

Falls Creek Community Rabbit Information

HAVE YOU NOTICED MORE RABBITS HOPPING ABOUT IN OUR VILLAGE OVER THE PAST YEAR?

The recent La Nina weather influence has delivered consistent rainfall providing favourable conditions for rabbits, particularly in the Village area where there is abundant highly palatable non-native grass. Rabbits have been taking refuge under buildings causing damage in the Village and has been impacting on our native flora and fauna and overall public amenity. This is a community problem and will rely on everyone's help to bring about successful rabbit control in the Resort.

Rabbits within Falls Creek Resort have become well established within the village creating issues including:

- Reduced survival of native plant species, providing a food source for breeding rabbits and helping to support foxes and feral cat populations
- Impacting infrastructure (buildings/services/roads)
- Contributing to weed invasion by exposing bare soil and carrying weed seed to new locations
- Erosion
- Reducing public amenity

To respond to the increased number of rabbits being detected in the Resort during the previous summer season, Falls Creek Resort Management (FCRM) sought the help from an expert to develop a Rabbit Action Plan for rabbits within the resort.

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RABBIT ACTION PLAN FOR OUR UNIQUE RESORT

The Plan provides clear direction with staged phases for the control works required in the short term and as an ongoing effort to control and protect assets. The focus of the Rabbit Action Plan is centred around stopping breeding by preventing access to burrows.

The Falls Creek Rabbit Action Plan has been designed with risks and considerations in mind to reduce the opportunity of successful breeding by limiting rabbit access to burrows and/or removing burrows. Implementation of the Action Plan is a phased approach from May 2022 to December 2024.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

This spring, FCRM will compile a database of all known rabbit burrows, sheltering places and grazing areas to inform the ongoing control works. It will be especially important to understand where rabbits are impacting infrastructures such as burrows under buildings.

You can report burrow locations and sheltering places on your site or anywhere that you see it occurring within the Village. Report to the database by using the online form at corporate.falls creek.com.au

To be successful, control methods will need to occur across the entire Village. In the early phases FCRM is seeking Expressions of Interest from leaseholders that would like to be part of the pilot program installing exclusion fencing around the base of any buildings with potential rabbit sheltering places. To complete your EOI, please visit corporate.falls creek.com.au

FCRM considers that rabbits present a significant risk to the ecological values of the resort and therefore FCRM will access leasehold areas in a bid to control them. Where any rabbits occur within your lease area, FCRM may access, monitor, and control them on your behalf. If you would prefer to manage rabbits yourself or would like more information about managing these in your lease area, please email FCRM at landmanagement@falls creek.com.au

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