

NSW Invasive Species Management Review

Given the costs of invasive species to NSW's primary industries, environment and communities, there is a need to independently review efforts and identify opportunities to reduce the impact and improve management of pests and weeds.

Why is this independent review important?

Invasive species are responsible for high economic costs to primary industries and communities and are primary threats to biodiversity. There is also significant private and public expenditure on managing pests and weeds and it is timely to assess how effective this effort is.

Research by CSIRO suggests that the national annual cost associated with invasive species is at least \$25 billion dollars, with the largest proportion of these costs carried by NSW (over 25 percent of national expenditure).

The NSW State of the Environment Report highlights that over 70 percent of NSW's threatened species and endangered ecological communities are impacted by invasive species.

While Australia has one of the strongest biosecurity systems globally, the number of new species incursions is continuing to rise due to a range of factors including increasing trade and travel, urbanisation, and climate change. These new incursions add to the cumulative burden of impacts from existing invasive species.

What are the responsibilities for invasive species management?

Managing the impacts of invasive species requires coordinated effort across public and private land. This is guided by the objectives, roles and responsibilities set out in the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* and supported by a range of state and regional programs and plans including the *NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety Strategy 2022-2030* and *NSW Invasive Species Plan 2023-2028*.

The *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* requires any person dealing with biosecurity matter (such as pest animals and weeds), and who knows or ought to know of the biosecurity risks posed by that biosecurity matter, to take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the risk as far as is reasonably practicable. This means that the occupier of lands (both private and public) is required to take all practical measures to minimise the risk of any negative impacts of pest animals and weeds on their land or neighbouring lands.

Where can you find out more about invasive species management?

The *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* is available on the NSW Government legislation website and you can read more about invasive species management, including the *NSW Invasive Species Plan 2023-2028*, on the NSW Department of Primary Industries website and the Local Land Services website which provides access to regional pest and weed plans.

What is the scope of the review?

The Premier has tasked the Natural Resources Commission to review the priority risks and impacts of invasive species in NSW and the effectiveness of current management strategies.

The Commission will advise the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Environment of strategic opportunities to improve the management of invasive species in NSW across all land tenures for environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits.

In developing its advice, the Commission will address the following terms of reference:

- Quantify the current extent and impacts of invasive species on NSW industry, environment, and communities.
- Identify future risks posed to NSW industry, environment, and communities by invasive species, including any which are driven by climate change impacts and impacts from natural disaster.
- Consider existing programs and how they could better contribute to improved invasive species management outcomes in the future.
- Audit implementation of state and regional invasive species management plans.
- Provide advice to the Independent Biosecurity Commission on areas for further investigation regarding potential barriers to effective invasive species management.

The Review will not consider:

- Native species that have pest like impacts
- Marine species
- Diseases
- Governance arrangements, roles and responsibilities of regulators and public land managers
- National inter-governmental agreements

How will stakeholders and the community be involved in the review?

Input from key stakeholders will be critical to informing the review.

The Commission will consult with targeted stakeholders and work with Dr. Marion Healy, interim NSW Biosecurity Commissioner, in undertaking its review.

We are also calling for public submissions on the key review questions:

1. To what extent are the NSW environment, industries and communities currently impacted by invasive species?
2. To what extent do you think existing programs in NSW are effectively managing invasive species?
3. What, if any, are the key barriers to effective management of invasive species?
4. How has invasive species management changed since the introduction of the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 legislation and associated programs and plans?
5. What are the future risks posed by invasive species to the NSW environment, industries and communities?

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

How do I make a submission?

Your submission should address the key review questions. There are three ways you can provide your submission:

- [Online survey](#)
- Email your submission to: nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au
- Mail your written submission to: Invasive Species Review, GPO Box 5341, Sydney, NSW 2001

Public **submissions will be open for four weeks, closing 5pm 31 October 2023**. Further details on the public submissions process are available on the Have Your Say website: www.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say

When making a submission please:

- Provide any relevant information that supports your submission.
- Note that all submissions will be made public on the Commission's website unless clearly marked confidential or it contains material that is defamatory, offensive or in breach of any law.

When will the report be delivered?

The report will be delivered to the NSW Government in **May 2024**.

The report, including key findings and recommendations, will be made available on the Commission's website.