

Thylation

Development and registration of Feral Cat Grooming Traps is a very high priority of the Australian Government's "Threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats".

The Thylation Group of Companies are the developers and patent holders of the Felixer™, the world's only feral cat grooming trap.

Felixers™ are target-specific and automated tools that use an array of sensors to distinguish feral cats and foxes from wildlife and pets. Target invasive predators are sprayed with a measured dose of toxic gel that is ingested through grooming.

In February 2020, **this project received \$1.2M in grant funding from the Australian Government's Environment Restoration Fund** to support the commercialisation of Felixers™, which was successfully delivered on time and on budget by mid-December 2020, supported by an independent audit report.



The Applidyne and Thylation teams in Adelaide with the first completed new Felixer™ V3.1 in September 2020 (image 57 Films)

Final project outcomes of this grant are:

- Development of an optimised Felixer™ (V3.1) including an optimised solar controller to enable operation in forested and cloudy environments, GPS and Bluetooth tag reading capabilities and an upgraded membrane keypad. These Felixers™ were the first commercial models produced compliant to hold the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM).
- Improved accessibility of Felixers™ for feral cat control by reducing costs, enabling leasing options and design and production of reusable packing crates that also serve as fire resistant shelters for deployment.
- Production of thirty (30) V3.1 Felixers™ and provisioning for their use for two (2) years to control feral cats at sites selected by the Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner ('OTSC'). In 2020 these Felixers™ were deployed to
 - Christmas Island as part of the cat eradication program,
 - Venus Bay Conservation Park (SA) to protect Greater Bilbies and Woylies,
 - Kangaroo Island (SA) to protect Kangaroo Island Dunnarts and Bandicoots during the bush fire recovery phase,
 - and Western Ground Parrot conservation sites (WA) to protect these endangered birds in habitats that are very challenging for conventional cat control.

They will be moved to several high conservation priority sites in South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory over the next 2 years.

- The Felixer™ User Manual was updated, a training and accreditation video was developed in conjunction with Commonwealth and State authorities; and a comprehensive Felixer™ Management System cloud-based database was developed to upload, classify, and analyse Felixer data. These grant-funded developments are available at www.thylation.com



(left) Trial of second prototype Crate on Kangaroo Island (image Pat Hodgens)

(below) Deployment of 'OTSC' Felixer™ to protect reintroduced bilbies at Venus Bay Conservation Park (image John Read)



- This grant enabled Thylation Limited to become registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission; to amend its constitution to establish and enable 49% ownership of the commercial Thylation entities, which were incorporated with ASIC on 20 December 2019.
- This grant also supported the legal, accounting and governance costs of establishing the commercial entities, Thylation R&D Pty Ltd and Thylation Operations Pty Ltd, both managed by an independent Board of Directors. Thylation R&D Pty Ltd was established to develop and hold conservation innovation Intellectual Property and patents and has been deemed ESIC compliant. Thylation Operations Pty Ltd manages the permits, manufacturing, and logistics of the Thylation Group of Companies.
- Thylation were able to contract a casual Logistics Officer from April to July 2020 and recruited a General Manager at 0.6FTE in July 2020. Increasing demand for Felixers™ saw this GM role increase to full time and is sustained by the business income from 15 December 2020 onwards.

By the start of 2021, the Thylation boards clarified their mission as **'Enabling conservation through innovation'** achieved by 'developing and strengthening partnerships with innovators, conservation practitioners, land managers, policy makers, funders, and researchers to meet our mission through our charitable Foundation and linked Commercial entities'.

FELIXOR
BY **Thylation**



Australian Government