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Q1

First name

[REDACTED]

Q2

Last name

[REDACTED]

Q3

Organisation name (if relevant)

Coolac Close Landcare group

Q4

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q5

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Q6

Yes

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

Q7

I am representing an NGO or community group

What best describes you?

Q8

Hunter

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?

Invasive species are a huge problem in our local area, in remnant rainforests. It refused the native species diversity, which reduces wildlife/ bird diversity and looks really ugly. These patches of bush land are such an important part of our urban environment that connects us to nature.

Q11

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

Our local council, Lake Macquarie has a great proactive approach towards Landcare and encourages community involvement. But it can only follow current regulations which are not strict at all. There are houses that back onto remnant rainforest/ creek on our street that dump all their rubbish, garden waste and building rubble in the creek. Council rangers are overstretched and restricted in their ability to prosecute , educate and change this behaviour.

Q12

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

It would be really helpful to regulate the sale of plants at a garden centre - with helpful information regarding their invasive potential highlighted, or even not allowed to be sold. I wonder if gardens that back into bush land could have more restrictions on planting outside their boundaries and encouragement to chose local native plants if possible.

Q13

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

Not sure.

Q14

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

The risks of invasive species in the future is huge, considering climate change. The availability of good useful pasture land will be premium as areas will struggle with drought/ flood. Invasive species will reduce viability and increase running costs.

Q15

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

I would love to see all government councils having a unified approach across states to reduce invasive species being transported/ sold/ spread. It would be great to be more proactive in educating home owners in the types of plants that are beneficial.

Q16

Any other comments?

I'm so glad this is being raised as an issues and with solutions being considered. The Australian bush is too precious to let it be smothered by overseas plants that have no place here.
