

Summary of Impacts

- Over 380 high risk invasive animals are proposed for declaration as pest animals in the ACT to reduce the risk they will enter, emerge, establish and/or spread in the ACT or other Australian jurisdictions causing adverse social, economic or environmental impacts. Declaration will also facilitate management of new incursions and established populations.
- Many species will also be declared as prohibited from supply or keeping. While most species being declared are neither kept by, nor of importance to the ACT community, prohibition of some species could have economic and/or social impacts on some businesses and the community.
- Some newly prohibited pest animals (all fish, most invertebrates and cane toads), and most previously prohibited pest fish derived from the National Noxious Fish List, will also be declared as notifiable, meaning that occupiers of premises who detect them need to notify the Director-General of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate within two working days. This is likely to constitute a minor social impact in relation to a limited number of species.
- Transitional arrangements have been proposed to reduce potential regulatory impacts on community members and businesses that own or trade in invasive animals proposed to be newly declared as notifiable and/or prohibited. Arrangements include deferring the notifiable and/or prohibited declaration status until legislation changes allow for a permit to be applied for to keep the animals.
- There may be public sensitivity to the declaration of some species as pest animals that are not prohibited or notifiable on emotional or philosophical grounds.
- Declaration of pest animals has benefits for the environment, economy and community through reducing the risk of adverse impacts on native species, communities and ecosystems, the costs associated with loss of productivity, prevention, control and remediation, and the social nuisance and risk to human, animal and plant health cause by invasive species in homes and gardens, public spaces, on rural leases and in reserves.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - positive.

Social

Justice and rights

- Declaration of invasive animals is most likely to impact owners and traders of fish, with all newly declared species being notifiable and prohibited from supply or keeping. While the majority of the species being declared are unlikely to be kept or traded, some may be being kept for purposes such as exhibition and research, or by pet shops, aquaria and fish enthusiasts, without government’s knowledge. Some notifiable and prohibited invertebrates may also be being kept for exhibition or research purposes without government’s knowledge. Some people may be keeping a small number of bird species that will be declared as prohibited from supply or keeping after they have been removed from the exempt animals declaration under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*. It is unlikely other mammals, reptiles and amphibians are being kept legally without government’s knowledge because that would require a licence under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*. Prohibition of illegally kept mammals, reptiles and amphibians does not constitute a regulatory impact. Transitional arrangements have been proposed to delay declaration of species as notifiable and/or prohibited should an unacceptable regulatory impact on owners and businesses be identified.
- In amending policies and legislation, the cultural and other rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other minorities must be taken into account in accordance with Section 27 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*. Aboriginal stakeholders including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body will be consulted on the proposed amendments through a letter of invitation to make a submission and a public consultation meeting to assist in identifying any impacts on these groups.
- There may be public sensitivity to the proposed declaration of peafowl, some other bird species and commonly kept animals (e.g. mice, rats) as pest animals, even though they are not prohibited or notifiable. The public will be invited to make submissions on these species through the Environment website, a public meeting or

	<p>directly to government. Should the proposed declaration of particular species be widely unacceptable, declaration may be reconsidered (as for cats in 2016).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the risk of entry and establishment of new invasive animals through prohibiting them from supply or keeping reduces potential social impacts for example nuisance birds in gardens and around restaurants, dangerous reptiles and ants, and collisions of large animals with motor vehicles.
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Economic

ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no implications for the ACT Government budget in amending the pest animals declaration. There is a potential minor economic impact on businesses supplying fish species that will be declared as prohibited from supply or keeping but transitional arrangements mitigate these impacts (see above).
Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are major economic benefits in preventing or detecting the incursion of new invasive species before they become established in the ACT. Prevention and rapid eradication of new incursions is much more cost effective than ongoing management for established invasive animal populations. Eradication also prevents productivity losses from primary industries.

Environmental

Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established populations of invasive animals prey on, compete with and/or displace native fauna, graze, browse and otherwise damage native flora, and cause other ecosystem damage such as soil scrapes and wallows, erosion and reduced water quality. Reducing the risk of entry and establishment of new invasive animals through prohibiting them from supply or keeping reduces these impacts on the environment.
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