

Submission NSW Invasive Species Management Review

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this important review.

Invasive Plant Species

I do volunteer bush regeneration in my local council area and so I am very aware of invasive, non-native species of plants that are invading our important urban areas. It is a very slow process because of the amount of bushland areas overtaken by invasive plants and will take decades to be restored.

I also live next to a bushland area and am dismayed by the number of native animals killed commonly by cats. My understanding is that NSW is the only state that has not taken significant action on dealing with this issue.

I also have family living in a rural area and they have constant damage to the soil, riverbanks and fences because of invasive species like deer and wild pigs.

What I would like to see is increased and ongoing funding for councils and programs that are long-term and have a strategy to solve the invasive species. This funding must be for the front-line staff to enable them to do their job. I don't want to see another politically-driven process that sees the value of invasive species put higher than our native plants and animals.

There should also be increased funding for TAFE courses that teach bush regeneration so that more people can be involved in the removal of invasive species from our bushlands, national parks, rural areas and transport corridors.

There is a need for a rapid response to deal with invasive species after major events like droughts, floods and fires. Considering this coming summer will see drought and more intense bushfires, this need cannot be underestimated.

The community and industry both need to be involved in the process of removal of invasive species. This would include education of the importance of protecting our native plants and animals and the willingness to respect experts and the experience of those who are currently dealing with invasive species.

There must be a recognition of the knowledge of the Traditional Owners and incorporating them in the process at all levels of invasive species removal and restoration of ecosystems.

I would also like to see a priority put on prevention and early action to ensure invasive species cannot get established in NSW and make it more difficult to remove them. This would include what plants can be sold at nurseries.

There must be independent oversight and accountability of government action on biosecurity and invasive species.

Support statewide and nationally for research and innovation to develop and encourage uptake of improved tools and practices is required. Listening to and incorporating the skill and knowledge of our scientists is paramount for new methods of invasive species control to be implemented.

Managing invasive species in an area must be seen as a whole, rather than piecemeal which presently can exclude some landowners.

This is a very important review that hopefully will see increased funding to deal with invasive species, a political will to ensure that the community as a whole is respected and involved, government is accountable for its decisions and a desire to protect our native plants and animals.

Thank you

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