird, mammal or reptile including the following animals (but not an animal specified in Division 2) unless the dealing is for permitted pest animal incursion program purposes.

Amphibia

<i>Andrias japonicus</i>	Japanese salamander/Giant salamander
<i>Cynops pyrrhogaster</i>	Japanese fire-bellied newt/Red-bellied newt
<i>Dendrobates auratus</i>	Green poison-arrow frog/Green-and-black poison frog
<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>	Asian black-spined toad/Asian common toad/Black-spectacled toad/Common sunda toad/Javanese toad
<i>Kaloula pulchra</i>	Malayan narrow-mouthed toad/Indian bullfrog/Beautiful kaloula/Asiatic painted frog
<i>Liuixalus romeri</i>	Romer's tree frog
<i>Pyxicephalus adspersus</i>	African bullfrog
<i>Taricha granulosa</i>	Bouch skinned newt

Containment



NSW Cane Toad Biosecurity Zone

Three “management areas”

Red – Cane toad free area
(Cane toad Biosecurity Zone)

Green - Established cane toad population area

Amber - Buffer area (Cane toad Biosecurity Zone)

Need for review of line to reflect distribution of current population

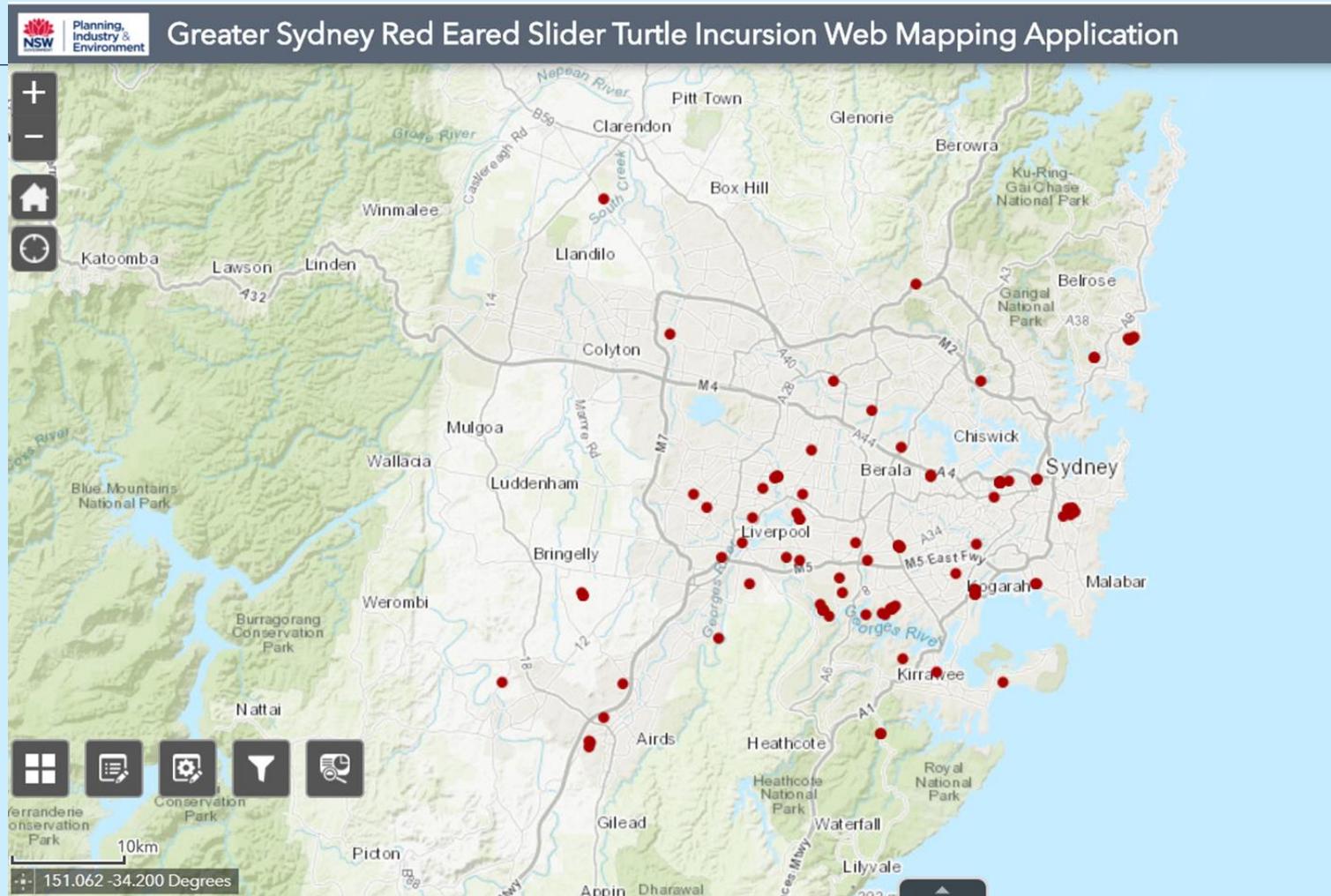


Eradication



Red-eared slider Turtle

Red-eared slider Turtles



Working with QLD Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries on research

- Trialling new REST basking platform designs suitable for juvenile REST
- At sites in Fairfield LGA
- Further modifications to be trialled
- NSW DPI Animal Ethics Approval



