



Andrew Cox <andrewcox@invasives.org.au>

FW: Queensland election policy survey - Response request - Invasive Species Council election survey

24 November 2017 at 10:20

Buderim Electorate Office <Buderim@parliament.qld.gov.au>

To: "andrewcox@invasives.org.au" <andrewcox@invasives.org.au>

Dear Mr Cox,

Thank you for your email today regarding Invasive Species. The below response has been updated to include answers to all questions. We apologise for that oversight.

As a former Minister for Queensland National Parks I am very aware of the destructive potential for invasive species in Queensland.

My own belief is that "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure" in the case of invasive species.

This country has a unenviable record of introductions from cane toads to foxes to European carp to mosaic virus in bananas.

Should One Nation be successful at the upcoming election and be in a position to influence Government decisions, One Nation would:

Q1 Fire Ants: support continued funding of the program

Q2 Biosecurity: support biosecurity capability increased and more robust preventative measures taken. Once these organisms are introduced and there are no native pathogens to prey on them, they are able to run rampant.

Q3 Leadership: Support State taking a lead but requires all three levels of Government commitment.

Q4 Yellow Crazy Ants: support working with Local Government in these areas and funding preventative actions

Q5 Ten Year Plan: support but a more intensive effort should occur now. Once established the task is nearly impossible.

Q6 Eradication: support but see above comment. If eradication is possible then effort should be front ended as a more cost-effective solution. More likely is containment of species and perhaps areal quarantine.

Q7 Koster's Curse: support but this is just one species of weed. Parks staff do an

outstanding job but deserve more support in staff and funding.

Q8 Research: Yes I would support re-establishing Queensland's capacity and joint arrangements with a regional university such as JCU

Q9 Intergovernmental Review: we cannot just agree to 42 recommendations-nearly as bad as a questionnaire with 20 questions!

Q10 Integration of biosecurity and environment: Biosecurity and environment are both equally important. The Departmental distinction is a bureaucratic one. Should be collocated.

Q11 Appoint a Chief Community and Environmental Biosecurity Officer: No, see comment in Q10.

Q12 Role of Department of Environment: see Q10

Q13 Appoint Minister for Biosecurity: No, see Q10.

Q14 Increase funding?: Perhaps, but better use of existing funding should be first priority.

Q15 Land based levies?: No, landowners pay enough now.

Q16 Capability Review and 14 recommendations: Depends what they are and see Q9

Q17 "General Biosecurity Obligation" funding?: Enough granting sources now, don't need to add to the number. One Nation supports on-ground solutions.

Q18 Feral Pests: Sufficient grants available now.

Q19 Local Government : Again, there are existing mechanisms and grant schemes available. Funding increases should be on a case-by-case basis

Q20 Advisory Body: Supported

You will note that some responses are not yes/no and that is because the issue of invasive species is not simple.

The questionnaire also exhibits a degree of "patch protection" and an manufactured distinction between "biosecurity" as applied to agriculture and "environment" as applied to everything else.

That is an artificial distinction as an exotic invader can be as detrimental in either case.

Suffice it to say, One Nation views invasive species as very significant and an area of particular threat to regional Queensland. It needs to be dealt with professionally and expeditiously.

Yours sincerely
Steve Dickson

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