

30th January 2018

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
18 Marcus Clarke Street Canberra City ACT 2601

By email: biosecuritylegislationcoordination@agriculture.gov.au

Submission to Biosecurity Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2017 Exposure Draft

The Invasive Species Council (ISC) wishes to thank the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Amendments to the Biosecurity Act 2015. The Department understands ISC views the Biosecurity Act 2015 as being of fundamental importance in protecting Australia's natural environment from further incursions of damaging invasive animals, plants and pathogens. As a result, ISC takes a keen interest in all proposed amendments.

The amendments requiring the Director of Biosecurity to be satisfied that information is commercial in confidence appear to extend the Director's discretionary power and are supported by ISC. Likewise, the extensions of powers given to Biosecurity Officers in Items 4 and 5, to require importers to provide information about certain goods, are fully supported. ISC believes that Australia's Biosecurity is best served by trading partners operating in a highly collaborative, mutually-supportive and open manner. To this end, ISC fully supports the proposal to share protected information with other National Focal Points.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Cox
CEO