

#71

**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

First name

[REDACTED]

**Q2**

Last name

[REDACTED]

**Q3**

Respondent skipped this question

Organisation name (if relevant)

**Q4**

Email address

[REDACTED]

**Q5**

Phone number

[REDACTED]

**Q6**

Yes

Can we contact you about your submission (if required)?

**Q7**

Other (please specify):

What best describes you?

State Government employee

Q8

North Coast

Which of the following regions best describes your location/area of interest?

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Q9

The Commission publishes submissions on its website for transparency. If you do not want your personal details or responses published, please tell us below.

**I agree to have my submission published anonymously – please remove my name and company/organisation before publishing**

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Q10

To what extent are the NSW environment, industries and communities currently impacted by invasive species?

Moderately impacted by pests species such as wild dogs and feral deer, feral pigs in specific areas

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Q11

To what extent do you think existing programs in NSW are effectively managing invasive species?

Management on private lands is generally effective but public lands such as FC NSW and NPWS and other government organisations are failing in meeting their general biosecurity duty in relation to pest animals.

Management on private lands over the past few years has been boosted by State and Federal funds for flood and bushfire recovery and this has greatly improved pest management outcomes on private lands,

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Q12

What, if any, are the key barriers to effective management of invasive species?

Government organisations actively ignore their responsibility to manage pests on their lands which impact on neighbouring private lands.

Some employees in organisations such as NPWS actively argue against management of wild dogs in particular and refuse to be involved in landscape programs even though the negative effects of wild dogs are being seen across the landscape and on private lands in particular.

The other key barrier is the lack of consistent funding from State and Federal Governments which leads to stop start management and so doesn't produce effective management over the long term. It is well known that the most effective management of pest animals occurs when it is consistent year upon year.

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Q13

How has invasive species management changed since the introduction of the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 legislation and associated programs and plans?

There has been no change. The process of using the Biosecurity Act legislation for pest management is far too open as compliance can be shown by a land manager using ineffective control methods to the detriment of large scale nil tenure programs in the area, eg wild dog aerial baiting programs, aerial shooting programs.

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### Q14

What are the future risks posed by invasive species to the NSW environment, industries and communities?

Ineffective management of pests will mean that impacts will continue to occur at an unnecessarily across the landscape. Emerging pest animals such as feral deer will be allowed to spread across all of their potential habitat increasing the impact to the environment, industries and communities. This then puts the capacities of communities to manage pests effectively out of the range of communities requiring large inputs of funds to manage pests as has been seen in NSW with the FMD program in 2022-23 and the Feral Pig Program now in place for 2023-24. Consistent funding and management programs managed by organisations such as LLS would/should mean that pests are managed to keep populations at low levels all of the time.

Organisations such as FC NSW and NPWS manage about 1/3 of the land area within NC LLS region and yet seem to have extremely low budgets allocated to pest management.

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### Q15

What opportunities do you see to improve the outcomes of invasive species management in the future?

Having an organisation such as LLS funded appropriately at the regional level to not only coordinate pest management programs but also fund them on an annual basis would greatly improve pest management outcomes.

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### Q16

Any other comments?

The current model of land managers, both private and public, being responsible for pest management on their lands and funding that management is clearly not working as their are many competing needs that eats into the budget of land managers.

The basis of the Biosecurity Act is that pest management is a shared responsibility and every person in NSW is responsible for its implementation, this shared responsibility falls down in that it is only a small part of the population that actually funds pest management. If the state government were to recognise that pest management benefits all persons in NSW and therefore provide funds from state budgets for onground management it would produce greatly improved pest management outcomes across all of NSW.

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