

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Who's Who of Pests

Dr Julie Old and Mr Jack Wolfenden from the School of Natural Sciences are collaborating with Gosford City Council to explore the prevalence of introduced predators and pests and their effects on native flora and fauna in the Gosford Local Government Area (LGA).

'It is well-known that introduced predators such as the European red fox pose a significant threat to native fauna, as do other introduced pest species such as the Indian Myna bird', says Dr Old. 'These introduced species compete with native species for food and habitat requirements such as nesting sites and burrows. In the Gosford LGA, introduced species pose a predatory threat to species such as the endangered Bush Stone-curlew and the vulnerable Greater Glider (a large gliding marsupial). Foxes may also pose a significant competition risk to endangered predators found in this area, such as the Spotted-tailed quoll. Even some native pests such as the Noisy Minor can pose a threat to other indigenous flora and fauna by out-competing for resources and mobbing other birds and small mammals.'

Using GPS surveys of the Gosford area, the research team will assess the habitat conditions of native fauna populations and key features of the landscape, including potential nest sites, food and water supplies, terrain features and soil type. The prevalence of birds and mammals will also be measured through observation, and behaviours such as foraging, hunting patterns and resting and breeding activities will be recorded. The distribution and abundance of feral Indian Myna and Noisy Minor birds will also be assessed.



This project will be of significant value in improving pest management and native flora and fauna preservation strategies in the Gosford City Council area, thus improving the chances that endangered and vulnerable species will be protected for the future.

Project Title: Which species are present and what are they? An investigation of the impact of pest species on the distribution and abundance of native fauna in the Gosford City Council Area
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