



**Department of
Environment and Conservation (NSW)**

**FINAL REPORT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF
THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE**

Introduced Animals on New South Wales Islands

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Background

In May 2005 DEH contracted the New South Wales Department of Environment and Conservation to undertake the project:

‘Introduced animals on NSW islands: improving Australia’s ability to protect its island habitats from feral animals (Project number 49533)’

The outputs and outcomes of this project were divided into four stages:

Stage 1

For the state of New South Wales to provide four lists of offshore islands as follow:

- I. List all New South Wales islands 20 hectares or larger in size. For each island provide: (a) name, and (b) centroid co-ordinates (or if unnamed centroid coordinates only)

- II. List all New South Wales islands of any size known to have or have had populations of introduced animals. For each island provide: (a) name, (b) centroid coordinates (or if unnamed centroid coordinates only), (c) area in hectares, (d) archipelago name if part of an archipelago) (e) land tenure category (as listed by Geosciences Australia), (f) land status under New South Wales legislation reserve number if reserved, (g) vesting (if reserve is vested), (h) ownership (if freehold), (i) introduced animal name, (j) current status of introduced animal (eg state if eradicated), (k) whether island is known to be currently or recently naturally joined to the mainland or larger island or artificially joined by construction of causeway or bridge.

- III. List all New South Wales islands 20 hectares or larger with no known occurrences of introduced animals. This list will be a subset of the list produced from I above. For each island provide: (a) name, (b) centroid coordinates (or if unnamed centroid coordinates only), (c) area in hectares, (d) archipelago name if part of an archipelago) (e) land tenure category (as listed by Geosciences Australia), (f) land status under New South Wales legislation reserve number if reserved, (g) vesting (if reserve is vested), (h) ownership (if freehold), (i) whether island is known to be currently or recently naturally joined to the mainland or larger island or artificially joined by construction of causeway or bridge (j) whether island has been surveyed for introduced animals by a NSW Government Department.

- IV. List all New South Wales archipelagos where an introduced animal may, once established on one island, disperse quickly to others, including small islets. This list will include sub-sets of the list produced from I above. For each archipelago provide: (a) name, (b) centroid coordinates (or if unnamed centroid coordinates only). A set of precautionary principles to be considered with list IV will also be provided in the final report.

Stage 2.

Identify any entry on Lists I-IV above that is not included in the Gazetteer of Australia.

Stage 3.

Provide information on the (a) government (local and State) legislation, if any, in place to regulate or control the introduction of feral animals (mainly rabbits, goats, pigs, foxes and cats) to each island included in List I and (b) legislation, if any, that controls the movements of introduced animals (any species) to each island or between islands included in List I.

Stage 4.

Are management plans in place that are designed to deal with any unintentional or intentional introduction to the islands, where the island has conservation status under legislation? If yes provide a copy (or internet reference) of each plan.

Stage 1 - List 1

The Worksheet 'Stage 1 List 1' lists all New South Wales islands 20 hectares or larger in size.

Stage 1 - List 2

The Worksheet 'Stage 1 List 2' lists all New South Wales islands of any size known to have or have had populations of introduced animals.

Stage 1 - List 3

There are no New South Wales islands 20 hectares or larger with no known occurrences of introduced animals. As a result no list/worksheet on this task has been provided as part of this report.

Stage 1 - List 4

The Worksheet 'Stage 1 List 4' lists all New South Wales archipelagos where an introduced animal may, once established on one island, disperse quickly to others, including small islets.

Stage 2 - Islands in Lists I-IV not in Gazetteer

No islands in Lists 1-4 were not listed in the Gazetteer of Australia 2002.

Stage 3 – Relevant legislation

There is no specific legislation in New South Wales regulating introduction or movement of feral animals. General New South Wales legislation which deals with feral animals and obligations to remove them is the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Lord Howe Island is also regulated by the *Lord Howe Island Act 1953* and *Lord Howe Island Regulation 2004*. The latter prohibits the introduction of goats *Capra hircus* and cats *Felis catus*, and the introduction of any other animal must be approved by the Lord Howe Island Board. There is also a *Quarantine Strategy for Lord Howe Island 2003* which made recommendations on animal introductions and control.

Stage 4 – Management plans

No management plans specifically deal with animal introductions to islands, but there are Pest Management Strategies covering large regional areas. An example of a Pest Management Strategy for the Far South Coast region of NSW can be obtained from the following web address:

http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/PDFs/fsc_pest_mgt_strategy_final.pdf

Most of the Nature Reserves and National Parks, listed in the table below, have a management plan. These plans can be obtained from the web address below:

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Park+management+plans+by+title>

Montague Island	Montague Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management 1995
Broughton Island	Myall Lakes National Park, Little Broughton Island and Stormpetrel Nature Reserves Plan of Management 2002
Little Broughton Island	Myall Lakes National Park, Little Broughton Island and Stormpetrel Nature Reserves Plan of Management 2002
Brush Island	Murramarang National Park, Brush Island Nature Reserve, Belowla Island Nature Reserve and Tollgate Islands Nature Reserve Plan of Management 2002
Cabbage Tree Island	nil, currently being drafted.
Solitary Islands	nil
Tollgate Islands	Murramarang National Park, Brush Island Nature Reserve, Belowla Island Nature Reserve and Tollgate Islands Nature Reserve Plan of Management 2002
Lord Howe Island	nil, currently being drafted.

Lord Howe Island has a Quarantine Strategy, which includes animal introductions.