

Why manage non-indigenous animals that are not causing problems?

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Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources



Why invest in managing invasive species?

- We want a thriving economy, a healthy environment and a community protected from harm
- Managing invasive species helps by contributing to:
 - increased competitiveness and productivity; and
 - enhancing the condition of our land and water environments, including biodiversity



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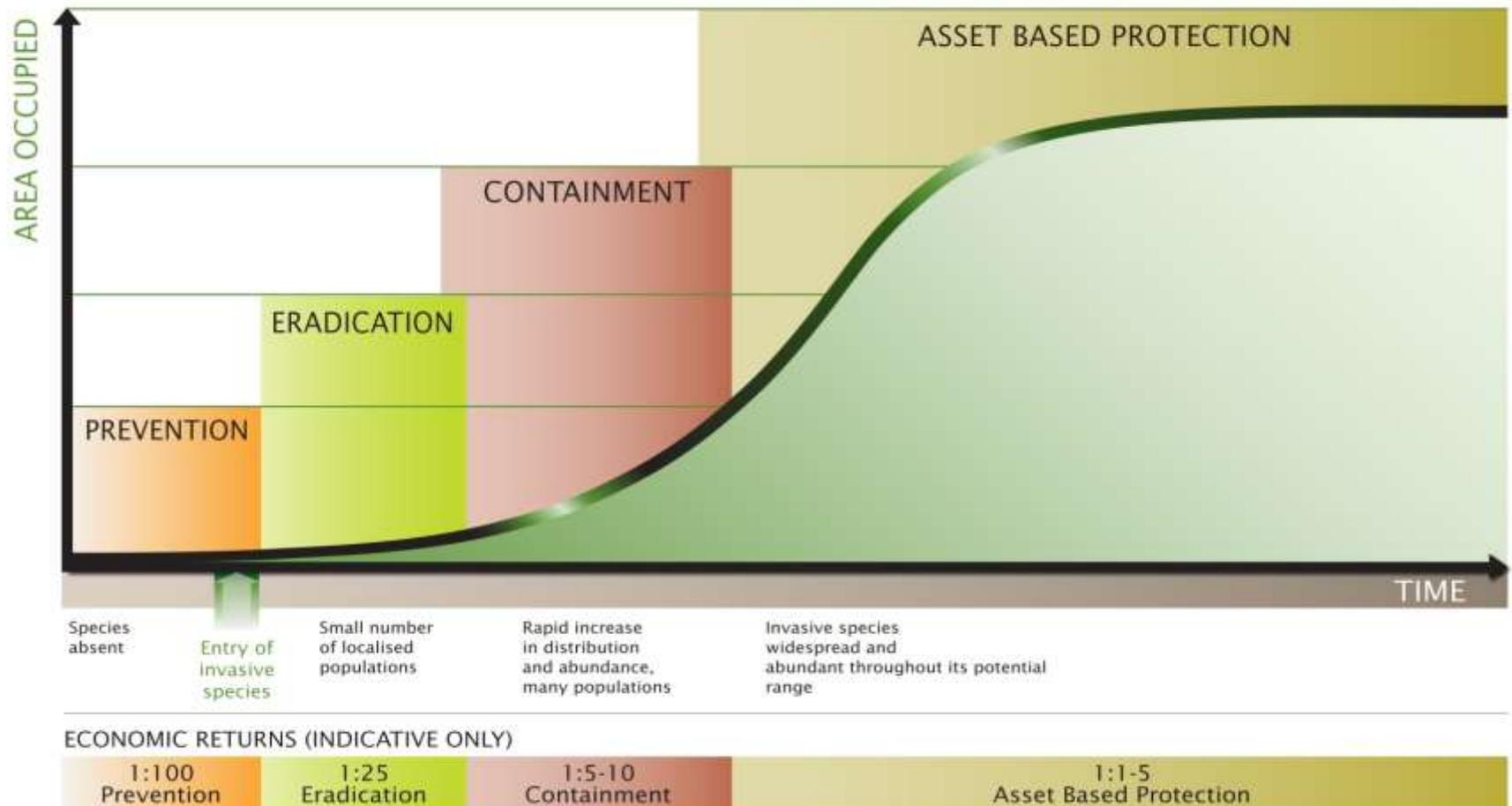
Example: Boa constrictors and other snakes, originally released as unwanted pests, dominate areas of the Florida Everglades



