

Feral Herald

Newsletter of the Invasive Species Council, Australia

working to stop further invasions

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Invasive Species Council Inc.

ABN 101 522 829

www.invasives.org.au

PO Box 571
Collins St. West, Vic 8007

email:
isc@invasives.org.au

Editor
Stephen Page
newsletter@invasives.org.au

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Printing *Feral Herald*

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Progress on Weed Import Loophole

Federal Government promises to fix massive loophole in plant quarantine

By Dr. Barry Traill

Following pressure from environment groups and weed experts, the Federal Government has agreed to fix the huge hole in Australia's plant quarantine system.

As reported in the last *Feral Herald*, thousands of groups of plants, including many known and potential weeds are on the 'Permitted List' for plants that can be legally imported into Australia.

Following public pressure the government has said they will remove all of the 4,000 known weeds from the Permitted List by the middle of this year. However, they have not yet set a firm date for removal of the 2,900 plant genera (groups of similar species) that have never been assessed for their weed risk. Removing these genera from the Permitted List is crucial to properly closing this quarantine loophole.

ISC will monitor the situation and work to ensure the relevant bureaucracies deliver on the government's promise. When achieved, this will be a massive win for Australia's environment.

Many people helped in lobbying the Federal Government on this issue. In particular though Andreas Glanznig from WWF Australia, Rachel McFadyen from the Weeds Cooperative Research Centre, and Tim Low from the Invasive Species Council are to be especially congratulated for their work in identifying this issue and getting the government to respond.

And lastly a big Thank You to you...

Many ISC members responded to our request late last year to send an electronic postcard or letter to the Government urging they fix this problem. The public pressure helped influence the Government that this was an issue it had to deal with decisively.

Barry Traill

Cecropia to be Banned in Queensland

The ISC has succeeded in its campaign to have the tropical weed tree, Cecropia, banned in Queensland.

Cecropia rates a listing in the IUCN report, *100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species*, because it is highly invasive in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, South East Asia and tropical Africa, and within its native range in Latin America.

Last year the ISC wrote to the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), noting that *Cecropia* had begun appearing as a weed in north Queensland, and urging that it be declared a class 1 (prohibited) weed. (see *Feral Herald* 6) The DNRM conducted a risk assessment of the plant, which concluded that *Cecropia* had:

'the potential to become one of the most abundant and invasive plant species within the 'wet tropics' region of north Queensland, especially areas that suffer periodic disturbance from cyclones.'

The assessment recorded some chilling facts about *Cecropia*:

'Over a reproductive lifetime a female tree could produce nearly 38 million flowers... and 6-7 million viable seeds'.

'In tropical America, where Cecropia are native, several species have become very abundant in response to increasing disturbance caused by agricultural development. Some species are very common weeds along roadsides, abandoned crop-lands (e.g.. corn fields) and other heavily disturbed sites...'



The risk assessment concluded that:

'any Cecropia plants cultivated within either the "wet tropics" region or sub-tropical rainforests of southern Queensland will spread rapidly and invade suitable habitats nearby'.

Cecropia would also be invasive in northern New South Wales, although it has not been banned there.

The wheels of government turn slowly, but sometime soon *Cecropia* will be declared in Queensland, obliging landholders to remove any trees growing on their land, either as ornamental trees or weeds. There are known to be cultivated trees in the region between Mackay and Cairns, and a small weedy population around El Arish.

When tackling invasive species, prevention works much better than cure, and the time to quash *Cecropia* is now, before the opportunity to eradicate it is lost. A fast-growing large-leaved tree, *Cecropia* would thrive in rainforest clearings in north Queensland, and also become an annoying weed for fruit-growers.

Join the *Invasive Action* email Network...

Coming out of the recent Invasive Species Forum held in Melbourne, is a new *Invasive Action* email Network.

This is an opportunity to join in regular communication with others interested in invasives campaigning.

See the ISC web site home page for a link.

Note: Other invasives email information services were described in *Feral Herald* 7.

Supporting ISC's campaigns

If you belong to an environmental organisation, ask them to consider formally supporting the Invasive Species Council's 'Priorities for Advocacy'.

The formal support of other environmental organisations can add a lot of weight to the ISC's campaigns, such as our recent campaign to close the door on weed imports.

A web page to facilitate letters of support is on our website: <http://www.invasives.org.au/about/supportletters.htm>

In this issue...

This issue is a good news issue! We report on some major wins, for invasive species campaigns, and for the ISC.

