

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As a landholder, it is your **legal responsibility** to control rabbits on your property, big or small. Under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994, all landowners have a **LEGAL** duty to prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, pest plants and animals on their land. This includes rabbits, foxes, and noxious weeds.

Rabbits cause enormous destruction to native vegetation, crops, pasture, home gardens and they undermine buildings, reduce land values and degrade the environment. They are an introduced species and breed extremely rapidly in the Australian environment – **one pair of rabbits can produce 184 offspring in 18 months.**

Landcare is an Australia-wide, non-profit community organization supported by Government. Your local Landcare Group can offer advice and assistance to landholders in the control of pest plants (e.g. gorse) and animals (e.g. rabbits, foxes) and revegetation of indigenous plant species.

JOIN US

Join a Landcare Group! Be involved! Monthly meetings, informative speakers, meet other landholders, learn about our local environment. Join regular walks, talks and field days. Participate in planting and weeding days. Volunteer and contribute to a greener environment!



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Australian Government



Victorian
Rabbit Action
Network



Victorian
Landcare
Program



GUIDE TO INTEGRATED

RABBIT CONTROL

FOR SMALL PROPERTIES

1

MONITOR

2

PLAN

3

ACTION



ADVICE FOR
LANDHOLDERS

INTEGRATED RABBIT CONTROL

Total perimeter exclusion with rabbit proof fencing is the ideal way to begin, followed by the “Three Step Plan”. Perimeter fencing must be routinely inspected and maintained to be effective and property entrance gateways made rabbit proof. Rabbits are very persistent creatures with very long memories. Regular monitoring of your property is essential. Attack any signs of rabbit intrusion immediately before it becomes established.

While there is an initial financial outlay for perimeter fencing, there are considerable long-term benefits both in protecting your property from rabbits and reducing the time and frustration of controlling rabbits annually. The initial effort and expense of carrying out the “Three Step Plan”, perhaps involving outside contractors, and of course your own time, should never need repeating. If perimeter fencing is financially out of the question, it is the landholders responsibility to continually follow the “Three Step Plan” to control any rabbit invasions. It is a duty to our neighbours and the environment.

REMEMBER!

- Persistence is key
- Monitor your property weekly

Don't let this plague happen again!

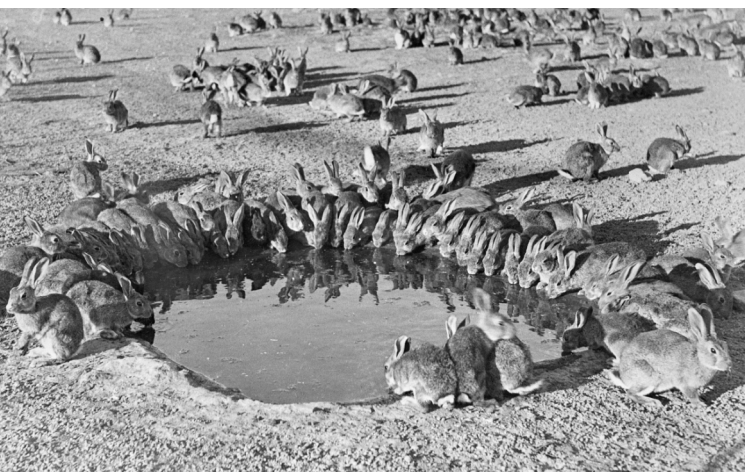


Image: M W Mules, 1938

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STEP 1

Monitor your property

Locate all warrens and burrows and map using Rabbit Scan
Download the Rabbit Scan App to your smart phone or tablet.

How many rabbits are on your property?

Carry out a spotlight count to assess your starting point.

Identify rabbit harbour on your property

Inspect the perimeter of buildings including decking, sheds and water tanks for signs of rabbit entry/activity. Note noxious and woody weeds (e.g. Boxthorn, Gorse), log piles and accumulated rubbish.

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STEP 2

Plan your control program

Investigate your options - Identify Planning Scheme Overlays or Cultural Heritage Overlays on your property. Visit the VicPlan website and type in your address to view overlays, or contact your local council. A permit is required to remove native vegetation.

As warren fumigants are Schedule 7 Poisons, an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) is required. There are strict controls on baiting, minimum property size is 1000 square metres. You are responsible for the protection of people, pets, livestock and wildlife. Always follow the product label.

Speak with neighbours about combined ‘attack’

Consider sharing costs of engaging contractors - this could be a simple solution!

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STEP 3

Take action

Remove rabbit harbour including rubbish, wood piles, noxious and woody weeds (before flowering and seed drop). Stack firewood over a layer of wire netting, install netting to permanently exclude entry by rabbits under buildings, tanks, etc.

Do initial rabbit ‘knockdown’ baiting if this is a viable option. On properties with rabbit-proof fencing, fumigation of burrows is the next step, followed by complete destruction of burrows (digging out and collapsing). On properties with no rabbit-proof fencing, the regime sequence is to firstly bait (Feb-April), then destroy all warrens, then fumigate any re-opened warrens. Prior to fumigation, locate all burrow openings by blowing smoke through the system. Whatever sequence of ‘attack’ is used, continual monitoring and immediate attention to re-opened burrows, and/or breached fencing, is essential. **Remember - no burrows means no breeding!**

FURTHER INFORMATION

Helpful websites

- **Aboriginal Heritage Victoria** (for cultural overlays) www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au
- **Agriculture Victoria** www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/integrated-rabbit-control
- **Birdlife Australia** www.birdlife.org.au/rodent-control
- **Colac Otway Shire** www.colacotway.vic.gov.au
- **Rabbit Scan App** www.feralscan.org.au
- **Pest Smart** www.pestsmart.org.au
- **Surf Coast Shire** www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- **VicPlan** www.mapshare.vic.gov.au
- **Victorian Rabbit Action Network** www.vran.com.au

Resources available from www.vran.com.au

- Spotlight Monitoring Guide
- Rabbit Control Calendar
- List of local contractors



Image: Lucy Reiger

**NO WARRENS, NO
BURROWS, NOWHERE FOR
RABBITS TO BREED!**