

PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR EASTERN QUOLLS ON NORTH BRUNY ISLAND

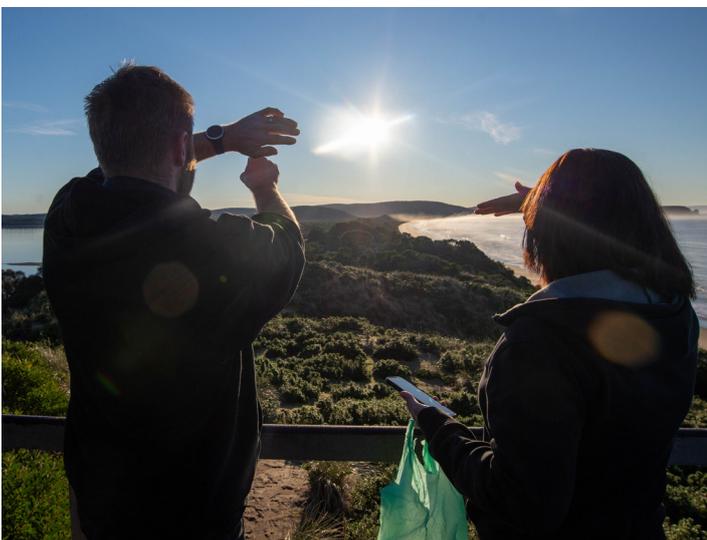
PROJECT UPDATE APRIL 2022



QUARTERLY PROGRESS

Another few months have flown by for the cat team. By the end of March an impressive total of 91 cats have been removed from the project area. In the last three months, 23 cats were removed (5 feral cats, 9 stray cats, and 9 community captured cats (feral/stray)). This has been a big effort by the project team and has also depended on a lot of support from the community. We'd like to extend our thanks to everyone that is carrying out trapping on their property and those who have reported cat sightings, it all helps us to better manage the impacts of cats on Bruny's wildlife and agriculture.

FERAL AND STRAY CAT TRAPPING UPDATE



Leish and Conrad planning trapping locations on the Neck

Leish and Conrad from Bruny Farming have been working hard trapping cats in and around north Bruny and some southern hotspots. Five feral and nine stray cats were captured and, where possible, these cats were rehomed through the Ten Lives Cat Centre.

This quarter, feral cat trapping will recommence in the shearwater colonies in the Bruny Island Neck Game Reserve as the birds head north on their migration. Trapping may also target areas that were burnt in April as part of a controlled burn undertaken by the Parks and Wildlife Service. Research from other parts of Australia has indicated that cats often target fire scars, which offer little cover for surviving native species. Conducting feral cat management in and around fire scars can be a powerful means of supporting native wildlife recovery in the post-fire environment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Thanks to the efforts of Kingborough Council and Sealink, new signage outlining cat issues on Bruny was installed at the Sealink Bruny ferry terminal in early April. The signage outlines some of the issues that cats cause on Bruny, and what visitors and residents can do to protect the island's unique wildlife from cats.

Some members of the project team also presented at the Bruny Bird Festival to a passionate and interested group, about the impacts of cats on offshore islands, particularly on birds, and what the project is doing to mitigate cat impacts on Bruny.

Rates of registration and compliance with the Bruny Land Cat By-Law remains high, with 71% of households with cats compliant with the By-Law. In the coming months Kingborough Council will be contacting all known cat owners on Bruny as part of the 2022-2023 annual review of registration under the By-Law.



New signage on display at the ferry terminal

COMPLETION OF FELIXER GROOMING TRAP TRIAL!

Our trial aimed to gather information on whether Felixer traps can safely be used around Bruny Island's wildlife, such as quolls, shearwaters and possums. In this trial, five Felixers were set up in 'non-lethal mode' across North Bruny Island. They were left in place for 4-5 months taking images of animals that moved in front of them, gathering information on whether the traps could correctly distinguish between native species and feral cats.

A total of 1141 native animals (including brushtail possums, wallabies and eastern quolls) were photographed in front of the traps and none of these animals were misidentified as a cat. There were 11 occasions when a cat moved in front of the trap and four were identified by the traps as targets. Those cats were all individuals that have been difficult to capture using traditional cage trapping methods.

These results are encouraging and provide support for using these traps safely on Bruny Island. Further analysis of the feasibility of this will take place over the coming months.



A Felixer Grooming trap in non-lethal mode (north Bruny).



Biosecurity Tasmania wildlife biologist setting up a Felixer Grooming Trap.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



- Record all sightings of feral cats on Bruny Island via FeralCatScan. Visit the [website](#) or download the free smart phone App or contact Kingborough Council ph: 6211 8200 / kc@kingborough.tas.gov.au to report a cat sighting.
- Get assistance to trap stray or feral cats on your property. Contact Kingborough Council's Cat Management Officer, on 03 6211 8200 or kallan@kingborough.tas.gov.au for information. Where appropriate stray cats are transferred to Ten Lives Cat Centre for rehoming.
- Encourage cat owners to protect their cat, along with local wildlife and livestock by complying with the Bruny Island Cat By-Law.
- Find out more about the project [here](#), or contact NRM South on 0447 266 527.

Supporting organisations



Project partners



This project is supported by NRM South through funding provided by the Australian Government. It is delivered in partnership with Bruny Farming, Biosecurity Tasmania, Kingborough Council, Ten Lives Cat Centre, the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Cooperation and with support from the weetapoona Aboriginal Cooperation.