



Poisoning risk to children, pets, and wildlife

ARs are not pest species specific. 'Rat' poison does not discriminate.



Animal welfare

Acute and chronic impacts on non-target and target species: haemorrhage, compromised immune function, higher susceptibility to disease/infection, and mortality.



Endangered species

ARs are impacting many endangered and other threatened species, with cascading impacts through the food web.



Alternative, humane controls and proactive measures

Remove pest refuges, secure food / remove attractants, choose humane traps.



International evidence and regulation

Significant restrictions / bans on ARs are already in place overseas. Ever-increasing evidence of multidimensional impacts of ARs.

Nature's allies

Encourage owls, the natural predators of pest rodents, by retaining old, hollow-bearing trees and putting up suitable nesting boxes. Leave resident carpet pythons be.

Some of the native species impacted by ARs:

- Boobook Owl
- Eastern Grass Owl
- Eastern Barn Owl
- **Masked Owl**
- Powerful Owl
- Barking Owl
- Lesser Sooty Owl
- Blue-tongued Skink
- Australian Magpie
- Magpie-Lark
- Galah
- Laughing Kookaburra
- **Wedge-tailed Eagle**
- Hawks
- Kestrels
- **Grey Goshawk**
- Torresian Crow
- Pied Currawong
- Little Corella
- Tawny Frogmouth
- Common Koel
- Kites
- Squirrel Glider
- Native Rodents
- Common Brushtail Possum
- **Quoll**
- **Antechinus**
- **Tasmanian Devil**
- Brush-tailed phascogale
- Peron's Tree Frog
- Carpet Python

** Species (or a subspecies) in bold are endangered either Federally or in one or more Australian States / Territories.*



Alternative controls

actforbirds.org/what-to-buy-and-avoid



Anticoagulant Rodenticides

Risks to wildlife, pets and children



The issue

The use of anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs) in Australia is a significant risk to our native wildlife and pets through the direct consumption of the poison or by secondary poisoning, which occurs when non-target species consume rodents (or other species) that have been poisoned.

ARs cause illness which increases the chances that an animal will be preyed upon (by native or feral species) and that they will fall victim to other risks e.g. road trauma.

Young children are also at risk from accidental ingestion of ARs that are used around the house and garden.

Physiological impacts

- Decreased appetite / anorexia
- Increased thirst
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Dark, bloody stool
- Pale gums
- Weakness
- Bleeding from the nose
- Inability to walk
- Swollen belly (from blood accumulation)
- Muscle tremors
- Bruising / red splotches on skin
- Shaking/seizures

First generation (FGARs)

- Active ingredients: Warfarin (Ratsak Double Strength), Coumatetralyl (e.g. in Racumin), and Diphacinone
- FGARs work more slowly and break down more quickly.
- FGARs can cause significant and chronic impacts (and ultimately fatal consequences) for non-target species.

Second generation (SGARs)

- Active ingredients: Brodifacoum (most Ratsak brands), Bromadiolone (some Ratsak products) and Difenacoum (Talon, Mortein, Ratsak Fast Action, Pestoff Rodent Bait 20R, Klerat).
- SGARs can stay in body tissues for months or even years

ARs compromise immune function, leading to higher disease/infection/parasite susceptibility and debilitation that increases mortality risk e.g. road trauma and predation.

Environmental / ecological impacts

ARs disperse through the food web, including freshwater and marine systems, amplifying risks to threatened and endangered species.

Prevention is better than poison

"There are several cost-effective non-toxic approaches available to monitor and control rodents. Trapping has several advantages, in that rodents can be easily removed from the site without leaving chemical residues, success is immediately evident, counts of trapped rodents can be readily tracked, and in many instances may facilitate the eradication of an infestation without resorting to the use of rodenticides."

AEPMA©

Australian Environmental Pest Managers' Association Limited

AEPMA© recommendations (exclusion / mitigation) include:

- Physical barriers, such as mortar replacement, capping, wire mesh, door sweeps and weather seals to exclude pests from area of ingress
- Waste water traps and gate valves to deter subterranean ingress
- Clearing areas which will expose pests to predation or destroying their food, shelter and breeding environment.
- Containment and good storage practices of all food and water sources that are an attractant to the area of activity. (e.g. food bowls, BBQ's, rubbish bins, bird-feeders)
- Regularly clearing or flushing drains, gutters, sewers and septic tanks

