#139

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Q1

First name

███

Q2

Last name

███

Q3

Organisation name (if relevant)

████████████

Q4

Email address

████████████████

Q5

Phone number

███████

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?

North Coast

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?

The NSW North coast is heavily impacted by the largest amount of Prohibited matter and Control Order species than anywhere else in the state. The ideal climatic conditions and proximity to the QLD makes preventing these species and difficult task..

Q11

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

The Weed Action Program is affective but focuses too much on metrics rather than substance. inspections numbers don't tell you how much effort has gone into engagement with landowners..

Q12

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

Having to reach Weed Action Program targets whilst dealing with ongoing compliance issues. Local councils not understanding the role and importance of weed biosecurity throughout the state. rapid increase in Prohibited matter species entering the state. Local control authorities waiting too long to receive Weed Action Program Funding. Inconsistencies with Local control authorities' functions throughout the state. Real data being used to complete Weed risk assessments. unregulated fodder coming in from interstate. unregulated online sales of weeds. Not enough understanding of what it takes to manage or eradicate a species.   Local Control Authorities being pressured to focus on widespread weeds instead of state priority weeds.

Q13

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

The introduction of the Regional Weeds Plans has confused the Local Control Authorities. You now have legislated priority weeds alongside these regional priorities. The classification system under the Noxious weeds act was more practicable and easier to implement. we went from dealing with a number of priority weeds to now all of the sudden having hundreds weeds in these regional plans.

Q14

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

Parthenium is a major threat to NSW agricultural industry with consistent management throughout the state it has the potential to rapidly spread. Online trade and importation of aquatic weeds is already proving to have a devastating impact on our water ways, Frogbit for example has spread quicker than any other aquatic weed I've dealt with.

Q15

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

DPI educating local councils/councilors about the importance of weed biosecurity. Improve the weed risk assessment process. Remove the regional weed management plans, do proper weed risk assessments and schedule them in the Act. With the Weeds Action Program remove Local Land Service and Fund Local Control Authorities directly from treasury.

Q16

Any other comments?

An evaluation of biocontrol agent programs needs to be independently assessed and fund more research into what works. Weed biosecurity officers need to be renumerated better to reflect the work that is undertaken by them.