



Term 2, Lesson 1

# Threats to Freshwater Turtles

## Learning Objectives:

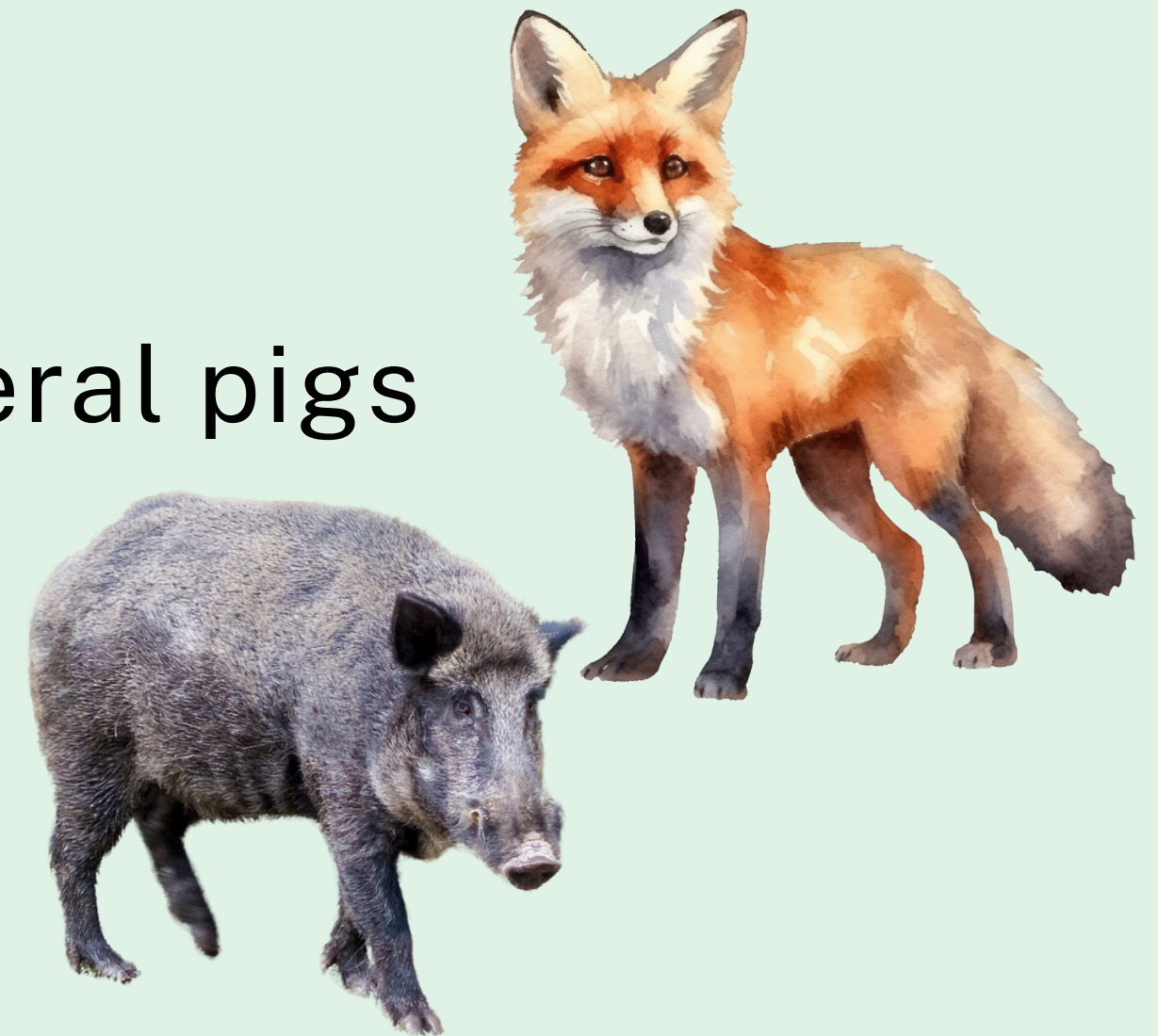
1. Identify the threats to freshwater turtle species;
2. Describe how the threats impact turtle populations.



# Freshwater turtle declines

**Habitat loss and degradation** - urbanisation, agricultural activities, land clearing and dam construction reduce the availability of suitable habitats, nesting sites and food sources.

