

[REDACTED]

From: Keith Richards [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 31 October 2023 9:41 PM
To: NRC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Hudson Pear

[REDACTED]

I apologise for the lateness of this submission.

I am a retired horticulturist who grew citrus and avocados on the lower Darling River at Palinyewah, but still retain 50 ha of natural bush in that area, with 3 kms of river frontage.

For almost 50 years, I have strived to rid the river of invasive species such as water primrose whose outbreaks extended almost all the way across the river at times, and to rid the banks and our flood-prone low areas of invasive species such as noogoora burr.

Floods bring noogoora burr down from upstream grazing properties where it is widespread and uncontrolled, and it germinates intensively on both sides of our 3 kms of riverfront and demands a huge effort from me after each flood event.

However, apart from being a curse for graziers, noogoora burr is relatively benign compared with the horrific potential widespread devastation which would be caused if Hudson Pear escapes from the Lightning Ridge area into the Barwon River and thence throughout the Murray Darling Basin.

I had not heard of this serious invasive species until reading about it in The Age Good Weekend last Saturday (' Napalm it all' : Desperate calls to stop cactus menace spreading across Australia ').

It seems to have been in the Lightning Ridge area since the 1950's or 1960's and it defies explanation or reason as to why it was not recognised way back then for its devastating potential and eliminated.

It now seems to be quite widespread with Castlereagh Macquarie County Council apparently fighting a lone (and losing) hand in the fight against the pear.

The Age article states that in NSW, where the pear first appeared, the government has estimated its potential damage at \$536 million.


I would guesstimate the potential damage at more than \$536 BILLION if this scourge escapes from Lightning Ridge environs into the Barwon River and spreads in floods throughout the Murray Darling Basin.

Of all the invasive species which have plagued Australia, I would submit that the Hudson pear is potentially the most devastating and warrants whatever it takes from the Commonwealth and the States (the pear is apparently ' popping up ' in WA, Queensland, Sa and NT) to work for elimination, not mere attempted ' control ' .

I would respectfully urge the Natural Resources Commission to do all it can, with funds and advocacy, to ensure the mammoth task of elimination of the pear is embarked upon, with urgency.

Yours faithfully.

Keith E Richards OAM.


Buronga,
NSW, 2739



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows