

Template of Rabbit Control Questions

Information and decisions to help plan for rabbit control

ASSESS

Define the problem. Rabbit damage.

1. What harm is occurring and why is it a problem?
2. What is causing the problem and why has it arisen – what is the root cause?

Measure the problem. Know your target species

3. Where does the target species occur, and how prolific is it?
4. Does the target species have any behavioural or biological weaknesses?

PLAN

Scope the Plan.

5. Are other animals (pests, native fauna or livestock) or weeds associated with your target pest, due to?
 - a. Competition for feed or habitat, e.g. feral goats or deer?
 - b. Predator – prey relationships, e.g. feral cats or foxes?
 - c. Weeds providing harbour or being spread by the pest, e.g. blackberries?
6. Could the control of your target pest have adverse effects? NB Any 'prey-shifting' by cats or foxes is generally temporary and outweighed by the ecosystem-wide advantages of rabbit control.
7. Will controlling your target pest help, or be helped by, the control of other pests or weeds?
8. Is your target pest likely to re-invade from adjacent properties if not controlled there?
9. Are there other people or agencies dealing with the same problems who may have advice, resources, or experiences to share?

Develop a plan with clear objectives

10. What outcome do you want to achieve?
11. Are there different control strategies that may suit different circumstances, complement each other, or fit best with other aspects of property management?

MANAGE

Implement the Plan. Tailor control techniques and strategies to suit.

12. Which method, or combination of the available control methods, will best suit your situation?
13. Is the timing or sequencing of control options important for the best results and best fit with other property management operations?

Follow-up: Monitor outcomes and responses.

14. What will you measure to know if your plan achieved the desired outcome?
15. How and when will you collect information to measure the effectiveness of your plan?

IMPROVE

Evaluate the plan

16. Which aspects of the plan were most successful, and which weren't?
17. If areas weren't as successful as hoped was it because of problems with implementation or because the expected outcomes didn't occur?

Revise. Modify and repeat as necessary

18. What changes will be needed to make the plan more effective and efficient?