

#105

COMPLETE

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Q1

First name

[REDACTED]

Q2

Last name

[REDACTED]

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Organisation name (if relevant)

Q4

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Phone number

Q6

Yes

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

Q7

I am a private land manager/owner

What best describes you?

Q8

Riverina

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

Q9

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

I agree to have my submission published anonymously – please remove my name and company/organisation before publishing

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Q10

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

Greatly. Foxes, rabbits, feral cats, feral goats, and feral deer all adversely impact my farm. Feral pigs affect my neighbours. Plus a wide range of weeds - which I try to control, but they spread again from my neighbours.

Q11

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

Poorly. Locally LLS doesn't have the expertise, knowledge or staff to handle invasive species. E.g. LLS is not worried about damage by deer in rural areas, only where deer impact on peri-urban areas and become a road hazard to vehicles. Recent research has shown feral cats have more impact on the environment than foxes. But my local LLS is still focussed on foxes. Couldn't even stop the varroa mite escaping across the country.

Q12

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

Locally LLS doesn't have the expertise, knowledge or staff to handle invasive species effectively. Recent research has shown feral cats have more impact on the environment than foxes. So why is my local LLS still focussed more on foxes? When I have tried to contact my local Crown Lands office about one of the TSR's they own, their office door is permanently closed with a 1300 phone number in the window. When I try to phone the 1300 number, there is no reply. How can I advise them of invasive species on their own land!

Q13

How has invasive species management changed since the introduction of the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 legislation and associated programs and plans?

Not much positive change as far as I can see here. Rather the opposite, LLS has developed a plan for cost recovery for TSR's by allowing grazing contracts on the TSR's, even where there is valuable natural habitat.

More feral horses than ever in Kosciusko National Park.

Couldn't even stop the varroa mite escaping across the country.

Q14

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

Spread of emergency animal diseases e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease, decreased agricultural productivity, increased costs of agricultural production. Areas presently in agricultural production may become economically unsustainable to farm. Huge adverse impact on wildlife via predation.

Q15

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

Better management in LLS. At least locally, there seems to be a large number of minimally supervised, recent graduates appointed with very little local or practical knowledge and no "common sense". Looking at my local LLS management, they are bureaucrats with their heads in the clouds. They need to be more practical, plain-speaking and down-to-earth.

Q16

Any other comments?

Unfortunately I am sceptical of the current LLS effectively managing or controlling invasive species. That has been my experience. On my farm, it took over 9 months to organise merely a site visit for a funded project. In the end I withdrew my Expression of Interest. Couldn't even stop the varroa mite escaping across the country, even when the mite hardly walks - we carried it across NSW!
