

## 2017 Invasive Species Council Queensland election questionnaire

### Fire ants

Q1. Recently state, territories and Commonwealth governments agreed on a ten-year fire ant eradication program. If elected will your party continue Queensland's support for the ten-year fire ant eradication?

### Queensland's biosecurity future

Q2. Queensland – and in particular far north Queensland – is at the front line for many new invasive species. What steps will your party take to better prepare Queensland for new introduced pests, weeds and pathogens?

Q3. How do you see Queensland's future role as a national leader on invasive species prevention and response?

### Yellow Crazy Ants

Q4. Yellow crazy ants are a pervasive invasive species in several areas of Queensland – there is currently localised control and eradication work taking place in Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane and a new infestation has been identified at Hervey Bay. What role should a Queensland state government play in leading and resourcing a response on yellow crazy ants?

Q5. Will you support the ten year eradication plan for yellow crazy ants in the Cairns region?

Q6. The state has provided a small amount of financial support to Townsville City Council to conduct delimitation work on the Townsville yellow crazy ant infestation. Will you support funding to control or eradicate yellow crazy ants in Townsville?

### Koster's Curse

Q7. Koster's curse is an introduced weed found at Julatten north of Cairns and parts of Wooroonooran National Park south of Cairns. The community has been working to eradicate and stop the spread of Koster's curse. What vision does your party have for future environmental weed responses, particularly those that threaten national parks? What response will you deploy specifically to eradicate Koster's curse?

### Research and preparedness

Q8. Would you support an expanded role for the Queensland government to support research and preparedness for new invasive species? If so, what role? If not, where should this work take place?

### National biosecurity review

Q9. In July 2017 a review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity<sup>1</sup> was delivered to state and federal agriculture ministers that contained 42 recommendations for the future of our country's

---

<sup>1</sup> Final report of the independent biosecurity review Jul 2017:  
<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/partnerships/nbc/intergovernmental-agreement-on-biosecurity/igabreview/igab-final-report>

integrated, cross-jurisdiction biosecurity system. Which recommendations would your party support?

Q10. The biosecurity review report recommended a greater focus on environmental biosecurity. How would you ensure that Queensland does more to advance environmental biosecurity?

Q11. The biosecurity review report specifically recommended a Chief Community and Environmental Biosecurity Officer be appointed at a national level. Would you appoint a state level environmental biosecurity officer?

### **Responsibility for environmental biosecurity**

Q12. What role do you plan for the Queensland environment department to have in relation to biosecurity matters into the future?

Q13. Biosecurity is equally an agricultural and environmental issue. Since biosecurity is currently administered within the agricultural portfolio, this downplays the importance of environmental biosecurity. Would you support the creation of a ministerial portfolio Minister for Biosecurity to oversee all Queensland government biosecurity activities?

### **Funding**

Q14. Funding for Queensland government biosecurity activities has significantly declined over the last ten years. Would you support an increase in state government expenditure on biosecurity?

Q15. The national biosecurity review recommended that state governments utilise land-based levies for properties at least two hectares or greater to support currently underfunded biosecurity activities such as monitoring and surveillance, research and innovation and environmental biosecurity. Would you support implementing such a scheme, and if not, how do you think biosecurity should be resourced at a state level into the future?

### **Capability review**

Q16. In September 2015, an independent panel completed a capability review of Queensland biosecurity and made 14 recommendations. Which recommendations of the Queensland biosecurity capability review would you implement?

### **Community**

Q17. How would you resource implementation of the 'general biosecurity obligation' under the Queensland Biosecurity Act to ensure non-government organisations, community groups, and individual citizens can participate and meet their obligation?

Q18. The Feral Pest Initiative and the Environmental Conservation grant rounds have facilitated a high level of grassroots activity on environmental conservation and early invasive species responses. Would your party ensure that these grants are directed to supporting community action towards responding to the early stages of invasions by environmentally damaging weeds, pests and diseases?

Q19. Local government and regional natural resource management groups bear considerable burdens in responding to invasive species. In what ways would the Queensland Government better support local partners in the most cost-effective biosecurity response work - combating early stage invasive species?

Q20: The Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Committee provides strategic advice to the Minister for Agriculture about managing biosecurity risks and facilitates a collaborative approach to biosecurity. Would you maintain a Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Committee that includes a nominee of Queensland conservation groups?