Closing the gaping hole in the Weed Risk Assessment process which allows the legal importing of weed species will be a major achievement. (page 1)

The banning in Queensland of *Cecropia*, a serious tropical weed threat, shows the benefit of an organisation with the focus to draw attention to invasives threats that have hitherto gone unchampioned. (page 2)

The positive response to the ISC submission to the Senate Inquiry into Invasive Species (page 5), and the feedback from the Invasive Species Forum, held recently to exchange views with other environmental groups (page 8), show we are filling a vital niche in the environmental debate.

As a new organisation with no staff and limited resources, these are significant achievements of which all our members should be proud. Securing funding to employ a part-time campaigner will enable us to campaign on a greater number of issues. (page 3)

In other news, the community of Inverloch, recipients of the ISC Froggatt Award for 2004, provide an inspiring story of local effort and determination to eradicate an outbreak of Northern Pacific Seastar. (page 7)

Despite all this good news, no issue would be complete without a few timely warnings of some imminent threats - Garden Plants Jumping the Fence; Feral Antelopes; and Ongoing Marine Threats. (pages 4 & 6)

From the President...

New funding to hire ISC campaigner

There is very good news for the ISC. We have been successful in receiving funding for new work on invasives. The funding, from Perpetual Trustees and a private donor, will enable us to employ a campaigner to carry out urgently needed work.

Since our founding, the ISC strategy has been to obtain funding to hire professional advocates for the invasive species issue. The complexity of environmental politics in recent years means that without dedicated and skilled advocates little progress is likely to be made.

This funding will provide for a part-time person for a year. We are continuing to seek further funds to enable us to extend the hours and duration of the position so that we can achieve more.

Reaching this point has, at times, been frustrating. We have had a number of wins on getting controls in place on noxious species such as the fish Tilapia, and the appalling weed *Cecropia*, and campaigning on fixing the horrific weed import quarantine hole.

However, with so many urgent issues on invasives we have had to ignore many because of lack of time and resources. This increased capacity will allow us to achieve much more to protect Australia from further invasives.

May we choke off many invasives in '05.

Barry Trill

P.S. We will shortly be advertising the position in internal networks. Ideally the successful new ISC person will be Melbourne based and have experience in invasive species issues and in being a successful campaigner/advocate for the environment.

Please get in touch on isc@invasives.org.au if you know someone who could be interested. When we have finalised the job advertisement we will send it to ISC members by email.

Join the ISC...

Keep informed, and lend your weight to our important campaigning efforts on Invasive Species.

See the membership form at the back of this newsletter.

Jumping the Garden Fence

In March, WWF Australia released a major new CSIRO report - 'Jumping the Garden Fence: Invasive garden plants in Australia and their environmental and agricultural impacts'.

This report, by Dr Richard Groves, Dr Robert Boden and Dr Mark Lonsdale, immediately came under attack from nursery industry representatives for recommending bans on various weedy garden plants.

The report documents the extent to which garden escapes dominate our weed lists:

'The gardening industry is by far the largest importer of introduced plant species, being the source for the introduction of 25,360 or 94% of new plant species into Australia.

Garden plant introductions are also the dominant source of new naturalised plants and weeds in Australia. Of the 2,779 introduced plant species now known to be established in the Australian environment, 1,831 (or 66%) are escaped garden plant species.'

The Report's recommendations include:

Recommendation 1. At least 80 species that are currently available for sale should be prohibited nationally from sale as an urgent priority. These include the species that are Weeds Of National Significance, species on the Alert List, the 83 species that are declared or noxious, and the 10 species that impact on Rare or Threatened (ROTAP) species.

Recommendation 4. Amendments or new regulations to the current federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* should be considered, to allow national prohibition of the sale of specific invasive garden plants known to be major weeds and to ensure uniformity between all States and Territories.

Recommendation 5. Voluntary associations between nursery groups and weed managers at the local and regional levels should be fostered to increase the number and effectiveness of future associations.

Recommendation 6. Bushland areas adjoining peri-urban settlements around Australian cities should be actively and regularly searched by experienced botanists and trained community volunteers to detect and eradicate newly naturalised plant species that have already 'jumped the garden fence'.

Does Australia have Feral Antelope?

The ISC would like to hear from anyone who may know of wild blackbuck in Australia. Blackbuck are unmistakable. Males are black with white eye-rings and long spiral horns; the females are brown and lack horns.

