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COMPLETE

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Q1

First name

[REDACTED]

Q2

Last name

[REDACTED]

Q3

Organisation name (if relevant)

Hawkesbury River County Council

Q4

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q5

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Q6

Yes

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

Q7

I am representing local government

What best describes you?

Q8

Greater Sydney

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

Q9

I agree to have my submission published with my name or company/organisation

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

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Q10

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

Every aspect of land management is impacted. Including biodiversity, urban and agricultural assets.

Q11

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

The only tangible results achieved on ground are at a local scale. There has been zero results achieved at a regional, state or national scale.

Q12

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

Institutional arrangements. Huge amounts of funding invested in to expanding bureaucracies such as Local Land Services, and research initiatives (whilst well intended) have not led to on ground results.

Q13

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

It has got more complex, making things much harder for local government (local control authority) staff to interpret the issues to the community. The community is not engaged with the General Biosecurity Duty concepts the way they were with "noxious weeds".

Q14

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

Increasing cost and declining biodiversity.

Q15

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

A properly funded local level is the ONLY thing that hasn't been tried in this space, yet it is the only place in which eradication results have been achieved. Funding must be massively decentralised if we are to have any chance of making things better. The current funding and institutional structures have been proven to fail multiple times over.

Q16

Any other comments?

Every review seems to generate the same proven to fail structures again and again, with a new logo or department label. Funding for weeds must be decentralised with local government receiving funding directly from Treasury to meet strategic weeds targets incorporated into their broader Integrated Planning and Reporting framework. This will ensure adequate governance, reporting and commitment to tangible on-ground outcomes. This is a NEW model, something that hasn't been tried in over 100 years of state government weeds funding.
