

# ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019







## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our success would not be possible without support from our partners, donors and an active community of support. I wish to thank our CEO, Andrew Cox, the Invasive Species Council's dedicated staff and my fellow board members, who should all feel increasingly proud of what we've achieved.

Stuart Reeh, president

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

## PREVENTION AND EARLY ACTION – 75% OF OUR EFFORT

**A biosecurity system is in place by 2022 that reduces the risk to Australia's natural environment.**

### Provide compelling information

- Co-hosted the inaugural Australian Biosecurity Symposium, attended by 380 delegates with 95 presentations by 100 speakers from across industry, government and community sectors.
- Convened an expert workshop to develop a plan to address the key threats facing Australia's biodiversity.
- Produced 10 case studies of harmful invasive insects not yet in Australia but that could breach Australia's biodiversity defences and cause great harm to our environment.
- Ran a video competition to explain the damage done by feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park.
- Created [reclaimkosci.org.au](http://reclaimkosci.org.au), a new stand-alone website for the Reclaim

Kosci campaign, and associated social media channels.

### Promote an effective biosecurity system

- All federal, state and territory governments adopted reforms proposed by the Craik national biosecurity review and a new intergovernmental agreement that explicitly recognises the environment and the environmental sector.
- Supported a new biosecurity levy on shipped imports that was endorsed in the 2019 federal budget.
- Inaugural Australian Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer appointed, supported by a team of four and an \$825,000 project fund.
- Launched Protect Australia from Deadly Invasive Species, a key election document outlining critical biosecurity commitments required by all political parties before the 2019 federal election.
- Launched a 5-point plan at the Australian Biosecurity Symposium with Animal Health Australia and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions to future-proof Australia's biosecurity system.

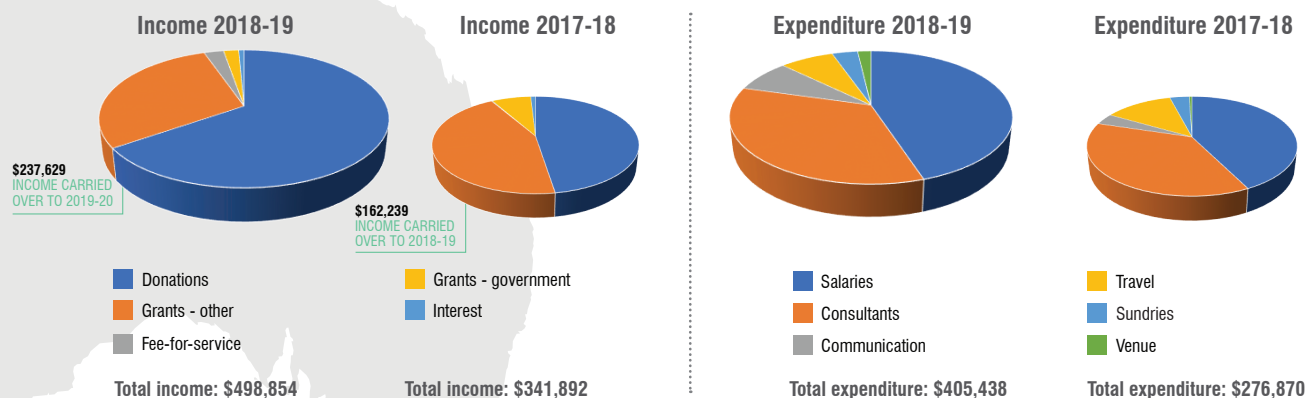
### Work with processes and organisations

- Submissions – four substantive submissions to state and federal government processes.
- Working group participation developing the National Biosecurity Statement.
- Member of the inaugural environmental biosecurity advisory group.
- Took part in the Norfolk Island Argentine Ant steering committee.
- Participated in the national forest biosecurity surveillance group, national biosecurity roundtables and national environmental biosecurity forums.