Blackbuck, which are antelope from India, were released at various sites in Western Australia in about 1900. Some of the populations did so well they had to be culled to contain their numbers; others died away. One colony, at Newmarracarra, survived until the 1980s.

Officially at least, no blackbuck run wild in Australia today. But reports have been received of feral blackbuck at a remote site in Western Australia, and sightings have also been claimed from north Queensland.

The sightings, if reliable, would probably refer to animals released for hunting operations, and could indicate populations that were either established recently, or more than a hundred years ago.

Blackbuck are certainly present in captivity in Australia. The University of Queensland trialled them as livestock in the 1990s, then sold off their herd.

According to the website of Hunt Australia Safaris, 'Unfortunately, they are no longer wild and free in Australia, however they are currently available in several large game ranches.'

Costly Salami

In February, a Danish businessman was fined \$6,500 for failing to declare four and a half kilograms of salami when he arrived in Queensland for a short business trip.

Australian courts are upping their fines for quarantine transgressions as awareness about the seriousness of quarantine breaches grows.

Past articles on initiatives of the nursery industry to reduce weed escapes can be found in *Feral Herald* Volume 1, Issues 3 & 4, April & July 2003. Copies of past newsletters are on the website.

Turning Back the Tide

Senate Inquiry report released

The views of the Invasive Species Council feature prominently in the report of the Senate Inquiry, 'Turning Back the Tide – the Invasive Species Challenge'.

Fifty-four witnesses appeared before the Senate inquiry (see *Feral Herald* 6 & 7), yet ISC president Barry Traill is quoted first – on page one.

The ISC's written submission, and the testimony of Barry and councillor Tim Low, are quoted or mentioned more than 30 times in the body of the report, which offers a cogent picture of the invasive species problem and records Australia's failure to protect itself properly.

That the ISC is quoted so often - more often, it seems, than any other organisation or department that gave testimony - indicates that our submission struck a chord with the six senators running the inquiry. Our perception of the problem was accepted as accurate and our proposed solutions were seen as appropriate and worth endorsing.

The main ISC submission was supported by appendices on marine invaders and the shipping industry, by ISC member Dr Carol Booth; and on the Democrats' proposed amendment to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act), by ISC councillor Lucy Vaughan (see *Feral Herald* 4).

All three sections of our submission were drawn upon and quoted from favourably, along with the verbal testimony provided when the inquiry met in Brisbane. As an organisation with - as yet - a small budget, we are limited in our capacity to campaign, but we took seriously the opportunity to appear before the Inquiry.

New Victorian Ballast Policy

In June last year Victoria introduced a *Waste Management Policy (Ships' Ballast Water)* to guide ballast water policy. Victoria is the first and only state to independently manage ballast water. The state has acted because of the large numbers of marine pests invading Port Phillip Bay, including species which are thought to have been spread from Tasmania.

The effort we put in was worthwhile. *Turning Back the Tide* is a very readable report that will sway the views of politicians, bureaucrats and anyone else who looks through it.

The report contains 27 recommendations. One of those, we are pleased to say, proposes that the weed import loophole be closed (see *Feral Herald* 8). The government is now moving very slowly (too slowly) in that direction.

Another recommendation, proposed 'as a matter of urgency', is that the Commonwealth Government 'develop programs to minimise the threat of invasive marine species entering Australia's water via hull fouling...'

Another recommendation that acknowledges our testimony is the proposition that the Commonwealth Government 'investigate the imposition of a "polluter pays" principle where importers pay for the cost of control and repair should a plant become a weed'.

Senate reports often sit in a corner and accumulate dust. It is up to ISC members and others who understand this issue to ensure that this report is quoted from and talked about. When highlighting the pest threat there is real value in having a pithy Senate report to quote from.

more details over page...

The ISC submission was produced by Paola Parigi. Thanks to all members who contributed.

The Senate report is at http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita_ctte/index.htm Hard copies (for free) from ecita.sen@aph.gov.au.

In the first six months of operation, 2,000 vessels visited Victorian Ports, 30 per cent carrying domestic ballast. Just over a third of this ballast was considered high risk and was not discharged. The amount of domestic ballast represents a reduction from previous years, suggesting that the new policy is raising awareness among ship-owners.

