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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**

What best describes you?

Other (please specify):

Environmental consultant with 20 years in biosecurity and pest management

**Q8**

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

**Statewide NSW,**

**North Coast**

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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?

In 2019, global annual costs of biological invasions were estimated to exceed US\$423 billion (IPBES, 2023). In Australia, costs of invasive species were estimated to be AUD\$2.45 billion per year, with costs increasing exponentially over time – up to sixfold each decade since the 1970s (Bradshaw et al, 2021). When considering only the highly reliable, observed costs, New South Wales had the highest costs of any state. These costs are considered to be a vast underestimate of true costs due to insufficient coverage and a lack of standardised reporting by management authorities and other agencies (Bradshaw et al, 2021).

The impact of invasive species (existing and emerging threats) in NSW is enormous and cannot be overstated. Whilst impacts to agriculture from some invasive species can be estimated reasonably accurately through estimating loss and cost of control, impacts to the community and environment are less easily quantified and needs lots more work to value the true impacts to social fabric and native species, particularly threatened species and ecological communities. Significant lag times between incursion / establishment and understanding of impacts are not fully considered.

Impacts are felt disproportionately on islands like Lord Howe Island

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**Q11**

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

Many existing programs in NSW are barely keeping ahead of invasive species population growth to protect key assets and in many cases are falling behind population growth or failing to curb expansion of invasive species into new areas. The emergence of new invasive species threats and the continued spread of existing invasive species into new areas across NSW makes the challenge even harder. Incursion of invasive species from other states is highly reactive and significantly underfunded and resourced. Prevention provides the best value.

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### Q12

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

Short term funding linked to government cycles is hampering ability to manage impacts at an effective spatial and temporal scale. Long term, sustainable funding is needed to reduce reliance on government funding.

New technologies (including toxins, lethal tools and gene drive) take many years from concept to being able to be used in the field if they even make it through.

Community acceptability of lethal control techniques will continue to be a barrier.

Lack of cooperation between agencies and failure to use all available tools i.e recreation or organised volunteer hunting

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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?

Whilst the general biosecurity obligation is a good concept it is poorly understood in the broader public and the burden is left to land managers that face the most visible impacts. Other beneficiaries (including the public) should contribute proportionately. There are not many examples of strong enforcement of the Act.

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### Q14

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

Lack of sustainable funding, growing size of the problem, new species incursions and expansion of ranges will only increase impacts and resources required to manage key assets. The biggest risk is the resources required to keep up will not be available. Extinctions of threatened species, particularly on islands is a key risk.

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**Q15**

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

Valuing invasive species management in carbon credit and nature repair markets. Monetise the benefits of removal of invasive species to encourage private investment

Better integrated management cross tenure and agencies / communities

Continued investment in R+D

Better investment in prevention and new incursion response so emerging species do not establish

Continued community education on the need

Use of all available tools in including recreational hunting and resource harvesting

Move towards local eradication with a "remove and defend" model.

Dream big like NZ Predator Free 2050

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**Q16**

Respondent skipped this question

Any other comments?

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