Foxes on the Run

Best-practice fox control in Booderee National Park

Information Sheet

Resilient Landscapes

National Environmental Science Program



A fox in Boderee National Park. Image: Dion Maple.

Booderee National Park (BNP) has managed foxes for more than 25 years. This project is reviewing the long-running program, improving how foxes are detected, and tracking how they move through the landscape. The aim is to give park managers and Traditional Owners management options for long-term fox control and help protect native wildlife.

Why this research matters

Red foxes are a major threat to many native mammals and can undermine efforts to recover and reintroduce native species. At Booderee, fox incursions and predation remain an ongoing management risk for reintroduction programs involving species such as eastern quolls, southern brown bandicoots and long-nosed potoroos.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development-led Foxes on the Run project provides an important opportunity to understand how long-term predator management can be effectively monitored, reviewed and adapted over time.



An eastern quoll on the lookout at Boderee National Park. Image: Dion Maple.

How it works

The study combines a critical review of past data with new monitoring and field research. This involves:

- reviewing more than 25 years of fox control and monitoring
- testing a refined, permanent camera-trap network to improve early detection
- fitting foxes with GPS collars to understand movement, habitat use and possible invasion pathways
- using simulation modelling to test how different management actions may affect fox abundance and impacts
- building local capability through camera-trap, telemetry and field training.

At a glance

The project brings together researchers, Parks Australia staff, Booderee National Park Board of Management, Traditional Owners and regional partners. Local involvement is helping ensure the new monitoring approach and final recommendations are practical and suited to Booderee.

25+ yrs
of fox management reviewed

70
camera traps installed

9
foxes collared to date

2027
project completion

What has the project done?

The project has delivered several important advances in how foxes are monitored and managed at Booderee.

1. Reviewed the long-term program

   The project team completed a detailed review of historical fox monitoring and control data, highlighting what the program has achieved as well as where the evidence base can be strengthened.

Davies, H.F. & Meek, P.D. (2026). The Devil in the Detail: A Review of a Long-Running Australian Predator Management Program. Mammal Review 56(1): e70019. doi:10.1111/mam.70019

2. Strengthened fox monitoring

   A refined monitoring approach has been developed and implemented. In June 2025, 70 camera traps were installed in secure stations across the park to improve detection of fox activity and new incursions.

3. Tracked fox movements

   GPS collars are providing contemporary information on the areas foxes use, the habitats and structures they spend time in, and how they move inside and outside Booderee.

4. Built local capability

   The project has delivered camera-trap training for WBACC Bherwerre Rangers and Jerrinja Rangers, park staff and partner teams.

What have we learnt?

Long-term fox management relies on consistent monitoring. The project found that past changes in monitoring methods may have made fox suppression appear stronger than it was. Evidence for lower fox numbers was clearest from 1999–2011, while the current fox population and its impacts remain less certain.

The key lesson is clear: reliable monitoring, good data and regular review are essential to know what is working and adapt management over time.

Working closely with Parks Australia is also helping ensure recommendations are practical and suited to Booderee's management needs.

What happens next?

The findings point to several practical considerations for designing and evaluating community-based NRM programs:

- continue collecting GPS movement data from collared foxes
- run fox population simulations to test proposed management actions
- refine the permanent camera-trap monitoring network and automated data processing
- deliver Fox Monitoring and Fox Control Options Papers to the Booderee Board of Management and Parks Australia, with recommendations for future management.

Beyond Booderee

The lessons from this work can also inform predator management in Nature Reserves all over Australia who are facing similar challenges.

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Click here for the project webpage

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