See *Waves* 10(4) at www.mccn.org.au

An extract from the Senate Inquiry report, 'Turning Back the Tide', which quotes from the ISC's submission:

Concerns about the WRA process

6.35 More significantly, however, there is general outrage about the exemption from the WRA* system of plants on the Schedule 5 permitted list. In its submission the Invasive Species Council said:

Because it is more stringent than the systems most countries use, WRA has won much praise here and overseas. But WRA is not operating as it should. Hundreds of weeds may be imported legally into Australia without any assessment whatever. The system is so flawed it raises serious questions about the competence and commitment of our quarantine service.

6.36 The Committee heard extensive evidence from a range of organisations about a loophole in Schedule 5, namely the inclusion of several thousand genera on the permitted list. Under the permitted list, therefore, entire genera are granted blanket approval for importation. This is the case even if not all of the species in the genera are already present in Australia: at present there are many potentially invasive plants on the AQIS permitted list, and therefore not subject to the WRA process. This includes instances where entire genera (related species) have been granted blanket approval for importation.

There are also problems where a plant may be present in Australia but not invasive, therefore further importations would normally be permitted. If new strains are imported, the result may be development of an invasive problem.

* Weed Risk Assessment. The system by which newly imported plants are screened for weediness. The ISC exposed the failure in this system in its newsletter (see *Feral Herald* 3 & 8)

The Marine Threat

"In recent work we have identified 1,600 species worldwide which, in the marine environment, have had economic and environmental impacts. Of those, between 135 and 700 have invaded Australia. Of those, we would classify about 50 to 70 as pests in that they have had economic and environmental impacts.

We have also identified 36 more on the way, which we see as having severe economic or environmental impacts, which means they have had invasive impacts overseas and are in the major trading ports of our partners."

- Dr Nicholas Bax, CSIRO, testifying before the Senate Inquiry.

"there is virtually no momentum to address the invasive species threat to biodiversity. Currently, institutions, policies and funding are overwhelmingly concerned with protecting agricultural production values, and there is little public or private investment in environmental pests."

- The ISC, quoted in *Turning Back the Tide*

"Ultimately, nation-wide efforts to control invasive species are substantially hindered by inadequate and inconsistent state legislation. This is not news to anyone working in the area of environmental management. The *National Weeds Strategy* identified the fact that States have not always harmonised legislation to address situations where a weed in one State can affect another State where infestations cross State borders."

- The ISC, quoted in *Turning Back the Tide*

2004 Froggatt Award

Marine pest eradicators receive ISC award

Winner of the 2004 ISC Froggatt Award is the Seastar Team, and the community of Inverloch in southeast Victoria, for their inspired efforts to eradicate a Northern Pacific Seastar outbreak that had spread from Port Phillip Bay.

The Seastar Team have done an exceptional job in bringing together the Victorian Government and local community groups to eradicate a new population of the Northern Pacific Seastar at Inverloch.

The Northern Pacific Seastar (*Asterius amurensis*) is a horrific marine pest - a starfish from Japan which has invaded Australian waters. These beasts are marine vacuum cleaners, stripping life from the bottoms of our bays and reefs. They are already out of control in Port Phillip Bay in Victoria.

In late 2003, individual Pacific Seastars began appearing in intertidal areas at Inverloch. The community was extensively consulted and decided to work towards eradicating the infestation.

A coalition of diverse community groups came together to carry out the work, including:

- * volunteer divers, from across Victoria
- * fishers and boaters, transporting divers
- * walkers scanning the beaches, including Strezlecki Bushwalking Club and the Victorian Bushwalking Club
- * local Red Cross and SES volunteers, and Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club
- * local volunteers, including commercial fishers, Residents and Rate Payers Association, the Bunurong Environment Centre and the business community
- * Victorian Government agencies including Department of Sustainability and Environment, Parks Victoria and Department of Primary Industries

It is too early to determine whether the population has been eradicated. However, data collected during the eradication events indicate that the population may have been successfully reduced to a level where reproduction may be ineffective. Follow up dives are scheduled for early 2005.



*Northern Pacific Seastars (*Asterius amurensis*) swarm over the seafloor, reaching densities of up to 9 per m², devouring everything, dead or alive.*

In the early stages, aggregations of the individuals were found in large numbers over suitable habitat and food sources. However, as individuals were removed from these locations, only scattered individuals are now being found, with no further aggregations. Thus, spawning is likely to fail, or have a very low success rate, as the success rate of spawning individuals depends on their proximity to each other.

Perhaps most importantly, the determination of this team in returning again and again to eradicate this population has raised the profile of the general problem of invasive marine species.