Nationally accepted policy framework

GENERALISED INVASION CURVE SHOWING ACTIONS APPROPRIATE TO EACH STAGE

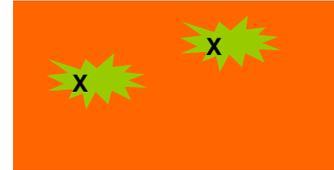
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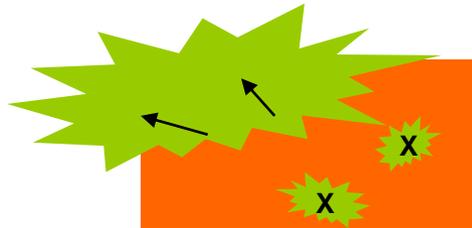
Four phases in pest management:



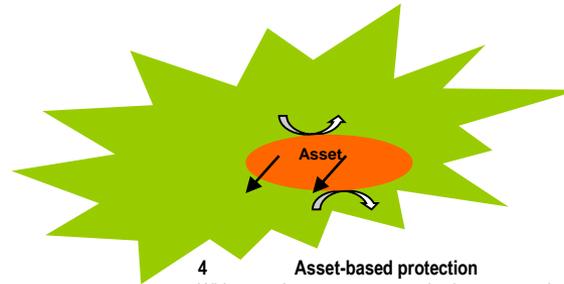
1 Prevention
New infestations are kept out.



2 Eradication
All infestations of new high-risk species in the state are targeted for eradication.



3 Containment
The priority is to target small satellite infestations for eradication. The core infestation is prevented from further spread, which may include reduction within the infestation, where appropriate.

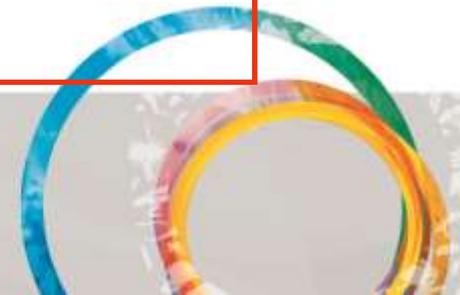


4 Asset-based protection
Widespread pests are managed using an asset-based approach where all threats managed to minimise their impact on the asset.

