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COMPLETE

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Q1

First name

Edward (Ted)

Q2

Last name

Rowley

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Organisation name (if relevant)

Q4

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q5

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Q6

Yes

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

Q7

What best describes you?

I am a private land manager/owner,

Other (please specify):

Chair of the NSW NPWS Southern Ranges Regional Advisory Committee, Deputy Chair of the NSW NPWS Advisory Council, Member NSW Wild Horse Heritage Community Advisory Panel and Chair of the Australian Government Feral Deer National Action Plan Steering Committee.

Q8

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

Statewide NSW,

South East,

Other (please specify):

Australian scale interests

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 with my name or company/organisation

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Q10

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

invasive species are having a large impact on agriculture, environment and community assets. Feral deer, wild horses as well as pigs, goats, rabbits, hares and foxes are largely uncontrolled in any coordinated way across the SE NSW landscape.

Most land owners/managers dont know they have any biosecurity responsibilities and often think protecting vertebrate pest animals is a priority e.g. feral deer and horses. The Biosecurity Act for NSW is largely impotent where mixed land ownership occurs with mixed landuses.

The particular issue relates to achieving effective control across landscapes particularly in mixed land use and mixed ownership landscapes. The current knockdown incentives are useful only if more than 90% of the landscape area collaborates and participates in any vertebrate pest animal control planning and implementation. Given the range of beliefs, attitudes, behaviours held by land managers gaining their commitment to control program operations requires investment in facilitating planning and change behaviour of land managers.

Q11

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

Current programs are achieving some useful knockdown of vertebrate pest animals for a short term. The lack of self sustaining land manager groups who then provide ongoing maintenance control is a major failure to prevent the invasion curve taking flight again as the control pressure drops off. The establishment of these self sustaining groups requires facilitatory and extension skills by Local Land Services - they are not present currently. The lack of effective legislative Biosecurity conditions to provide an umbrella of motivation for all land owners to control their biosecurity threats means many landowners who are not driven by agricultural productivity motives don't see any reason to provide control actions.

Q12

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

Lack of legislation imprimata for biosecurity - vertebrate pest control plans fail because land owners see no motivation especially non agricultural owners. The South Australian biosecurity legislation is powerful for initiating vertebrate pest control. The lack of extension and facilitation skills to help achieve changes in land manager behaviour in NSW Local Land Services means that regional pest control programs only work in uniformly managed landscapes, the staff of some LLS pest units are largely ex military type people who know about firearms not how to encourage self sustaining pest control groups.

Q13

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

The changes to the Biosecurity Act in 2015 was well intentioned and failed completely in motivating private and public land owners/managers to undertake biosecurity planning and actions on landscape scales. In short the changes resulted in an impotent act offering no motivation or incentives for landscape scale pest animal control in any effective sustained way.

Q14

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

Biosecurity risks from vertebrate pest animals in areas of mixed land ownership and management are essentially uncontrolled and uncontrollable under the current Act. For example feral deer run rife throughout mixed ownership areas and given they share 15 diseases with domestic livestock the risks are obvious. The area infected is increasing rapidly and densities are rising despite all current control efforts.

Q15

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

Opportunities are twofold;

1. The Biosecurity Act NSW needs to make it compulsory for landowners/managers to demonstrate planning and control actions for recognised vertebrate pest animals in their area of impacts. This includes participation in landscape programs of control. If landowners/managers fail to demonstrate such investment then public resources should be utilised to control identified Biosecurity threats and the landowner/manager given an invoice for costs.
 2. Regional LLS need to develop extension and facilitation skills to help land owners/managers develop self sustaining vertebrate pest animal control groups.
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Q16

Respondent skipped this question

Any other comments?