Their efforts have also highlighted in the Australian media that “prevention is better than cure”, by demonstrating the level of resources and time required for eradication (rarely possible) or control.

The team’s work has also set a new national benchmark in responding to such incidents, and helped launch major initiatives dealing with risks from small vessels and ship’s ballast water. The volunteer effort has also drawn the attention of the Korean Broadcasting Service.

Congratulations to the people of Inverloch, and the many others who were involved, for winning the 2004 Froggatt!

The ISC Froggatt Award is presented annually to a person or organisation which makes an outstanding contribution to the eradication of invasive species in Australia. It honours Mr. Walter Froggatt, a visionary biologist who opposed the introduction of Cane Toads into Australia, now one of our worst pest species.

Invasive Species Forum

Engaging the environment movement in the war against weeds

In November 2004 the Invasive Species Council partnered an Invasive Species Forum in collaboration with Environment Victoria (EV), the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA), the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (Australian National University), and the Upper Yarra and Dandenongs Environmental Council (UYDEC).

While many environmental NGOs and Landcare groups already tackle invasive species in their programs, clearly we need to do more. This Forum provided an opportunity to compare our strategies, and consider how we might incorporate further actions against invasive species in our programs.

Overview

In my view, and on the basis of feedback received from others, the forum was a success! In particular, I believe that we met our three key objectives to:

1. Raise the profile of invasive species issues within the environmental movement;
2. Facilitate a coordinated approach; and
3. Build support and capacity.

The day was organised by Sasha Nelson (ANU), with the support of volunteers and gourmet sandwich makers (Andrew Booth and team (EV)), and expertly facilitated by Karen Alexander (VNPA). Together with thirty or so enthusiastic participants, a wealth of ideas and knowledge were shared on the day, laying the foundations for future action on invasive species.

Tim Low (ISC) introduced the day, outlining the problem from a national perspective, and suggesting why it was important that the environment movement become more actively engaged in the issue:

- * the immense and ongoing impact of invasive species on biodiversity - the issue warrants attention;
- * obvious gaps in policy - therefore big opportunities for environmental gains;
- * political opportunities for change - a conservative government which is possibly more amenable to the issue; common ground on some issues with farmers.

Tim concluded by talking about the power of persuasion, communication and action - a perfect start to the day.

Darcy Duggan (UYDEC) then discussed some critical issues concerning the legal framework, and resources and awareness, from national, state and local perspectives.

I then gave a brief overview of ISC, focusing in particular on our Priorities for Advocacy, strategies for achieving them, and how we might better work together.

The afternoon was spent examining how we could better support one another, and what we could take back to our respective organisations to help raise the profile of invasive species and build a “groundswell of community support”.

Key Outcomes

Key outcomes arising from the day were:

- * A commitment to communicating the priority of Invasives as an issue to participant’s respective organisations.
- * An increased awareness about national issues.
- * A commitment to try to encourage ‘grass roots’ or ‘weed pulling’ groups to spend more time campaigning - and to providing groups with the appropriate triggers and resources.
- * In line with the above, a commitment to establishing a ‘campaigners network’ (to provide the confidence, contacts, expertise and advice required) and a leaflet for ‘weed pulling’ groups outlining the benefits of becoming more politically active on the issue, and where to go for help.
- * A commitment to communicating about ISC to affiliated organisations, and in particular getting support, including written affirmations, for ISC’s Priorities for Advocacy.
- * Overall strong positive feedback.
- * A commitment from VNPA to commence a state wide campaign aimed at reviewing the CaLPAct and noxious weeds listings.

Taking Action

Remarkably, many of the outcomes listed above have already been acted on! Now all we need to do is build on this momentum, and kick-start that “groundswell of community support”.

Three items arising from the Forum provide opportunities for members of ISC and other environmental organisations, to support invasives campaigns:

- * Encourage friends and colleagues to consider the ISC - read back issues of *Feral Herald* or view the Web Site - with a view to joining up.
- * An ‘Invasive Action’ email network for invasives campaigning has been convened by Mimi Pohl, of the Victorian Field Naturalists. (Link at: www.invasives.org.au/home.htm)

- * If you belong to an environmental organisation, ask them to consider formally supporting the Invasive Species Council’s ‘Priorities for Advocacy’.

The formal support of other environmental organisations can add a lot of weight to the ISC’s campaigns, such as our recent campaign to close the door on weed imports.