Prevention

We did promise you unusual

New incursions into NSW – since 2017



African Pygmy Hedgehog





Asiatic painted frog



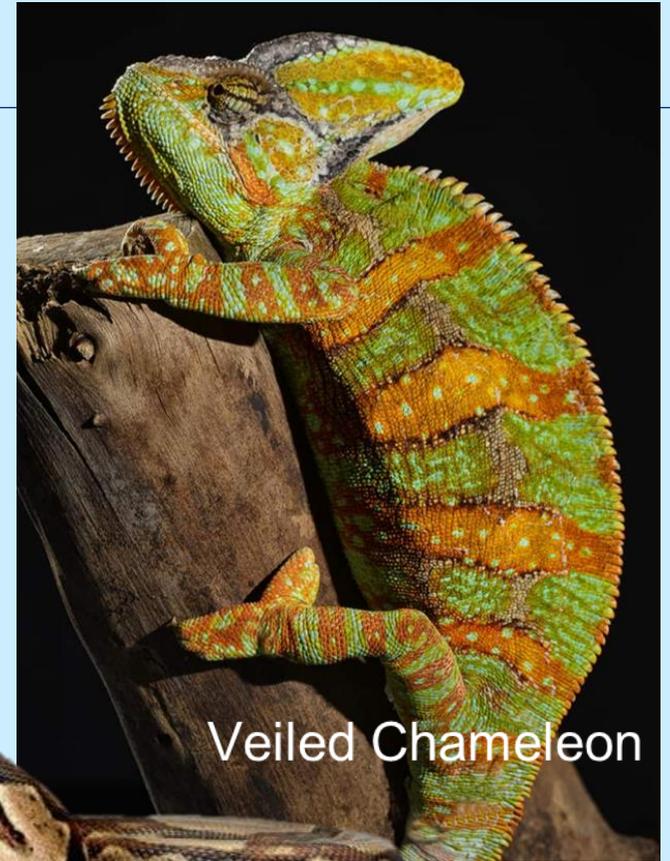
Asian Black-spined Toad



Common Iguana



Boa Constrictor



Veiled Chameleon

Leopard Gecko



Boa constrictor kicked to the curb



Boa constrictor – Marrickville - April 2019

Californian King Snake



Corn snake



Ball pythons and Burmese python

Jan 2018 - Griffith



Dumeril's Boa

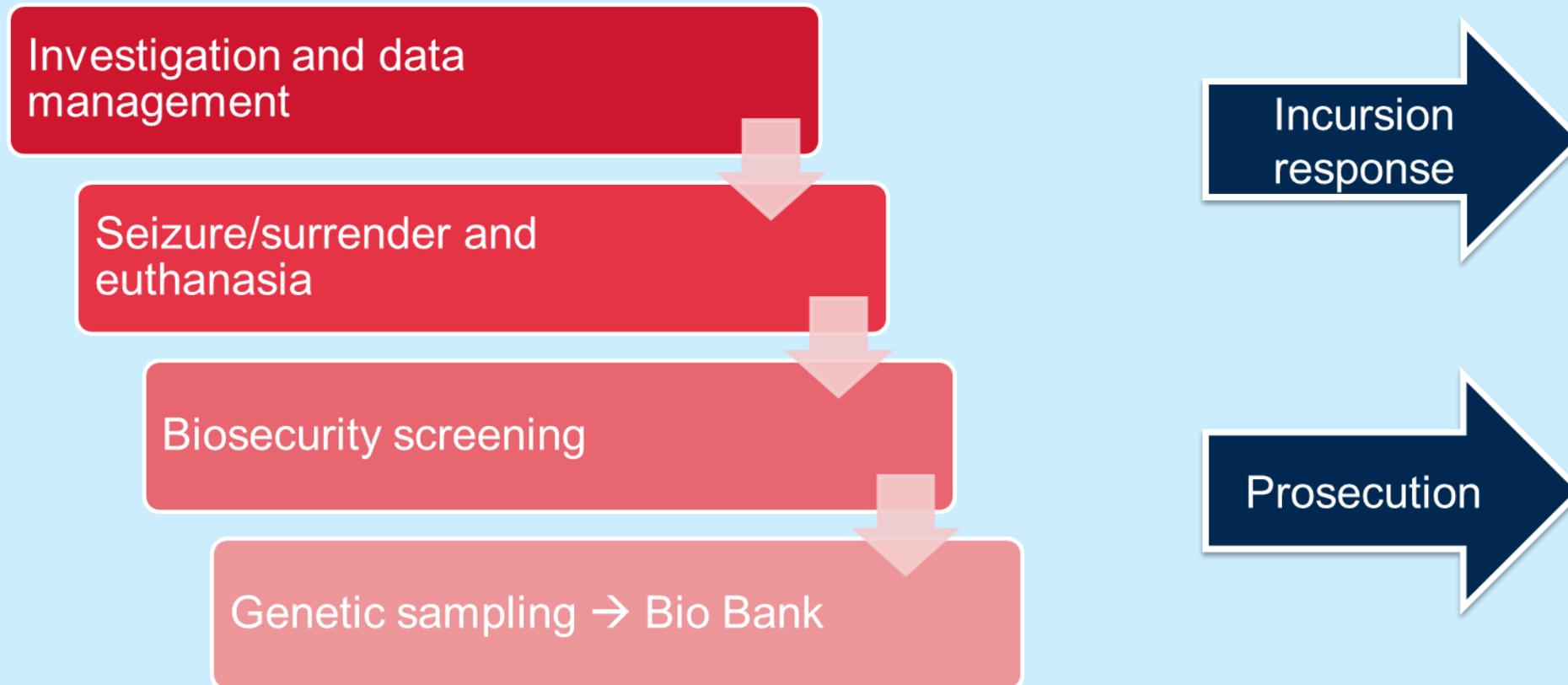
November 2020 – Newcastle

Surrendered to Wildlife Carer
CITES Appendix 1 – attempt to rehome

Federal Government (DAWE)
Zoo & Aquarium Association
Multiple Zoos
Qld DAF



Management of reports we receive



New database commenced Feb 2023

373 reports this year

70 positive cases

A NSW Government website



NSW Invasibase
Department of Primary Industries

Reports/Cases register

[New report](#) | [Search](#) | [Analytics](#)

My open reports/cases

Report #	Date reported	Report/Case	Suspected animal	Reported by	Triage result	Diagnosis result
15972	01/02/2023	Case	Cane toad	Yvonne Foia	Requires diagnosis / case	Positive
15981	03/02/2023	Case	Red-eared slider turtle	Daniel Fisher	Needs more information	Awaiting diagnosis
15994	09/02/2023	Case	Cane toad	Peter Swindells	Requires diagnosis / case	Positive

Compliance



NSW Biosecurity Act Penalties

Significant maximum penalties apply for:

- failure to comply with the Act.
- providing false or misleading information.
- assaulting, abusing or threatening authorised officers.

