

Australian Greens Party response to Invasive Species Council survey

Will your party commit to ...

1. Implement all the unanimous recommendations of the 2015 Senate inquiry into environmental biosecurity?

Yes

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)?

Yes

3. Establish a permanent national research centre for the 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

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

5. Seek a COAG Agreement to legislated 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?

Yes, the Greens will commit to working through the Council of Australian Governments to limit the movement of invasive weed species.

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?

Yes

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?

Yes

8. Establish a 'Minister for Biosecurity' to administer biosecurity laws and policies strongly and fairly across all sectors?

Yes - the Greens will ensure that there is a Minister responsible for biosecurity under their portfolio, who will oversee the National Biosecurity Authority.

9. Qs9 and 12 - Initiate a Productivity Commission review of environmental biosecurity to determine the costs and benefits of improved biosecurity measures? 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?

The Greens will implement a wide-ranging, comprehensive reform of Australia's biosecurity laws, as advocated by the Invasive Species Council. Following a period of five years to allow for changes to be implemented, the Greens will consider the most appropriate way of reviewing and updating biosecurity protections, including through a Productivity Commission inquiry, a 'State of Biosecurity Report', or other independent review.

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?

The Greens will implement in full recommendations from the Senate 2015 inquiry (#22 and #23) to include a national mandatory biofouling management regime, and regular ship inspections targeted at biofouling.

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?

The Greens will be announcing specific funding for the eradication of yellow crazy ants in the coming days.

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?

The Greens will implement a wide-ranging, comprehensive reform of Australia's biosecurity laws, as advocated by the Invasive Species Council. Following a period of five years to allow for changes to be implemented, the Greens will consider the most appropriate way of reviewing and updating biosecurity protections, including through a Productivity Commission inquiry, a 'State of Biosecurity Report', or other independent review.