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Q1

First name

[REDACTED]

Q2

Last name

[REDACTED]

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):

I work in pest and threatened species management

Q8

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

Other (please specify):

South 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?

Severely. After habitat loss/disturbance, invasive species are the main cause of biodiversity loss and the threat of extinction. Productivity loss by farmers and the agricultural sector due to invasive species is likely higher than estimated.

Q11

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

Existing programs are failing to effectively manage invasive species across the whole landscape, regardless of who owns or manages the land. Funding and frontline staff for programs must be significantly increased and programs must be long-term and strategic.

Q12

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

Building the rapid response capacity to tackle invasive species after major disturbances including droughts, floods and fire. Prioritising prevention and early action, including through stamping out the movement of high risk plants, pet mammals, reptiles, birds and freshwater fish.

Q13

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

Invasive species management continues to be ad-hoc and politically-driven. Compliance and enforcement is failing to ensure uncooperative landowners and public land managers are responsibly managing invasive species.

Funding was cut for the fire ant response. Almond farmers were allowed to move infected bee hives around the state for pollination instead of forgoing a year of income - the future cost to the state for this political stunt is immense. Control action on feral horses, cats, foxes and deer is still being hindered by lack of political strength and long-term vision. Thousands of Australians were allowed to re-enter Australia from Bali without any biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease.

Q14

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

Extinctions of native species, ecosystem failure, significant productivity loss, extreme economic costs, disease, death.

Q15

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

Encouraging collaboration and involvement of the community and industry in partnerships and shared solutions. Supporting statewide and national research and innovation to develop and encourage uptake of improved tools and practices. Introducing the genetic technology to render invasive species sterile or capable of producing only male offspring. Strong political leadership will recognise that the future cost of inadequate action in regard to invasive species management will cost the environment, industry and communities a thousand-fold in the future, as the damage is almost impossible to reverse. I don't know how many times we need to relearn this lesson.

Q16

Any other comments?

Independent oversight and accountability for government action on biosecurity and invasive species is vital.
