

NSW Invasive Species Management Review Terms of Reference

The Premier requests the Natural Resources Commission (Commission) review the impacts and risks of invasive species in NSW and the effectiveness of management strategies (under Section 13(1) (d) and (f) of the *Natural Resources Commission Act 2003*).

NSW agricultural productivity and ecosystems are threatened by invasive pest animals and weeds. The estimated minimum costs of damage by invasive species Australia wide is \$25 billion annually. Over 80% of nationally listed threatened species are endangered by invasive species. To prevent further incursions, reduce these impacts and prevent the further spread of invasive species, there needs to be urgent, coordinated and cost-effective action proportional to the economic and environmental threat posed by invasive species.

In 2014 the Commission conducted a review into weeds management and in 2016 conducted a review into pest animals management. In 2015 the NSW Government introduced the *Biosecurity Act 2015* supported by a suite of reforms, including new regional governance arrangements to support the general biosecurity duty. It is timely to review progress and to help set the agenda for the next 10 years.

Purpose and scope

The purpose of the review is to advise the Minister for Agriculture as the lead minister for this review 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. The Commission's advice may inform future investment decisions, governance arrangements, strategies and management priorities. The review will provide advice to Government, including to the Independent Biosecurity Commission.

In developing its advice, the Commission will:

1. Quantify the current extent and impacts of invasive species on NSW industry, environment, and communities
2. 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 disasters
3. Consider existing programs and how they could better contribute to improved invasive species management outcomes in the future
4. Audit implementation of state and regional invasive species management plans
5. Provide advice to the Independent Biosecurity Commission on areas of further investigation regarding potential barriers to effective invasive species management.

The review will consider non-native:

- weeds
- terrestrial pest animals

It is acknowledged that such a broad review will limit the depth of investigation into individual species. The NSW Government may request the Commission to undertake more in-depth reviews of individual priority species or issues following the final report.

Process

The Commission will:

- consult with relevant stakeholders and call for public submissions
- publish a preliminary report within six months of receiving the terms of reference, and
- provide a final report to the Premier and Ministers including outcomes of public consultation within three months of providing the preliminary report. The final report must document the review's findings and recommendations.

The scope of the review does not include

- 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.