Penalties are higher for intentional, reckless and negligent actions.

Penalties include:

- Fines of up to \$1.1 million for an individual and/or 3 years imprisonment.
- Fines of up to \$2.2 million for corporations.

Continuing offences can attract penalties of up to \$137,500 for an individual each day the offence continues and double that for a corporation.

Other agency involvement

- Wildlife carer organisations assist with collection and delivery services
- Registered reptile handlers assist with collection and delivery services
- Local Councils assist with some programs like Fairfield REST
- Landcare assists with information dissemination through local and regional networks and reporting
- NPWS and LLS with reporting of cases

How do we engage with community?



Attending local and regional events like Lake Macquarie Sustainability Festival to raise awareness of cane toads in the Hunter/Central Coast Area approx. 25,000 visitors



Targeted shows like the Penrith and Illawarra reptile shows to promote knowledge of prohibited species



Social media through the DPI Biosecurity Facebook Page

Flyers developed for Vets and Handlers

Has an unusual exotic animal been handed into your clinic?



Instructions for vet clinics

 **Take photos**, to confirm the identification of the animal and report to NSW Department of Primary Industries.

 **Report online:** www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/tighting

 Call the NSW Biosecurity Helpline: 1800 680 244 or

 Use this QR code to make an online report.



Can you temporarily hold the animal for NSW DPI?

NO

Can another wildlife carer or vet securely hold the animal?

YES → Provide NSW DPI with new location and contact details for the animal

NO → If the animal can't be held, euthanase the animal (following confirmed identification) and keep it in the freezer, if possible

YES → NSW DPI will contact you during business hours to discuss the next steps

NSW DPI will contact you with further instruction

Important information:

Only hold an animal for NSW DPI if the health and safety risks to the animal and staff can be effectively managed and you can separate the animal from others to prevent the spread of disease.

Confirm the species with NSW DPI prior to euthanasia.

In some situations, NSW DPI may wish to conduct biosecurity screenings and genetic sampling.

NSW DPI will advise if this is required.

If the exotic animal is listed as a Prohibited Dealing under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, it's illegal to keep as a pet and the animal must be humanely euthanised.

Due to the unknown origin, health, history and genetics of these animals, they can present serious biosecurity risks and are generally considered unsuitable for zoo collections.

Contact us: invasive.species@dpi.nsw.gov.au

More information: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nia

Have you collected an unusual exotic animal?



Information for licensed wildlife handlers

 **Take photos**, to confirm the identification of the animal and report to NSW Department of Primary Industries.

 **Report online:** www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/tighting

 Call the NSW Biosecurity Helpline: 1800 680 244 or

 Use this QR code to make an online report.



Can you securely hold the animal for NSW DPI to collect?

NO

Can another wildlife carer or vet securely hold the animal?

YES → Provide NSW DPI with new location and contact details for the animal

NO → If the animal can't be held, ask a vet to euthanase it (following confirmed identification) and keep it in the freezer, if possible

YES → NSW DPI will contact you during business hours to discuss the next steps

Important information:

Only hold an animal for NSW DPI if:

- you can separate it from other animals to prevent the spread of disease
- it doesn't require medical attention
- it is safe to have it in your care

If the exotic animal is listed as a Prohibited Dealing under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, it's illegal to keep as a pet and the animal will be humanely euthanised.

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How do we engage with community?



Primex 2023 – Casino (above)
Penrith Reptile Expo 2023 (adjacent)

How you can help?

- Help increase public awareness of these non-native species and their impacts.
- Educate landholders and members of the community of how to report unusual sightings.
- Share information of keeping of 'prohibited matter' anonymously or formally.
- Invite NSW DPI to events as a guest where you think it may be relevant.
- *Thankyou*