

#28

COMPLETE

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Q1

First name

Jo

Q2

Last name

Oddie

Q3

Organisation name (if relevant)

Former farmer and land manager, Moonbah NSW

Q4

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q5

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Q6

Yes

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

Q7

I am a private land manager/owner

What best describes you?

Q8

South East

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

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Q9

I agree to have my submission published with my name or company/organisation

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

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Q10

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

The impacts of many invasive species are currently poorly quantified. [REDACTED] and I spent 10 years from 2013 to 2023 bring the impacts of feral deer on agriculture, community and environment to the attention of governments at all levels in NSW. It was only a few years ago that the agency (DPI) vested with making policy for the 'management' of feral deer begrudgingly acknowledged there may be a problem, despite acknowledgement of general impacts in the 2015/2016 review. I would think that the extent of impacts across all invasive species is significant and more investment needs to be made in quantifying the impacts and sharing knowledge of impacts.

Q11

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

Effective management of invasive species required cross boundary planning and action across all land tenures and types of land and resource managers. In our 10 years managing land and agricultural production at Moonbah SW of Jindabyne we did not see an effective program that achieved whole of landscape scale management.

We did observe the NSW NPWS investing in regular aerial shooting programs on park, however, they continued to be blamed for harbouring invasive species, while in fact many invasive species are harboured on private land where NO management occurs. NPWS appeared to be not allowed to promote or inform the public of the good work they did so were not able to counter 'barbs' from some members of the farming community about what they actually did.

### Q12

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

The concept of General Biosecurity Duty is deeply flawed and the Biosecurity Act toothless and weakly administered by LLS. Most people who we encountered that managed land did not know they had a general biosecurity duty and did little or no pest management. Serious agricultural producers undertook some pest management for their own reasons and with their own resources.

The key barriers are lack of knowledge of the impacts and lack of knowledge of GBD. There was also NO enforcement conducted (or possible?) under the Act. LLS has little capacity to engage with and run coordinated pest control programs in most areas (certainly in the south east). Many small landholders either did not know they had a responsibility, or did not have the tools (firearms or 1080 tickets) to shoot deer (difficult on small properties) or bait foxes. (In our area south west of Moonbah only two or three of our ten neighbours baited foxes. None of them were interested in piggy backing of our efforts and resources even when offered.) LLS needs to develop skills for extension (their pest animal people DO NOT have these skills and skills for community coordination. They need to have certainty of resources, including for implementing large scale invasive species knock down campaigns across boundaries, and be able to attract capable people who have extension, facilitation, landscape scale planning and coordination skills. They also need to have regulations that can be used to enforce invasive species management on properties where land managers just won't do it. The Act is weak.

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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?

I suspect that invasive species management has declined in quality since the introduction of the Biosecurity act and legislation. While extension and engagement CAN work if an agency has skills and communities have knowledge, the lack of being able to regulate for people who won't implement their GBD is problematic. The introduction of regional pest management plans in around 2017/2018 by LLS - in combination with some other stakeholders- with no resourcing for implementation was ridiculous. Plans must be resourced.

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### Q14

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

While populations of invasive species continue to be allowed to explode across private and public landscapes the risks will increase, also with the pressure of changing climate and disruption of natural systems. Natural landscape resilience is declining and invasives will fill available niches.

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### Q15

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

Biosecurity at scale takes significant resources and those resources need to be leveraged across government and private sector (including agricultural production) to deliver focused programs at scale that are funded for sufficient duration. All land managers (no matter how small a holding) need to know that they have a role to play and they must play it. Suggest you look at South Australian regulations. Securing sufficient and enduring resources to implement invasive pest management plans and programs is essential.

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**Q16**

Any other comments?

The Environmental Trust funded cross boundary deer project run by NPWS was a disappointment. The inception meeting was held at our home in 2019 with 38 people in the room and most stakeholder groups represented. As it progressed, the project turned into something that was about the project team doing something 'for' land managers, rather than 'with ' land managers. The team did not have the skills to engage land managers and succeeded in disengaging them, despite massive support from several participating farmers including us throughout the first two years and beyond - even now, even though we have left the district.

The 2021 project evaluation conducted by NRC threw the participating farmers 'under the bus' rather than spotlighting the poor NPWS strategic management (out of Sydney) of the project. They got the last word. The evaluation report was hugely disappointing and grossly insulting. It was also problematic that NPWS officers do not have the role of being key implementers of the biosecurity act on private land so the project should have been run with LLS as a key actor and supporter. Happy to discuss any of these concepts further, Cheers, Jo

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