

# Have your say on how to better manage pests and weeds

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The NSW Premier has tasked the Natural Resources Commission to independently review the risks and impacts of pests and weeds in NSW and the effectiveness of current management strategies. This delivers on an election commitment of the government. Today, the Natural Resources Commission is calling for landholders to have their say on how pests and weeds can be better managed in NSW.

“Across the state, pests and weeds are having a huge impact on agriculture and the environment. Both private landholders and the government invest in pest and weeds control efforts and it is timely to take a stocktake to assess impacts, risks and effectiveness.” said NSW Natural Resources Commissioner Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte.

“Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to our wildlife and ecosystems in NSW. Tackling them will require long-term strategic investments and policy reform”, Invasive Species Council Advocacy Manager Jack Gough adds.

“We hope that this review will provide the new NSW Government with a platform to drive the reform, funding and focus needed to reduce the damage and prevent the next wave of invasive species driven extinctions, Mr. Gough said.

“Biosecurity is an issue affecting every landholder of NSW. We are interested in hearing land managers’ views on which species are having the greatest impacts now, where are the hotspots, which species and pathways present the greatest risks in the future, and are we doing enough to control those risks? These are the type of questions we will be asking and we want to hear from land managers on what they think is working and also what needs to be improved,” said NSW Natural Resources Commissioner Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte.

Craig Mitchell from the NSW Farmers Conservation and Resource Management committee said the review was welcomed. “Pressures on production of food and fibre are growing and the losses to invasive species are increasing,” Mr Mitchell said. “It’s a vital time to develop comprehensive and effective nil-tenure plans that address not only immediate threats but prevent further losses and waste to invasive species.”

The Invasive Species Council adds, “We are very pleased to see the Minns Government following through on an important election commitment by announcing this review.”

“We welcome the opportunity to lead this landmark review and provide independent advice on opportunities to improve invasive species management across land tenures in NSW.”, said NSW Natural Resources Commissioner Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte.

The Premier has tasked the Natural Resources Commission to:

- 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.

This review builds on previous state-wide reviews undertaken by the Commission on weeds in 2014 and pest animals in 2016 to identify priority areas for improvement.

The Natural Resources Commission are calling for public submissions on the terms of reference for the review. Further information on the review is available on the Commission's website [www.nrc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au)

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