

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOSECURITY SURVEY 2016

Would your party...	Yes	No	Comments
1 Implement all the unanimous recommendations of the 2015 Senate inquiry into environmental biosecurity?	Yes		Labor played an active role in this Senate inquiry and supports the recommendations made on this important issue.
2 Establish Environment Health Australia to improve environmental biosecurity preparedness, involve the community and identify research, surveillance and prevention priorities (modelled on the industry-government partnerships Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia)?			<p>Labor will establish an Australian Institute for Biosecurity to manage the challenges of pest animals, weeds and plant disease incursions on the land and in our waterways and oceans. This initiative will allow the Australian Government, as a major investor in RD&E to ensure that research gaps relating to long-term sustainability and cross-sectoral issues are identified and addressed.</p> <p>The Institute's primary role will be to maintain and build on the existing network of research and industry partners across plant, animal, aquaculture and marine biosecurity. It will support sustainable RD&E projects and identify pathways to enduring long-term strategic management beyond the current 5 to 10 year approach.</p> <p>The Institute will also deal with the challenges of environmental biosecurity while protecting the livelihood of our farmers and graziers, and those who make their living from aquaculture and marine industries.</p> <p>For more details, go to: http://www.100positivepolicies.org.au/australian_institute_for_biosecurity_fact_sheet</p>
3 Establish a permanent national research centre for prevention of environmentally invasive species, building on the successful weed and invasive animal cooperative research centre model and focusing on prevention, early action, and on the full range of invasive species – insects, weeds, plants, feral animals, pathogens and marine invaders?	Yes		As above, Labor will establish an Australian Institute for Biosecurity to manage the challenges of pest animals, weeds and plant disease incursions on the land and in our waterways and oceans.
4 Commit to a target of achieving a net reduction in the environmental impacts of invasive species within five years, to conducting the necessary baseline assessment of impacts, methods and funding required, and production of a national plan to achieve the target?	Yes		The Institute for Biosecurity will address this through its strategic work plan to ensure the long-term health of Australia's agricultural sector, animal industries and natural environment.
5 Seek a CoAG agreement to legislate risk-based limits on the movement of invasive non-native (weedy) plants and if the states don't agree within one year, create national regulation under the existing provisions of the EPBC Act?		No	The Biosecurity Institute will build on the success of the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), the Plant Biosecurity CRC, and the National Plant Biosecurity Research Development and Extension Strategic Implementation Committee. Its remit will cover plant diseases and pests, weeds, invasive animals and threats to Australia's aquaculture and marine biosecurity
6 Develop and implement a national plan to reduce the risks of environmental damage from both legal and illegal keeping of exotic fish, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians?			Labor supports the Department of Agriculture's analyses of biosecurity risks through its process of import risk analysis (IRA). IRAs are based on scientific analysis to

			determine the biosecurity conditions which help to mitigate the risk of pests and diseases entering Australia.
7 Create an offshore islands eradications program to undertake high impact invasive species eradications of and implement a national island biosecurity initiative to prevent new invasions of our offshore islands?			Labor will ensure that offshore islands biosecurity risks are considered as part of Australia's biosecurity risk profile.
8 Establish a 'Minister for Biosecurity' to administer biosecurity laws and policies strongly and fairly across all sectors?		No	Biosecurity will continue to sit in the portfolio of the Minister for Agriculture. We recognise the importance of this area and the relevant minister will work across all sectors with relevant colleagues and departments to ensure these laws are administered effectively.
9 Initiate a Productivity Commission review of environmental biosecurity to determine the costs and benefits of improved biosecurity measures?			The Australian Institute for Biosecurity will focus on high value collaborative efforts built on scientific evidence. It will support sustainable RD&E projects and identify pathways to enduring long-term strategic management beyond the current 5 to 10-year approach. The Institute will work closely with leading university scientists, biosecurity researchers and industry. It will also work with the CSIRO's world-renowned Australian Animal Health Laboratory where there is crossover with animal disease threats.
10 Establish world-leading national regulation of ballast water and biofouling, including mandatory domestic regulation, to protect the Great Barrier Reef and Australia's whole marine environment?	Yes		<p>Labor is committed to the development and implementation of a comprehensive set of domestic ballast water management arrangements to complement the existing requirements for international vessels.</p> <p>These arrangements will be consistent with the International Maritime Organisation's International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, which Australia has signed but is yet to be ratified.</p> <p>None the less, Labor will seek to have implementing legislation for the Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments passed.</p>
11 Commit to providing adequate on-going funding, over the medium-term and if needed the long-term, for the containment and ultimate eradication of lethal red fire ants and poison-spraying yellow crazy ants from Australia?	Yes		A Shorten Labor Government will inject \$7.5 million to contain and reduce the Yellow Crazy Ant population in the Wet Tropics of Queensland.
12 Prepare a State of Biosecurity Report by the end of 2017 that objectively reports on Australia's performance and state of preparedness to respond to high risk biosecurity threats facing the environment, agriculture and society?			Labor's Institute for Biosecurity will issue annual reports which will provide this information.