### Support practical action

- Finalising a three-year joint Monash University Invasive Insects Risks and Pathways project to identify and prioritise insect pests that could harm Australia's environment. The project is supported by the Ian Potter Foundation.
- Nearing completion of a comprehensive vegetation map of Norfolk Island to assist future action on invasive species, with support from the Eldon and Anne Foote Donor Advised Fund of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

## Yearly income and expenditure







## OUR TEAM

- Andrew Cox, CEO
- Carol Booth, policy officer
- John Sampson, communications officer
- Alison Swain and Richard Swain, Reclaim Kosciuszko coordinators
- Bev Job, Townsville yellow crazy ant community taskforce coordinator

- Janet Cross, Townsville yellow crazy ant community taskforce assistant
- Karen Price, bookkeeper

## Our ambassadors

- Christine Milne AO
- Richard Swain

## ERADICATION, CONTAINMENT AND CONTROL – 25% OF OUR EFFORT

**Eradicate invasive species from selected islands and sites, contain emerging species and direct control efforts to threatened sites.**

### Facilitate eradication

- Ongoing support and scrutiny of the \$411 million red fire ant eradication program in SE Queensland.
- Led the Townsville Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce, working with Townsville City Council, supported by the Queensland Government Community Sustainability Action grant.
- Joined forces with farmers, councils, industry and others to secure a three-year, \$18 million federal and Queensland government commitment to eradicate yellow crazy ants from the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

- Started work on a project in partnership with Monash University to delimit an outbreak of the invasive smooth newt in south-east Melbourne.

### Advocate for containment

- Led the Reclaim Kosci campaign seeking to overturn the protection of destructive feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park.
- Secured an inquiry into feral deer, pig and goat impacts conducted by the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee.
- Led advocacy that resulted in NSW delisting feral deer as a game animal and designating deer as a priority pest.

### Support targeted control

- Participated in the national feral cat task force.
- Secured funding to offer free desexing and microchipping of domestic cats on Norfolk Island.

**Our full strategic plan is on our website.**

## FROM THE CEO

Our deepening industry and research partnerships delivered the inaugural Australian Biosecurity Symposium, now a major event for the 'biosecurity collective' that will drive stronger national biosecurity.

The new pest status for feral deer in NSW represents a major policy shift and rewards years of pressure, however, further change is needed to contain this difficult and destructive threat.

Over the year we've had wins and setbacks, but our job has been made easier with the establishment of Australia's first Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer.

**Andrew Cox, CEO**



## SUPPORT

Thank you to all of our generous donors and supporters. In particular, we thank the Limb Family Foundation, Curlew Fund, Ian Potter Foundation, Eldon and Anne Foote Trust of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Australian Communities Foundation and its sub funds, Paddy Pallin Foundation, Mullum Trust, Garry White Foundation, Tracker Fund, Ecology Australia, The Royal Society of Victoria, the Queensland Department of Environment and Science and the Federal Department of Agriculture.



## Outreach and communication

### Froggatt Award winners

- Save Kosci for their 560km protest trek from Sydney to Mt Kosciuszko
- NSW Department of Primary Industries for its Biosecurity Warriors program
- Tarrangower Cactus Control Group



### Feral Herald

- Six issues
- 24 stories
- 3800+ subscribers



### Twitter

- 1633 followers
- 16% increase
- Monthly impressions: 20,460



### Facebook

- 7831 page likes
- 45% increase





Above, the Invasive Species Council brought together 20 scientists, policy experts and environmental organisations at the Addressing Biodiversity Threats workshop in March 2019. The group developed a plan to revitalise the national key threatening process system. Left, CEO Andrew Cox with Bruce Christie, Deputy Director General Biosecurity and Food Safety, NSW Department of Primary Industries.



The long distance walkers and a corroboree frog(!) reach the summit of Mt Kosciuszko.



Jet the detector dog on the prowl for yellow crazy ants at Elliott Springs near Townsville.



The Invasive Insects Risks and Pathways project was launched in 2019.



Our CEO Andrew Cox presents our election priorities for national environmental biosecurity to politicians at Parliament House in Canberra.



Feral deer populations are exploding across eastern Australia. They create extensive environmental damage including mud wallows in wetlands.



More than 200 people joined five walkers for the final day of their 560km trek over 36 days from Sydney to Mt Kosciuszko protesting the protection of environmentally destructive feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park.



## CONTACT US

- web: [invasives.org.au](http://invasives.org.au)
- email: [contact@invasives.org.au](mailto:contact@invasives.org.au)



@ISCAustralia



facebook.com/  
invasivespeciescouncil



invasive\_species\_council



YouTube: InvasivesOrgAu

**invasive**  
species council