

Baiting

The large size of Lake Parramatta Reserve allows for baiting programs to be carried out. Sodium Monofluoroacetate, commonly known as 1080 bait is the pesticide used to poison foxes. Fox poisoning with 1080 is regulated in NSW by the *Pesticide Act 1978*.

As Lake Parramatta is a Wildlife Protection Area (WPA) and a declared Wildlife Refuge, dogs and cats should be excluded from the reserve during baiting periods to avoid nontarget baiting as 1080 baits are lethal to cats and dogs. The Companion Animals Act requires people to confine their dogs and control them within public areas, greatly reducing risk of accidental baiting within reserves.

Coordinated control programs occur in autumn and spring to coincide with breeding patterns and dispersal of juvenile foxes. 1080 is a highly regulated pesticide which requires an accreditation to handle. Australian native animals typically have lower sensitivity to this toxin than canids (foxes and dogs), meaning the risk to native species is low. Where a substantial risk is present to domestic dogs other control methods such as fox cage traps are used.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help limit fox intrusions by ensuring food sources, such as pet food and food scraps, are disposed of properly.

The most useful information that residents can provide is to record all fox sightings on the Feral Scan app: <https://www.feralscan.org.au/foxscan/>. This information is provided to Local Land Services (LLS) and then used to guide the regional control programs. By reporting these to FoxScan, specifically for foxes spotted in the Parramatta Local Government Area, the information reaches Council more accurately.

For further information on the fox baiting program, contact City of Parramatta Council on 1300 617 058 or Greater Sydney Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.

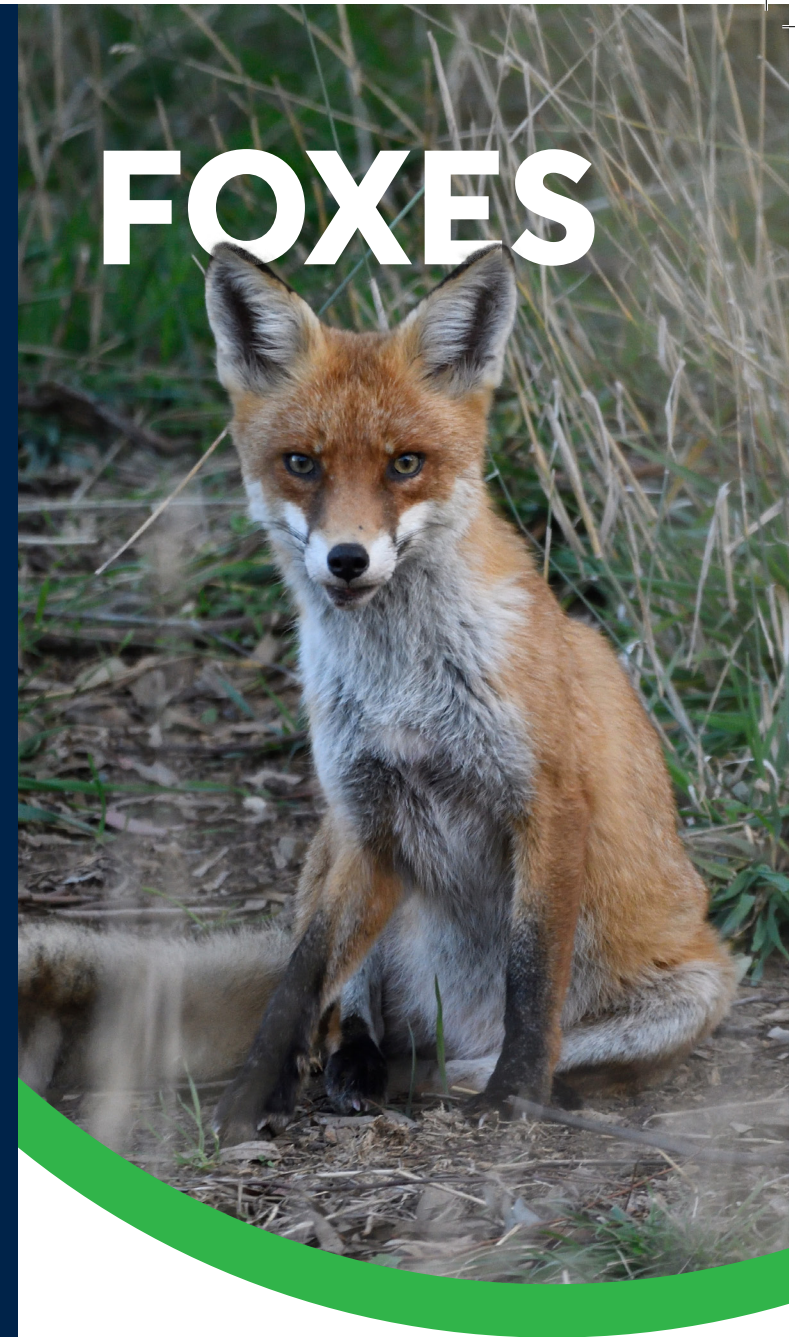
FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE SCAN HERE:



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FOXES

The European Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is an introduced species to Australia. They have become widely distributed, and well established in the Greater Sydney Region, since being introduced to Australia in the 1870s for recreational hunting. Populations are found where natural environments have been disturbed, where adequate shelter is found and where food sources are available. Red foxes are known as a public nuisance that can take advantage of left-over pet food in people's backyards and are known for killing behaviour resulting in backyard poultry loss.



WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

Foxes are currently widespread and numerous across Australia, inhabiting both urban and rural landscapes. Being both very mobile and efficient breeders, they can quickly colonise areas with low fox numbers or high abundance of prey, such as rabbits.

Foxes are found across our whole LGA. At Lake Parramatta Reserve foxes have been found in abundance due to the network

of bushland corridors that link the Upper Parramatta River Catchment. Feral Scan data shows that fox sightings have occurred upstream of Lake Parramatta in Hunts Creek and North Rocks residential areas.



A fox den entry. Photo: Anne Carey

Lake Parramatta is the largest conserved bushland area that exists in the City of Parramatta Local Government Area and has the highest diversity of native flora and fauna. Ground species such as Wallabies, Echidnas and Eastern Long-Necked Turtles have been found inhabiting the reserve. Up to 90% of Eastern Long-Necked Turtles nests have been estimated as being predated on during nesting season at Lake Parramatta.

HOW DO THEY IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT?

Foxes are considered an invasive species as they can injure and kill significant numbers of native species, including small- and medium- sized marsupial and bird species, in addition to livestock and pet animals. They can also spread diseases, such as distemper, parvo virus and mange.

Detrimental impacts from foxes can be very costly and stressing to both humans and animals affected.

In NSW, impacts on native fauna caused by foxes is listed as a key threatening process under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

HOW ARE FOXES MANAGED?

Management of foxes is essential, particularly in Wildlife Protection Areas, such as Lake Parramatta. Reducing fox populations within the area will benefit many other native fauna species and reduce fox nuisance behaviour to adjoining residential areas. Without pest management plans in place many fauna species could be at risk of local extinction, particularly the Eastern Long-Necked Turtle.

Generally, management of foxes is complex, and a combination of management strategies is needed in order to control fox populations effectively over the long-term. City of Parramatta Council is a member of the Sydney North Vertebrate Pest Committee (SNVPC), which was established in 1998 to provide a coordinated approach to vertebrate pest control across the region.

There are a variety of Fox control options. Within the City of Parramatta control measures primarily include:

- Baiting
- Shooting
- Trapping