A web page to facilitate letters of support is on our website: <http://www.invasives.org.au/about/supportletters.htm>

For those that attended the Forum, it was great to meet many of you, and thanks again for your contribution to an enjoyable and productive day! I look forward to working with many of you again to help stop the invasion!

Paola Parigi
Vice President, Invasive Species Council

The Precautionary Principle Project

The ISC has written a case study for the international Precautionary Principle Project (PPP), a London-based project sponsored by the IUCN, Resource Africa, Traffic, and Fauna and Flora International.

The PPP was created to provide best practice guidance to decision-makers who conserve biodiversity and manage resources. But the Precautionary Principle (PP) is a contentious issue in the international arena and in many Third World countries.

On the one hand, governments want to see forestry reserves and fish stocks harvested sustainably. But there are also concerns that the PP can be used unfairly and unrealistically to block access to resources. It can also be used as a disguised barrier to trade.

The principle itself seems sound - that when faced with uncertainty about the impacts of development, one should adopt a cautious, precautionary approach. But sound examples of the PP operating in practice are difficult to find.

Most development decisions operate on a general presumption of development, despite uncertainties about their impacts. Fishing quotas and bans on chemicals are only applied when there is strong evidence to justify them. Development is the default position, with the onus upon conservationists to provide proof of harm before brakes are applied.

Last year the PPP invited organisations to apply to write case

studies illustrating the Precautionary Principle in practice.

The ISC provided a 10,000 word review of Weed Risk Assessment, the process by which Biosecurity Australia screens new plant imports for weediness. As we explained in *Feral Herald* 8, under WRA new plants proposed for importation are banned from Australia if they achieve a high enough score on a questionnaire.

If a plant, for example, is thorny, toxic, dispersed by birds, and well suited to Australia’s climate, it will be banned, even if there is no evidence of it ever having become a weed elsewhere in the world.

ISC councillor Tim Low, who wrote the report, believes that WRA should be adopted world-wide as a method for screening out weedy plants. WRA is far from fool-proof, but it does ask the question that best predicts weediness in a new country - weediness somewhere else.

Tim argues that WRA should be applied especially to those plants promoted by international aid agencies. Many of them are fast-growing and highly invasive - for example mesquite, leucaena, and honey locust. They prove useful in the short-term as firewood and goat feed, but they create a weed problem that will never end.

Tim’s report contains a section on the loophole in WRA, (see *FH* 9, page 1) but the main focus is on WRA as an example of the Precautionary Principle in practice.

The home page of the Precautionary Principle Project can be found at www.pprinciple.net

Invasive Species Council Membership application form

ABN 27101522829

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

email _____

Work or voluntary position(s) (if relevant) _____

Affiliations _____

Membership rates:

(all prices are GST inclusive)

- | | |
|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular | \$22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concession | \$11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group/Institution | \$55 |

I would also like to make a donation ¹ _____
(does not include GST)

Total: \$ _____

Is this a new membership or a renewal?

* Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.

¹ Representing a donation to the Invasive Species Council Fund - the Invasive Species Council Fund is a public fund listed on the Register Of Environmental Organisations under item 6.1.1 of subsection 30-55(1) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

Thank you for joining us. Please send this form and a cheque to:

Invasive Species Council
PO Box 571 Collins St West, Vic. 8007.

Cheques and Money Orders should be made out to the 'Invasive Species Council Inc'.
Sorry we do not have credit card facilities at this stage.

The Invasive Species Council

Invasive species are a growing problem all over the world, and Australia, an isolated island state with a unique fauna and flora, is especially vulnerable. Over the years incredible harm has been done by such pests as foxes, rabbits, toads, carp, prickly pear, blackberries, rubber vine and the tree-killing disease phytophthora. At last count, Australia had 2,700 weed species and more than 200 marine invaders.

Even though the impacts are immense and ongoing, invasive species aren't being tackled seriously. An alarming number of invasive species are still coming in, staying, and spreading in Australia.

The Invasive Species Council is a new, independent, non-government organisation set up to campaign and advocate to stop further invasions, and to contain invading species already present. If you care about the threat posed to Australia by exotic invaders, please join the ISC. We believe we are the first group in the world created *solely* to lobby against invasive species of all kinds.

We want stronger laws on invasives, tighter quarantine controls, regular monitoring of harbours for marine invaders, and Rapid Response Teams to eliminate new invaders. Join us to help make these a reality.

campaigning

raising awareness

convincing our governments to act