



Birding NSW Inc ABN: 72 008 283 20

Sydney NSW 1230

[www.birdingnsw.org.au](http://www.birdingnsw.org.au)

31 October 2023

NSW Natural Resource Commission

[nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au)

### **Submission on invasive species impacts on the environment in NSW:**

We are concerned about the impacts of invasive species right across NSW. For too long, invasive species have been worsening and concerted action is needed to reverse this.

Australia's unique avifauna has suffered from more than 200 years of widespread habitat loss and degradation. Invasive species compound this. Non-native plants can alter habitats so that they are no longer suitable for birds that used to thrive. Tens of thousands of hectares of lantana, blackberry and exotic vines prevent native vegetation from providing a balanced ecosystem.

Many of Australia's birds are highly vulnerable to predation by cats and foxes. Species that are most vulnerable are small birds that feed and roost close to the ground, like fairy-wrens, and ground-dwelling birds like malleefowl (listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and Endangered in NSW) and plains-wanderer (listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act and Endangered in NSW). Ground-dwelling species rely on ongoing suppression of predators to prevent a slide towards extinction.

### **Issues and opportunities**

Inconsistent and short-term funding are barriers to effective invasive species management. We urge long term and strategic funding including an increase in well-trained frontline staff.

We urge increased funding for feral cat reduction as a priority. The Felixer grooming trap has recently been approved by federal authorities for feral cat management. We would like to see it used widely in NSW where high-value threatened native wildlife species are found.

There is a need for invasive species to be managed across the whole landscape, regardless of land tenure. Improved enforcement will encourage private landowners and public land managers in responsible management.

On behalf of 1000+ Members and Friends, Birding NSW strongly advocates for planning that will eventually result in removal and/or control of invasive species of all flora and fauna. Control of the wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park is a start and protection of native forests will ensure our unique bushland will have a chance to regenerate.

Yours Sincerely

Office of Conservation

Birding NSW