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Sent: Wednesday, 18 October 2023 4:24 PM
To: NRC
Subject: NSW Invasive Species Management Review

NSW Invasive Species Management Review

To Natural Resources Commission

I am very concerned about the effect invasive species are having on the survival of our native flora and fauna. In your introduction on your website you have noted the seriousness of the issue and the damage invasive species are causing. Despite this knowledge of the damage that is being done by invasive species the response from authorities has at times been slow, ill-focused and less than comprehensive.

An example is the response to the invasion of Fire Ants. This invasion should have had many more resources applied to the problem while the problem was small and well confined. An intensive and targeted campaign, with sufficient funding, at that time would have had a better chance of success. Due to the lack of funding the measures taken to eradicate the Fire Ants were insufficient. Now that the Fire Ant spread seems to have gotten out of control their eradication will require many times more cost than if sufficient funding had been allocated initially. In fact, it may now be impossible to halt the spread of Fire Ants to almost every part of Australia. The loss and injury of wildlife and farm animals will far out way what should have been allocated at the very outset to eradicate the Fire Ants.

This is just one recent example and many more examples exist of what should have been done to eradicate invasive species before they multiplied to 'plague' proportions. The government must be willing to allocate sufficient funds if there is any chance of reversing the effects of invasive species. And this funding needs to be allocated in a timely manner.

[In response to your six targeted questions.](#)

- [1. To what extent are the NSW environment, industries and communities currently impacted by invasive species?](#) I think the answer to this is self-evident given the wording in your introduction. The impact of invasive species is profound and has altered dramatically the natural environment as well as the financial stability of some of our rural industries in particular.
- [2. To what extent do you think existing programs in NSW are effectively managing invasive species?](#) Given the continued increase in invasive species, and the steady decline in our native flora and fauna, existing programs are clearly not effective enough. If this decline continues many native species will become extinct.
- [3. What, if any, are the key barriers to effective management of invasive species?](#) Funding! Additionally increased funding has to be used wisely.

4. How has invasive species management changed since the introduction of the [NSW Biosecurity Act 2015](#) launch legislation and associated programs and plans? Unfortunately, there is so much more to do.
5. What are the future risks posed by invasive species to the NSW environment, industries and communities? Clearly damage to animal and crop agriculture by an increase in invasive species will lead to financial loss. Similarly the effect on native flora and fauna will be disastrous if invasive species flourish.
6. What opportunities do you see to improve the outcomes of invasive species management in the future? The crux of the response is related to the funding made available. Good funding with wise fund allocation gives the best chance of success.

In addition, another concern is that there appears to be insufficient compulsion of private landholders to comply with invasive species initiatives, further reducing the effectiveness of the programs. The commission should open dialogue with local communities to work together to achieve better outcomes.

The disastrous damage to native wildlife by feral cats and foxes has been well documented. These invasive species need to be targeted. However there are so many other invasive species and the control of all these requires concerted effort from all parties.

Regards
Dan Vickers

