

# Basalt to Bay Landcare Network

LGA of Moyne and Warrnambool City

Since 2008. Community Group.



# Our Network region is mostly farm land



# It's highly productive land

- It drives the regional economy.
- It produces significant amounts of primary produce and international exports.
- 70% of the land area of our region is agricultural land.

- Making up the remaining 20% of the land not in primary production or housing

is fragments of Crown land

# Crown land summary Moyne

- Over 900 parcels of Crown Land.
- Only 9 of them are bigger than 240ha
- Only 35 of them are bigger than 40ha
  
- The largest are managed by Parks Victoria –  
eg: Mt Eccles, Coastal Reserve between Port Fairy and Port Campbell, Tower Hill.

– some on waterways – River  
Frontage Licences, Streamside  
Reserves, Water Reserves



Some are roads and roadsides both  
Shire and VicRds- and including  
licenced and unlicenced road reserves





# Some are Nature Reserves



And **all** share the same pest animal issues with private land





Pest animals are everywhere.

They don't care about who owns  
the land or where the boundary is.

They take the right to occupy.

# Foxes, rabbits, cats, hares -

- Eradication is an improbable goal
- Reduction and suppression is a lifelong effort
- Scale of reduction can only be achieved with resourcing for long term programs

# Pest animals and Crown Land -

- The biggest issue is not how many pests there are on Crown Land – but how to get reduction when Crown Land Managers are not resourced to work with and assist local organisations and private land managers in that reduction long term.

# Local action and unity works!

- Organisations that are present and have staff in the community at “grass roots” level, able to personally drive and motivate unity between multiple landholders and tenure on pest animals.
- Organisations that persist and represent positive change on pest response.

- Local example – Parks Victoria
- St Helens Flora Reserve 38ha contains over a dozen Federally Listed State Protected species of plants and animals.
- Also contains foxes, feral cats, rabbits and hares, as does the surrounding private and Crown Land.



We can and have controlled these  
pests in the private land around  
this reserve since 2012

# None of this action has been funded by Parks Victoria

- Pacific Hydro (cameras and fox control)
- Australian Blue Gums Pty Ltd (fox control)
- Sustainable Forestry Environmental Management (fox control)
- Glenelg Hopkins CMA (fox control and events)
- State Government Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative (facilitation)

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RECONYX

# Our problem ahead

- How do we gain greater and more effective resourcing to build action results with multiple landholders on pest animals?
- How do we gain permits to bait using new, more effective methods on Crown Land?
- How do we gain support from the Crown to support local action on pest animals that we have shown works?

# The role of this inquiry

- Enable Crown Land Managers to work on local solutions with local groups by giving them decision power and direct funds to do this
- Tell our story and invite State Managers to connect with us and our work

# Why? – the economy is at stake!



- A fox with mange is a direct transfer threat to farm dogs, people, and native mammals.
- Foxes spread infesting tapeworms that reduce productivity of sheep and degrade meat and wool returns.
- Foxes can also spread hydatids, distemper, and spore driven worst case scenarios ahead like rabies, foot and mouth disease, TB, and anthrax. The trade ramifications of tolerating them are massive.

Work for us and with us

