

#134

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 10:45:25 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 12:05:13 PM
Time Spent: 01:19:48
IP Address: [REDACTED]

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Q1

First name

[REDACTED]

Q2

Last name

[REDACTED]

Q3

Organisation name (if relevant)

SSAA Goulburn

Q4

Email address

[REDACTED]

Q5

Phone number

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

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

Yes

Q7

What best describes you?

Other (please specify):

I am the club captain of a Rifle Club which is an authorised hunting organisation and I'm a councillor for Shooters, Fishers & Farmers Party.

Q8

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

Other (please specify):

Southern Tablelands

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. Feral cats, foxes, rabbits, hare, deer to a lesser extent, wild dogs extremely (in specific areas) and especially pigs.

Q11

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

I believe that the process of engaging private contractors by the NPWS and the Local Land Services is deeply flawed and that as a regulatory body they have no business in providing tenders for former employees or friends. The practise of indiscriminate bait drops and annual bullet spraying from helicopters is extremely ineffective. It's on public record that over the past decade private hunters on public and private land have removed EIGHT times the amount of game that contractors do and at no cost to the taxpayer. To this end many of the existing programs are extremely ineffective and a waste of public funds.

Q12

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

Bodies like the Invasive Species Council and the Local Land Services who lock civilian hunters out of private and public land removed the excellent effect that constant hunting pressure has upon feral animals. When ferals are constantly pursued from private land to public land and back again with no chance to hide in either it effectively prevents them from damaging rural land. By preventing licenced hunters from playing their role in this process we cost the taxpayer more and drastically limit effectiveness.

Q13

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

The LLS has increasingly interfered on private land.

Q14

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

The population explosion of feral pigs has done immeasurable damage to crops and grazing land, not to mention habitats in state forests and national parks. Wild dogs are almost unchecked and the LLS and NPWS have not just dropped the ball on dealing with this, they've euphemistically walked away from the ball to go and have a smoke. Farmers are losing tons of stock to terrible deaths and awful mortal injuries. Deer are a factor in costing farmers money but they're also a resource and the LLS and Invasive Species Council should not be given free reign to try and shoot them up from helicopters, especially when their accuracy varies between 7 to 10 shots per animal.

Q15

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

There needs to be a thorough inquiry with extreme prejudice into the practises of the LLS and the corruption within the organisation. Professional contractors should be employed on a strictly transparent basis not revolving around chronymism and nepotism. R-licence hunters need to be allowed into national parks and we need to see proper management of these parks so they do not continue to be fire traps. Any organisation using helicopter shooting MUST, I repeat, MUST have highly precise crews that can head shoot animals and use the correct cartridge. For instance, for brumby culling should use 9.3x62 and not 7.62 NATO and all crews should be as accurate as the NZ crew that culled thousands of goats on the Galapagos Islands. All licenced shooters should be allowed to use suppressors/moderators/silencers as they're allowed to in Europe, Britain, NZ, and parts if the USA. They're far more effective.

Q16

Any other comments?

The NPWS and other environmental groups in NSW have, for many years now, worshipped at the altar of green incorrect philosophy that by locking up national parks that they would return to the "virgin bush" that preceded British settlement. Not only is this wrong, but it is extremely injurious to the current populations of native flora and fauna who are, effectively, now fighting for their lives against introduced plants and animals who are virtually uncontrolled within national parks. Granted the task of controlling feral animals in NSW's national parks is a staggering one, well past the ability of the taxpayer's purse. When it equals over 7.5 million hectares there's no hope that the government could hope to cover the cost. Nonetheless, enter such scurrilous organisations as the Invasive Species Council, a private concern leeching money from various state governments to remove conservation hunting from licenced civilian hunters and with the goal of supplanting themselves and making millions out of the taxpayer purse.

The \$13 million appointment of a feral pig commissioner and the waste of some of that money has already demonstrated how poorly the state government and relative departments are at getting these thing done. It is time that national parks were opened up, as they are in Victoria, and the constant hunting would have the effectiveness it does of thinning the numbers. The constant use of tracks in the national parks and the presence of hunters in deeper parts of these parks would also be a far more effective passive monitoring system for bushfire mitigation.

One thing is for certain. The LLS needs to be fully investigated and and/or disbanded and the standards by which helicopter shooters are judged and thereby employed need to be far higher.
