

# Monitoring Wildlife Research

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## DECC's animal research profile

- How many projects? 116 currently
- Purpose - environmental study 99%
- Field-based 99%
- Broad taxa survey 33%
- Single species or class studies 67%



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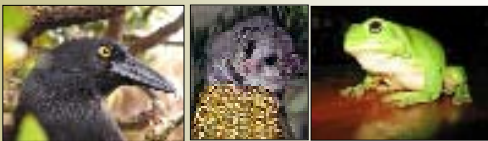
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## DECC's animal research profile

- Animals used in 2008 137,000
- Laboratory animals None
- Procedure
  - Observation/minor interference 94%
  - Minor conscious intervention 6%



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**DECC's animal research profile**

- Across all of NSW MG2
- In every environment



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**What are the difficulties for the DECC AEC in monitoring wildlife research?**

- Remote locations, spread statewide
- Seasonality of wildlife research
- Not possible to inspect field sites without prior arrangement with researchers



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**How does the DECC AEC monitor research?**

**Field inspections**

- focus on projects of higher risk:
  - trapping and handling, especially repeated
  - species factors
  - previous adverse outcomes
- written report to AEC with photos



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## Slide 4

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**MG2** gottm, 11/04/2009

**How does the DECC AEC monitor research?**

- Inspection of records of field work
- AEC meets in regional locations
- Detailed presentations from researchers at outset, midterm and/or end of project
- Code of Practice requirements



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**How does the DECC AEC deal with constraints on monitoring?**

**Control risks at the outset**

- standard operating procedures for common trapping techniques
- new tools and techniques
  - demonstrated in meetings
  - Published evaluations of success and risks
- experience of teams – ‘apprenticeships’



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**What are the major risk points in wildlife research that require most scrutiny?**

- Unexpected deaths
- Unsuitable weather
- Radiocollars
- Number of consecutive trapping nights
- Number of animals
- Non-target species
- Euthanasia
- Marking
- Prejudice against feral species



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***The environment assists...***

**DECC research:**

- **takes place in public**
- **is done by large teams**
- **is largely aimed at conservation of wildlife**
- **has managerial oversight**
  - of researchers
  - of projects through links to operational and policy needs



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