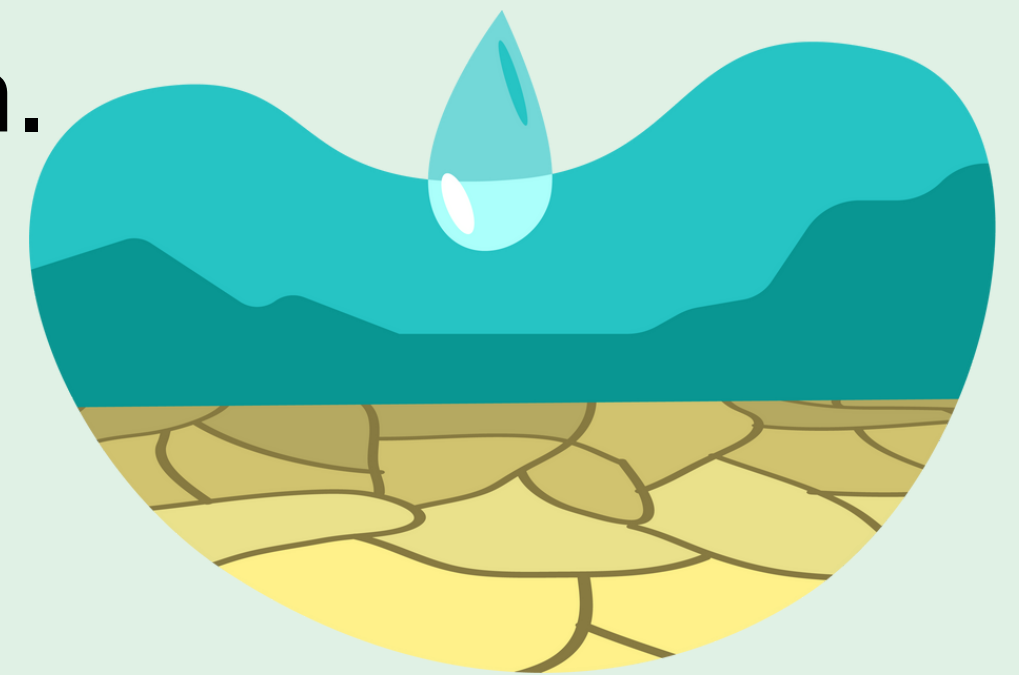
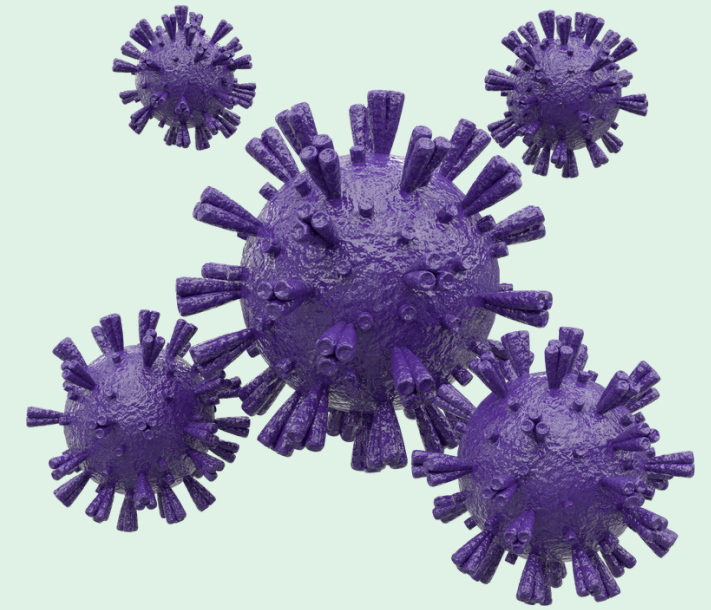
**Predation by introduced predators** - Feral pigs and foxes pose a significant threat to freshwater turtles and their eggs.



# Freshwater turtle declines

**Disease** - disease and infections can have devastating impacts on turtle populations.

**Climate change** - rising temperatures may affect nesting success as turtles rely on specific temperature ranges for incubation. Alterations in rainfall patterns and increased frequency of droughts may impact habitat and food availability.



# Classroom Activities

## Activity 1 -

- Choose an Australian freshwater turtle species.
- Identify and describe the main threat to the species.
- Outline the current conservation strategies and present your findings.



Photo credit: Dr. Anthony Santoro