



## DOMESTICATED AND WILD/FERAL RABBITS

### Legislation in Victoria

Both the domesticated and wild/feral rabbits are identified as an *Oryctolagus cuniculus* species.

They are referenced under **Section 58** of the **Catchment and Land Protection Act (CaLP)** however, we also need to consider how the rabbits are gazetted to determine what can and can't be kept.

Refer to the link

[http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/283435/declared-prohibited-pest-animals.pdf](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/283435/declared-prohibited-pest-animals.pdf)

In **Schedule 4B**, rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are gazetted as an 'established pest animal'.

This schedule is referring to European rabbits in the wild/ feral populations only and not domesticated rabbits.

This is how you can keep domesticated rabbits without breaching **Section 75** of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*

The European rabbit is one of the species (like goats and pigs) for which declaration as an established pest animal relates to the 'feral or wild population'.



### Keeping wild/feral rabbits

When any rabbit is securely housed in captivity, it is no longer considered to be part of a feral or wild population then consequently no permit is required for its keeping.

The prior history and origin of the rabbit is not relevant to its status in respect of the CaLP Act when in captivity.

### Releasing Rabbits into the Wild

Releasing rabbits into the wild, whatever their origin, is an offence to release any rabbit back into the wild.



This information comes from Agriculture Victoria. If you are unsure of the legal situation in Victoria, please contact the department on 136186 and ask to be put through to the established pest animal program team member or someone from the compliance team.