

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 31 October 2023 10:41 PM
To: NRC
Subject: NSW Invasive Species Management Review

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to make a short personal submission to this review. I am a bushcare volunteer, Landcare volunteer and community educator in the Wollongong area, with 10+ years experience in restoring natural areas and addressing the impacts of invasive species.

I only learned about this review on 20 October, which I found surprising given my involvement in activities to which the review is relevant. I believe the review could have been more widely promulgated through a range of fora, including Local Land Services channels, via Landcare NSW, via local councils and through social media channels.

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

Speaking for the Illawarra region, and environment and community impacts, impacts are substantial, significant, highly deleterious and increasing. To take one example, the invasive pathogen Myrtle Rust (*Puccinia psidii*) is wreaking havoc on the local environment. Early impacts include near-extinction for the Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*), which is already the subject of research and conservation efforts. Wider and less obvious effects include lessening the health/robustness/resilience of many other local species in the MYRTACEAE family. I am not a scientist, but I can see Myrtle Rust lesions present on common local species such as Blackbutt *Eucalyptus pilularis*, Grey Ironbark *E. paniculata* and Turpentine *Syncarpia glomulifera*. I don't think these wider impacts have yet been studied, although they could be severe.

To take another example, and one that is extremely serious in its environmental and cultural impacts, feral deer are doing immense damage across the Illawarra region. In the Illawarra escarpment, which is home to critically endangered Illawarra Subtropical Rainforest, feral deer are destroying the next generation of trees. They kill small seedlings via browsing, and they kill larger saplings through ringbarking, plus they engage in random vandalism of seedlings and saplings. These actions, if not checked, will prevent regeneration of forest on the Illawarra escarpment.

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

Again, I can only speak for the Illawarra region. And all I can say on this front is that (a) impacts of Myrtle Rust are increasing (b) feral deer are increasing in numbers and impacts (c) other invasive species are spreading rapidly, such as *Asparagus asparagooides* and *Dolichandra unguis-cati* which I am seeing proliferating in many places. I can't see any areas in Illawarra where invasive species impacts are reducing. Perhaps this is because I am not aware of control efforts, but from where I sit conditions are deteriorating.

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

Lack of resourcing e.g. for deer control. Lack of community education e.g. regarding invasive species to be avoided, education on the general biosecurity duty. Failure to prevent import of new potentially invasive species via e.g. international horticulture imports, inadequate screening of container ships, and

a devastating failure to require developers and land managers to stop spread of invasive species - I see evidence locally of species spread via lawnmowers, or mulch.

4. How has invasive species management changed since the introduction of the [NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 launch](#)legislation and associated programs and plans?
5. What are the future risks posed by invasive species to the NSW environment, industries and communities?

Catastrophic. Cane Toads, Deer, Myrtle Rust, Crazy Ants, etc might if not managed, wipe out much of what is left of Illawarra's remnant natural ecosystems.

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

Step away from the carrots and move to the sticks. Invest MASSIVELY in eradication of major invasive species threats. Get the retirees involved, they have time to dedicate.

Thank you. I would prefer that my name is not published as part of my submission.

Sent with [REDACTED] secure email.