

Cane toads in communities: talking toads in northern Australia

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While there has been some research around the ecological impacts of cane toads on Australian ecosystems, there has been little research on their impact on people. This poster presents the findings of qualitative research in six northern Australian communities, to investigate community perceptions of the threat, impact and management of cane toads.

Key themes from the research included concern for local wildlife, threats to indigenous food sources, limitations to current management (including manual collection), humane treatment of toads and a wide range of management suggestions. Respondents used, or had heard of, a variety of methods to kill or control cane toads, with many expressing a high level of concern about some methods and a strong desire for knowledge and recommendations on the most suitable and humane control techniques.

The findings in this study have implications for communicating welfare issues for so-called 'ugly' pests. The study has shown that community concerns, as well as ecological impacts, are important considerations in communicating invasive species management.