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COMPLETE

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**Q1**

First name

Michael

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**Q2**

Last name

O'Keeffe

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**Q3**

Respondent skipped this question

Organisation name (if relevant)

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**Q4**

Email address

[REDACTED]

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**Q5**

Phone number

[REDACTED]

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**Q6**

Yes

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

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**Q7**

Other (please specify):

What best describes you?

Ecologist and former Biosecurity expert, QLD gov't.

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**Q8**

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

Other (please specify):

Movement & coordination between all regions and interstate.

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**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?

Widely, with serious ecological and economic consequences.

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**Q11**

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

Poorly, but not due to lack of expertise, but lack of coordination and inappropriate division of responsibilities.

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**Q12**

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

Lack of public awareness, lack of coordination between responsible parties and agencies, unwillingness of entities and individuals to take responsibility of the problem. Topping this list is the "sanctity" of private property and business activity. Combine increasing individualism, apathy and entitlement without responsibility, and the possibility of invasive species management is reduced to insignificance.

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**Q13**

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

The State has redistributed responsibilities in a way that discourages landscape scale management and coordination.

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**Q14**

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

There is no such thing as "future risk". The risk is here, now, and always with us. Framing the issue this way is part of the problem. The risks posed to the future are the same risks as those around us in the present. If we continue as we are, expect more of the same, compounding. More tramp ants, more weeds, more plant and animal diseases.

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**Q15**

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

The "outcomes" depend upon widespread recognition of the problem by all sections of government, business and communities. A unified approach for these entities is needed. Government must ensure that the resources and information are available for planning and execution. The government must be resolute in ensure that each of these entities meets its responsibilities (irrespective of whining and special interest pleading).

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**Q16**

Any other comments?

I've spent 20 years in this field and I see little improvement. I'm still an advocate for meaningful action on this massive problem. Having said that, as I look out my window I still see pretty much the same weedscape I was looking at 30 years ago.

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