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**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

First name

[REDACTED]

**Q2**

Last name

[REDACTED]

**Q3**

Organisation name (if relevant)

[REDACTED]

**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**

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

**Statewide NSW,**

**Riverina**

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**Q9**

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

**I agree to have my submission published anonymously – please remove my name and company/organisation before publishing**

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**Q10**

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

Heavily impacted. Vertebrate pests are not managed on local government land. Majority of land managed by Government agencies is poorly funded and weeds are extremely poorly managed.

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**Q11**

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

Moderately well. Not great but not terribly either.

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**Q12**

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

Funding of government departments to manage invasive species on land they manage, in particular weeds.

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**Q13**

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

It hasn't. The same efforts are being put in by public and private land managers as was before. Tenure-neutral is a fallacy. There is still the same poor level of weed management in state forests, plantations, crown lands, State Roads and LLS managed lands. Weeds officers have the same constant conversations about how hard it is to get government agencies to do their bit, and push back from the public because it is seen as being unjust.

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**Q14**

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

Increased vertebrate pests impacting native wildlife populations and agricultural production. Increased cost to the public to manage weeds on their land due to poor management on government managed land.

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**Q15**

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

Increased education and community engagement. Sharing of resources and encouragement at community level to work together for a common goal. Better support to LCA's and weeds officers from Regional Weeds Coordinators to improve retention, moral, support, and overall cohesion across the state.

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**Q16**

Any other comments?

Local Land Services as the lead agency is not working. There is minimal support to weeds officers, less cohesion, skills sharing and networking going on than previously under the old system. The LLS weeds co-ordinators are being being multi tasked to do other tasks within LLS and we are seeing less time and priority being given to Local Control Authorities. Under the previous "weeds action group" in the riverina and murray there was a support person who's sole job was to support LCA's and weeds officers, and assist in meeting Weeds Action Plan targets. Weeds officers felt a lot more supported and connected under the previous operational system and were making positive progress with invasive species management. That has now stalled, particularly when there is no service continuity coming from LLS due to constant staffing changes and when LLS has overall control of who the Regional Weeds Co-ordinator is, and how that personspends their time and energies.

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