

Cane toad on research hit list

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The Northern Territory Government has committed more than \$600,000 to researching biological controls and setting up a national taskforce to stop cane toads spreading.

Territory Parks and Wildlife Minister Chris Burns says \$220,000 will go toward awareness programs and testing prototype traps to be used in urban backyards, while a further \$420,000 will be used for research.

Dr Burns says the money will be spent rigorously testing the traps and researching the increased threat posed to native wildlife in all mainland states.

The Government has put the issue on the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council's agenda, which meets in Adelaide this week.

It will also lobby the Commonwealth and state governments to commit further funds.

"I guess it's a matter of convincing other states this is important," Dr Burns said.

"It's trying to actually get the cane toad named as a threatening process under the Act and with climate change and the incredible resilience of the toad, who knows, it could even spread into Victoria and South Australia."

Dr Burns expects Queensland and Western Australia to support the call and says he considers the Territory money as seeding funds for a more coordinated Australia-wide campaign.

"I certainly expect Queensland and Western Australia to do so and within the context of the Commonwealth of the Federation," he said.

"We often support things that southern states have, in terms of pests or threats, so I think there has to be a bit of give and take there as well."



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