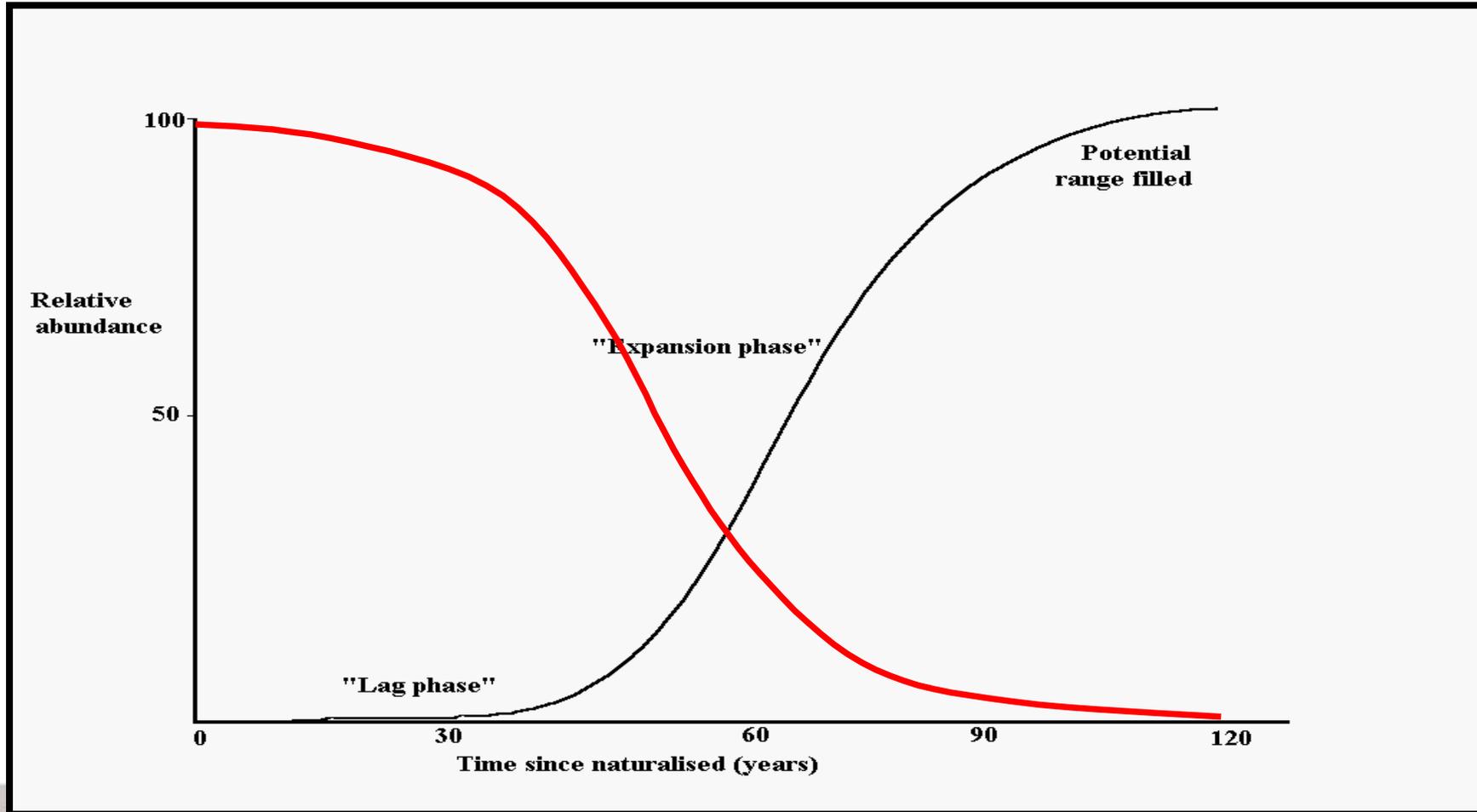
LEGEND

-  The state
-  Infestation

-  Exclusion program
-  Eradication program
-  Containment



Effectiveness of government intervention



Background

- Under the Australian Quarantine Act 1908:
 - The border was meant to be impervious and to keep out all threats
 - Special allowance was made for the needs of 'A Class' zoos (such as Adelaide Zoo) and 'B Class' zoos (such as Gorge Wildlife Park and circuses)



- However:
 - Exotic species outside of A and B Class zoos were not controlled in general
 - A constitutional review in the 1960s concluded that the Commonwealth had no constitutional authority to control animals inside the national border
 - New guidelines were prepared in the 1980s



National 'Guidelines for the Import, Movement and keeping of Non-indigenous Vertebrates in Australia'

- First version published in 1983, current version since 2010
- Recognise that the import, movement and keeping of non-indigenous species represent major threats to the economy, the environment and the community
- Recognise that these threats need to be managed if disasters such as the Florida everglades are to be avoided



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Guidelines aim to:

- Focus on strategies to prevent establishment
- Manage the risks, with risk being a product of **likelihood of establishment** and the **consequences** of that establishment
- Use best available scientific knowledge in risk assessment and management



Risk assessment leads to assignment to threat categories

- **Extreme threat species:** prohibited from entry, movement and keeping
- **Serious threat species:** restricted to approved high security collections
- **Moderate threat species;** kept under permit and subject to risk analysis
- **Low threat species:** generally unregulated



What factors influence the risks with keeping a non-indigenous species?

- Numbers of a particular species being kept
- Number of collections
- Environmental conditions
- Breeding vs non-breeding collection
- Physical security
- Likelihood of man-made risks eg, deliberate release by fringe groups



How successful have we been?





Where to from here?

- Reduce not eliminate risk
- Raise community awareness of the risks
- Focus limited resources to where they can be most effective
- Adopt more uniform risk management approaches across incursions and jurisdictions
- Continue to focus on prevention and early intervention



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Questions?



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