

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

PREVENTION AND EARLY ACTION – 75% OF OUR EFFORT

A biosecurity system is in place by 2022 that reduces the risk to Australia’s natural environment.

Provide compelling information

- **Reports** – Invasive Species: A Leading Threat to Australia’s Wildlife, by Tim Low.
- **Increased awareness** of the red fire ant threat will boost support for stronger biosecurity to protect the environment.
- **Increased the use of short videos** on subjects such as Koster’s curse, red fire ants and other invasive ants.

Promote an effective biosecurity system

- **Participated in two reviews that recommended improvements** – the review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) and the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA). The IGAB review accepted our premise of too frequent arrivals of new pests and weeds and called for structural change and environmental biosecurity to be given ‘equal priority’. If implemented, this would represent this decade’s most significant biosecurity overhaul. The NEBRA review supported some of our suggestions.
- **The federal government released its response to the 2014 Senate biosecurity inquiry** that was initiated



CEO Andrew Cox, outreach officer Reece Pianta and policy officer Charlie Sherwin.

OUR TEAM

- Andrew Cox, CEO
- Reece Pianta, Outreach Officer
- Charlie Sherwin, Policy Officer
- Carol Booth, Policy Officer
- John Sampson, Communications Officer

due to our efforts, supporting some of our proposals.

- **Report – Environmental Biosecurity: Best Practice.**
- **Investigated the biosecurity system on Norfolk Island.** A report is being finalised.

Work with processes and organisations

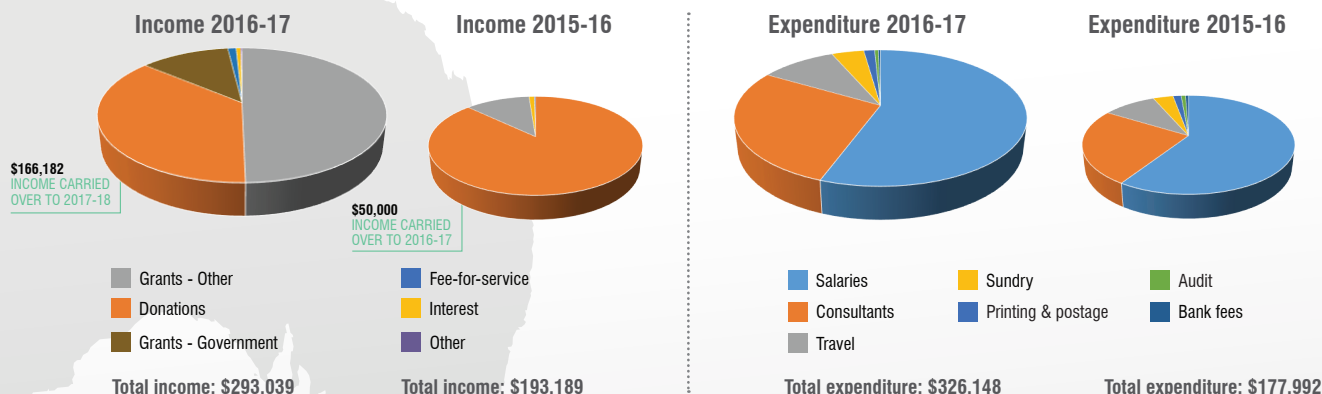
- **Submissions** – nine substantive submissions to state and federal government processes.
- **Participated in a committee to advise the Queensland Minister for Agriculture** on the development of Queensland biosecurity strategy.
- **Participated in the NSW peri-urban biosecurity project.**

- **Participated in the development of a national invasive ants biosecurity plan**, and two national environmental biosecurity forums.

Support practical action

- **Began a major three-year joint project with Monash University** to identify and prioritise insect pests that could harm Australia’s environment and identify their entry pathways and impacts. The project was supported by the Ian Potter Foundation.

Yearly income and expenditure



FIRE ANTS DOWN UNDER

NATIONAL EMERGENCY TOUR

- Brisbane 20 March
- Canberra 21 March
- Sydney 22 March
- Melbourne 23 March
- Perth 24 March

After spending a week travelling across Australia with Texan Dr Robert Puckett we can only conclude that he was the perfect person to explain the hellish nature of living with fire ants.

ERADICATION, CONTAINMENT AND CONTROL – 25% OF OUR EFFORT

Eradicate invasive species from selected islands and sites, contain emerging species and direct control efforts to threatened sites.

Facilitate eradication

- **Our biggest success yet** – \$411 million secured from all Australian governments to eradicate red fire ants from southeast Queensland. We played a central role in building public awareness and holding a national tour.
- **Report** – Seven Essentials: Fire Ant Eradication Program recommendations.
- **Supported community and government efforts** to eradicate yellow crazy ants from far north, north and southeast Queensland.
- **Supported eradication** of Argentine ants from Norfolk Island.
- **Worked with Ecology Australia** to survey Melbourne's suburbs for one of Australia's newest animal pests, the smooth newt.

Advocate for containment

- **Led a NSW Parliamentary delegation** seeking a feral deer containment plan and to delist deer as a game animal prior to a NSW Government decision on pest management.

Support targeted control

- **Participated in a committee advising the NSW Primary Industries Minister** about the NSW biosecurity Act implementation.
- **Participated in the national feral cat task force.**

Visit our website for our full strategic plan.

SUPPORT

Thank you to all our generous donors and supporters of our work. In particular, we thank the Limb Family Foundation, Curlew Fund, Garry White Foundation, Ian Potter Foundation, Eldon and Anne Foote Trust of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Mullum Trust, Tracker Fund, Paddy Pallin Foundation.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you can see from this year's report we have had an exceptional year, increasing our influence, starting a major project with Monash University and finishing with major successes with funding for red fire ant eradication and a highly favourable biosecurity review.



Thank you to all of our donors whose support is essential and to our supporters who extend the success of our work.

Thanks also to fellow board members and staffers who should feel very proud of what we've achieved.

Esther Abram, President

Outreach and communication



Froggatt Award winners

- Gregory Andrews
- Sea Spurge Remote Area Teams
- Ecology Australia



Feral Herald bulletins

- Seven issues
- 39 stories
- 2000+ subscribers



Facebook

- 5400 page likes
- 50% increase
- Average 12 month reach: 3080



Twitter

- 1100 followers
- Average daily impressions: 884



Cover and back page photo credits:

Our CEO Andrew Cox with NSW DPI and LLS staff at Port Botany.



Threatened Species Commissioner Gregory Andrews, thrilled to receive a Froggatt Award.



SPRATS volunteers Andy and Liz MacQueen in SW Tasmania.



CEO Andrew Cox with Jo Laduzko, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, at the first environmental biosecurity forum in Canberra.



ABC's Karl Kruszelnicki and Dr Robert Puckett, Texas A&M University, talk about red fire ants.



Kate Stevenson at Ecology Australia uses a dip net to search for the invasive smooth newt in Melbourne's suburbs.



Bumblebees are an invasive species in Tasmania where there is pressure to commercialise their use. Photo J.Ingles-Le Nobel | Flickr | CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



Sea turtles are under threat from tropical fire ants on Australia's Ashmore Reef. Photo Laszlo Ilyes | Flickr | CC BY 2.0



CONTACT US

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