

#75

COMPLETE

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Q1

First name

NSW Irrigators' Council

Q2

Last name

NSW Irrigators' Council

Q3

Organisation name (if relevant)

NSWIC

Q4

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q5

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Q6

Yes

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

Q7

I am representing an industry body

What best describes you?

Q8

Statewide NSW

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?

Carp significantly contribute to environmental degradation in NSW rivers, including declining water quality, river bank damage, contributing to algae blooms, habitat degradation, and compete with native species (for example, for oxygen demand, as found in the recent Menindee Fish death inquiry).

This environmental degradation from carp has led to misguided political decision-making to buyback more water from irrigators and restrict access. This not only does not solve the problems of the key degradation drivers for the environment, but also significantly reduces water availability and affordability for irrigators.

Q11

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

There are currently little / no efforts to manage invasive species like carp in NSW waterways.

This is the result of Government water policy priorities being single-focused on buybacks, and water volumes.

Key degradation drivers, such as invasive species, cannot be addressed by just adding water.

If Governments are serious about healthier rivers, we need to see a paradigm shift to valuing complementary measures - beyond just a narrow approach on water volumes.

Q12

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

Governments taking a single-track approach to water management of simply water volumes, with buybacks the only real policy tool used.

Q13

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

N/A

Q14

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

If Government's continue to focus solely on water volumes, through buybacks, we will see a significant demise of the irrigation industry in NSW (and thus the availability and affordability of food and fibre), while not seeing the necessary environmental improvements which require complementary measures to tackle (such as invasive species management).

Q15

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

Governments could be working in partnership with regional communities and private landholders in a collaborative way to tackle a range of environmental priorities, including invasive species.

Instead, through buybacks and other restrictive water policies, we are seeing a closure of farm business and thus a loss of human resources and financial resources for practical on-ground land and water management.

Q16

Any other comments?

https://www.nswic.org.au/media_release/go-beyond-buybacks-to-solve-the-basins-greatest-threats/
