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COMPLETE

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Q1

First name

[REDACTED]

Q2

Last name

[REDACTED]

Q3

Organisation name (if relevant)

Robert Ferguson Management Pty Ltd

Q4

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q5

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Q6

Yes

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

Q7

What best describes you?

Other (please specify):

My business provides 4 LCA's with services that make them fully compliant with the requirements of the NSW Biosecurity Act.

Q8

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

Riverina

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?

'Significantly and growing with seasonal change and the mobility of the population. Biosecurity issues of all types are highly adaptive to seasonal & climate change. Our management and funding models are not reacting to current and potential issues.

Q11

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

Current front line effectiveness is limited to reactive response

Q12

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

Primarily the State needs to decide how important biosecurity is to the nation and act accordingly. At a biosecurity weeds level, the state management system is over complicated, multi level and expensive before any actual on ground management takes place. Biosecurity funding is not guaranteed long term, is not regularly distributed and is inefficiently managed by Government departments long before any actual on ground activities can be budgeted. Insertion of the LLS into the system in a 'management role' was a pure political appointment and only serves to reduce the available funding with no practical gain. Local Government as the local control authority is the legislatively appointed operator required to be responsible yet is over administered and under funded. Whilst under the current system NSW will always play catch up. It is not possible to be in front of the game

Q13

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

Using the risk based approach of the current legislation sounds all good. In practice all the load is on the bio security officer making that risk assessment, land managers see that as very subjective. Coupled with the legislation having the term 'where reasonably practicable' inserted in it, makes it very open to dispute or the option to provide limited management response based on capability.

Q14

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

Significant risk to industry , amenity & lifestyle.

Evident in just 2 instances, Varroa & Fire Ant.

Less evident is the spread of aquatic weeds and the risk of internet bought plants. Internatinal markets are now heavily scrutinised. Any contamination in produce risks market access. Food security and our place in the international market place are at risk.

Q15

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

Run national policies. Remove unnecessary bureaucracy and politics from the job. Adequately fund local government so that they can provide the front line staff required. Make Biosecurity funding a guaranteed, indexed, long term priority and pay it regularly, on time.

Put Biosecurity activities together. Currently they are separated by management, funding and priority. Biosecurity, DPI, LLS, Local Government, Weeds, Pest animals etc. and all effected by politics driven by public opinion and votes. Some jobs are a basic necessity look at biosecurity more like defense of the nation, because that's what it is.

Q16

Respondent skipped this question

Any other comments?
