



## Darwin Reptile Project

### Re-building reptile communities

## Restoring reptile populations

- The impacts of invasive species on the potential benefits to already struggling successful ecosystems
- ~~Native species are not being protected~~



- ~~Damage to skins is so severe that the O. F. is in~~



- High level of monitoring on islands

– We have detected several recent invasions of **INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**:



- Since we translocated night geckos in 2006:
- Invasive species remain a huge issue for island biodiversity



- Agamid lizard
- Musk Shrew
- Wolf snake

- Estimated 155 geckos on the island prior to the rat
- Caught and removed the first three before major impact
- The night gecko populations would have established
- Did not get the rat in time - night geckos lost

## Ile aux Fouquets

- In the last Year:
  - 2 introductions
  - Indopacific tree gecko
  - Fire ant






[www.agric.wa.gov.au/](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/)

Ants potential impact upon entire island ecosystem, plants, inverts, reptiles, seabirds

## Flat Island

- Recently detected an agamid lizard:
  - Has been implicated in the decline of endemic reptiles (*Gongylomorphus*!!)

## Gunners Quoin

- Closed Nature Reserve, but receives visitors daily



- Most are unaware of the island's status – picnic on the summit – damage rocks and thus habitat!
- Illegal activities: spear fishing, cannabis, fires, poaching

## Gunners Quoin

- Recently introduction of the venomous Australian Red Back (Black Widow) - *Latrodectus hasselti*



- These findings and observations demonstrate that IAS are frequently moved with devastating effects to wildlife and now potentially human health
- Closed nature reserves are frequently visited and illegal activities are occurring



- People have a right to use beaches on Closed Nature Reserves, but with no awareness of IAS issues the risks are high



## Potential Solutions

- Island's status and reasons for status disseminated
- Signs placed on Closed Nature Reserves
- IAS awareness becomes part of the Skippers licence course:

## Potential Solutions

- Production of laminated card for **ALL** skippers / boat operators to carry:
- Links with the Rare Pride Campaign addressing island use and abuse in the Southeast

