

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- i Controlling weeds and pest animals is essential to protecting indigenous species and natural ecosystems.
- ii Preventing new weeds or pest animals from establishing is more effective than eradicating or controlling them.
- iii Early integrated management of potential weeds and pest animals minimises future costs – economic, environmental and social.
- iv A lack of detailed knowledge or understanding of a weed or pest animal’s full potential for damage is not a reason to do nothing.
- v All weed and pest animal management activities must be environmentally and socially sustainable and financially prudent.

# RATIONALE

The plan starts from the premise that prevention is better than cure. In the event that pests cannot be prevented from occurring, eradicating them while they are in small numbers or limited in distribution is the next best option. If pests cannot be totally eradicated, eradication in discrete areas may be appropriate, often combined with containing them in specific areas and preventing them from spreading further. Finally, where pests are established and widespread, the focus is on eradicating, containing or restricting them to minimise their adverse impacts on areas with the greatest biodiversity values.