

Landscape saboteurs

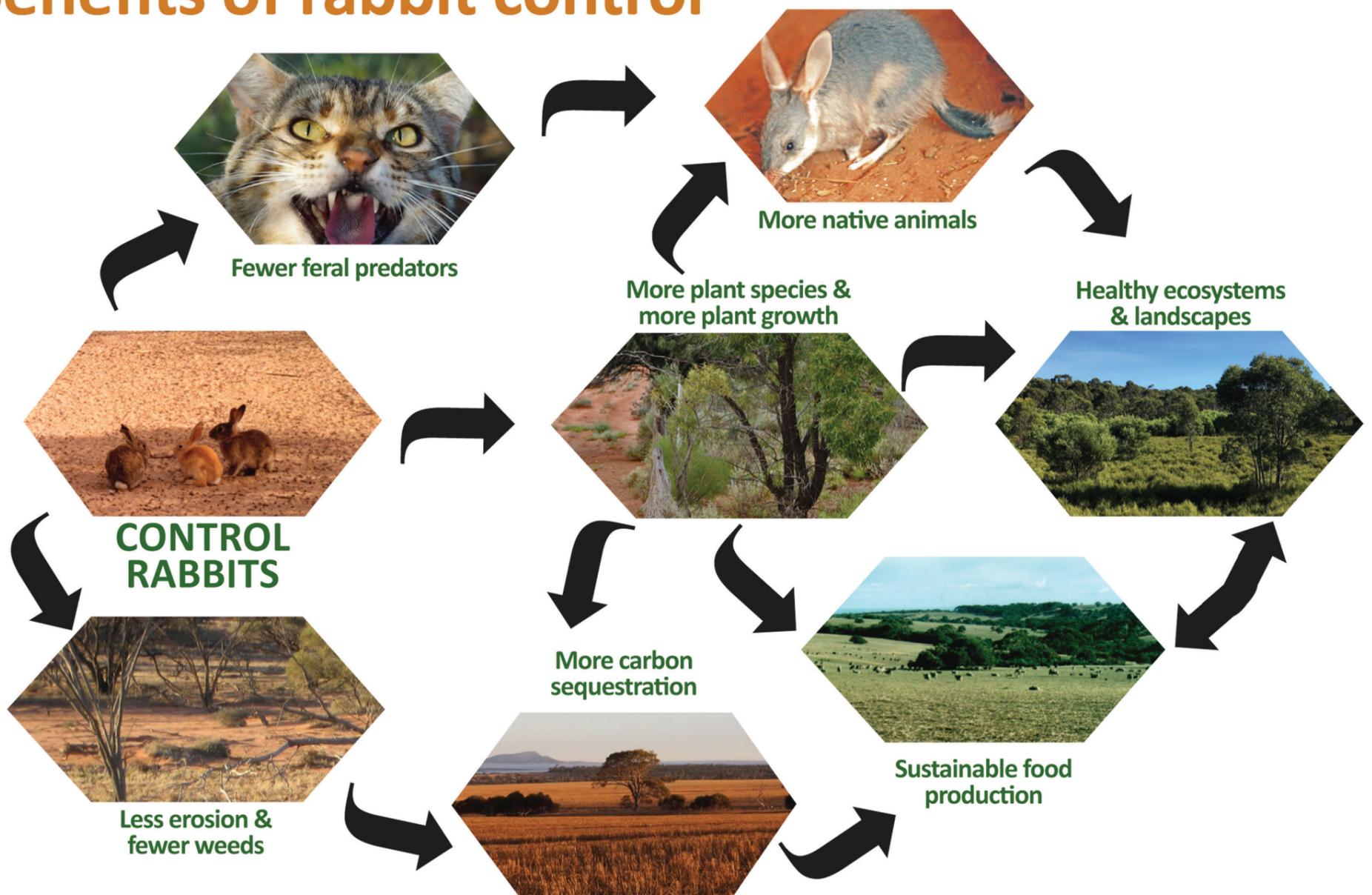
Rabbit impacts:

- Even in low numbers rabbits eliminate regrowth and seedlings, changing the structure of plant communities and the ecosystems they support.
- Rabbits sustain feral predators (cats and foxes), leading to hyper-predation of vulnerable species and stressing entire ecosystems.
- Rabbits cause more than \$200 million/year in damage to cropping and grazing industries. They also harm viticulture, horticultural production, forestry, revegetation and parks, gardens and sports grounds.
- Grazing and burrowing by rabbits invites soil erosion and weeds, and undermines infrastructure.
- Rabbits rebound from drought and fire faster than many plants and other animals, restricting the recovery of other species.

The Problem:

- Many rabbit impacts are unseen and under-rated.
- Many land managers have never seen rabbits in plague proportions and are unaware of the risks they pose.
- There is an assumption that bio-controls have fixed rabbits for good. They haven't, and they aren't sufficient on their own. Other innovative solutions are still needed.
- The effectiveness of bio-controls can wane over time but it takes decades for bio-control development and approval. Research must be ongoing before the need is urgent.

Benefits of rabbit control



The Solution:

- More research and commitment to long-term R&D programs.
- More encouragement and assistance to land managers and communities supplementing bio-controls with other control measures.
- More communication of issues and solutions – an ongoing 'national conversation' about rabbit control.

Get involved:

- **Take action.** Control rabbits where you can.
- **Get creative.** Seek help to trial your ideas for innovative rabbit control.
- **Spread the word.** Support groups and organisations combatting rabbits.
- **Talk with governments.** Urge their support for rabbit control research and assistance to land managers.
- **Join the conversation.** Join us – be part of the solution through engagement with peers across the nation.

For more information or to contact us at Rabbit-Free Australia

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