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**From:** Julie Ho [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 October 2023 10:06 PM  
**To:** NRC  
**Subject:** NSW Invasive Species Management Review

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## SUBMISSION TO REVIEW OF RISKS AND IMPACTS OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute. I care deeply about this as I have been a Landcarer for more than 20 years, living in both urban and regional areas. I have regenerated bushland degraded by invasive species like bitou, lantana, privet and madeira vine. I have trapped feral cats, cane toads and myna birds that devour or displace native species; I have worked on Lord Howe Island where rodent eradication has been a remarkable success. Local bird species there have bounced back and phasmids have been saved from extinction.

It can be done.

Right now, numbers of feral species are growing rapidly. There are feral deer through our local Hastings-Port Macquarie LGA, trashing rare rainforest and threatening our personal safety. This shows we need government action and accountability to upgrade biosecurity and keep invasive species out. But clearly, existing programs in NSW are not effective.

We need to ensure that more funding is directed immediately to high level threats including fire ants, which will invade NSW from Queensland without concerted action now.

We know that feral cats are a key threatening process that destroys millions of native animals including Threatened Species every day, and MUST be controlled without delay by co-ordinating all levels of government. Australian Wildlife Conservancy can offer many solutions with its excellent research into cat and fox eradication and management. AWC also researches fire management, and management of feral herbivores like pigs and that damage farms and protected areas.

AWC has fenced feral-free areas where Threatened Species survive that would otherwise have been annihilated. But this is not the only answer. If we are to save our native ecosystems, strong consistent laws are needed across NSW, with enforcement and penalties for transgressions.

Lack of knowledge is a key barrier to effective management of invasive species. Education is needed for everyone: school students, pet owners, land managers and members of local

government. Pets are not more important than wildlife; they must be controlled at all times or we will lose even more species to them, along with damage to the ecosystems that humans cannot live without.

As invasive species cause at least \$25 billion in damage to agriculture and biodiversity annually in Australia, I am asking for more government support for research. We need science-based decisions, such as the removal of feral horses from Kosciusko national park, to truly protect our heritage.

In return we should be able to count on community involvement and partnerships with private landholders. Landcare is sure to make a big contribution.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Ho B.Env Sc

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