



2020 Invasive Species Council Queensland election questionnaire

Red fire ants

Red fire ants are one of the world's worst invasive species and could potentially spread to cover all of Australia. The Queensland Government is leading the national red fire ant eradication program for south-east Queensland, with funding from federal and all state and territory governments over ten-years from July 2017.

Q1. Do you support the eradication of red fire ants from SE Queensland?

Q2. Do you fully support the continuation of the SE Queensland red fire ant eradication program in its present form? If not, what changes would you make?

Yellow crazy ants

Yellow crazy ants are one of the world's worst invasive species and there are infestations in Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane and a small new infestation at Shute Harbour (Whitsundays). There is joint state/federal funding of \$6 million a year for three years to June 2022 for the control of the Cairns crazy ant infestation that impacts the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Another seven years of funding is needed. Local councils are attempting to control other infestations. As our report released (see [here](#)) in early October showed, more than \$3 million a year over the next ten years is needed to eradicate the ants from Townsville.

Q3. Do you support the eradication of yellow crazy ants from North and Far North Queensland?

Q4. Do you support \$1.5 million a year (50% of total costs) for at least the next three years for the eradication of the Townsville yellow crazy ants?

Q5. Do you support continuation of the \$3 million a year (50% of total costs) for the eradication of the Cairns yellow crazy ants beyond June 2022?

Q6. Do you support funding for a feasibility study for eradication of yellow crazy ants in Brisbane, and movement controls of high-risk goods eg soil and garden mulch in the interim?

Feral deer

Feral deer are continuing to spread across many areas of Queensland. The Queensland Feral Deer Management Strategy 2013–18 is relatively good but needs updating and funding for implementation. There is an opportunity to eradicate small populations and contain deer to their present range.

Q7. What funding would you allocate for implementation of the Feral Deer Management Strategy, including the proportion for eradication and early action?

Q8. Would you update the Feral Deer Management Strategy?

Queensland's biosecurity future

The Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018-2023 is a five-year plan to build the framework for Queensland's future biosecurity system. It was co-developed by the Queensland Government, industry and other partners in the biosecurity system. \$10.8 million from July 2016 to June 2020 was allocated to implement the recommendations of the Queensland Biosecurity Capability Review and strengthen Queensland's biosecurity capability and capacity, including strategy initiatives. There is no commitment for new funds to support the biosecurity strategy implementation beyond June 2020.

Q9. What funding would you provide for implementation of the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy?

Community representation

The Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council provides the Minister for Agriculture strategic oversight and direction on Queensland's biosecurity system. There is representation from industry groups, but no dedicated position for the environmental sector (eg Queensland Conservation Council) or for NRM groups (eg NRM Regions Queensland).

Q10. Would you retain the Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council?

Q11. Do you support a dedicated role on the Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council for both an environmental sector representative and an NRM sector representative?

Funding invasive pests and weeds

The Queensland government adopted the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019–2024. It has sound policies and prioritised prevention and early action – a clear role for state government leadership and action – but no funding for implementation. As a result, on-ground action relies on drought and other ad-hoc funding, mostly from the federal government and mostly targeting widespread pests and weeds. Funding for wild dog control has diverted funds from other pest and weed priorities.

Q12. What funding would you allocate for implementation of the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy, including the proportion for eradication and early action?

Q13. Would you ensure that Feral Pest Initiative and the Environmental Conservation grants are directed to supporting community action towards responding to the early stages of invasions by environmentally damaging weeds, pests and diseases?

Q14. Do you support maintaining or expanded funds for Queensland government research into invasive pests and weeds?

Q15. How would you better 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 obligations?

Responsibility for biosecurity

Biosecurity is a major area of government that benefits agriculture, environment and human amenity. With biosecurity administered within the agricultural portfolio by the agriculture minister, the importance of biosecurity to other parts of the economy and society are downplayed and poorly focused.

Q16. Do you support the creation of a ministerial portfolio 'Minister for Biosecurity' to oversee all Queensland government biosecurity activities?

Results will be publicly released. Please complete your questionnaire by COB Monday 26 October 2020.

Return questionnaire response to:

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