

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 1:30:50 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 1:51:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:15
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1

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?

I work in local government however am responding as a member of the public

Q8

Statewide NSW

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

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

Page 2

Q10

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

there is a massive cost imposed on rate payers due to the lack of legislation regarding the control of cats. These animals are an invasive species and a key threatening species yet NSW legislation in the form of the Companion Animals Act does nothing to provide legislative support to regulatory bodies to deal with roaming and attacking cats.

Q11

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

Possibly for species that are not generally able to be domesticated, however for cats there are major inconsistencies with how agencies can deal with these animals in a cost effective and native animal welfare focussed manner.

The Biodiversity Conservation Act prohibits cats from being liberated yet there are sections of the community and even councils that are actively supporting trap neuter release that only provides some temporary welfare for the cat but not the native animals they hunt.

Q12

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

Ineffective legislation and deterrents for offenders. For example, there is not offence for a cat that attacks, so even if we issued a nuisance order there is no associated fine and they can still roam freely. Similarly under S30 of that Act wildlife protection areas can be set up however paragraph 3 of that section states that cats may be seized in that area for the cat's own protection and not the protection of the animals the area was set up to protect.

The legislation needs to be clear and provide a deterrent that if an animal is found off it's owners property and is identified, the owner can be fined the same way dog owners are. Similarly if the cats is not identified or not owned that there is no holding period and the animal may be euthanised as it is unattended and an invasive species. there are too many conflicting rules that do not support each other and the issue with roam cats needs to be dealt with in a decisive manner otherwise we will continue to see native animal population around urban areas decline.

Q13

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

Very little in urban areas to my knowledge

Q14

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

All invasive species need control, whether it is horses in the national park, deer, foxes or cats. Maybe putting a bounty on them to give an incentive for people to manage these would be of benefit. The management of cats will continue to be a burden on every resident in NSW until the Companion Animals Act is changed and roaming cats are made an offence.

Q15

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

there is ample opportunity however consultation must be done with land holders and regulatory bodies to develop meaningful enforceable legislation. While there are animal welfare parties that have a single agenda that is not focussed on native animal welfare we will have weak legislation and they should not have any determining decisions in the drafting of animal related legislation.

Q16

Any other comments?

An wholistic review of legislation relating to invasive species needs to be done so that each of the Acts works in harmony without contradictions or grey areas. the control of cats needs to be a priority of this government otherwise any reviews/enquiries etc will be a waste of time. The Companion Animals Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Biodiversity Conservation Act all need to work together to provide the necessary legislative support for regulatory agencies to be able to deal with invasive species in a timely and cost effective manner.
