



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

23 October 2020

Andrew Cox
Chief Executive Officer, Invasive Species Council
Via email: andrewcox@invasives.org.au

Biosecurity and environmental issues - Queensland state election

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2020, outlining your organisation's priorities for the 2020 Queensland state election.

It's clear that you do essential work in advancing biosecurity and environmental issues in Queensland.

For your reference, the **Queensland Greens election platform for the 2020 State Election is online at:** <https://greens.org.au/qld/plan>. Our long-standing broader policy platform is here: <https://greens.org.au/qld/policies>.

The Queensland Greens support a significant investment into government services and infrastructure as part of Queensland's COVID-19 recovery. We have a fully costed plan to create thousands of good secure jobs and fully fund health, education and public infrastructure funded by making big mining corporations, banks and developers pay their fair share in tax.

As I'm sure you would understand, if the Greens find ourselves in a balance-of-power scenario there is an enormous list of competing priorities, and the final decision on any negotiated outcome rests with the party as a whole. However, many of the priorities you have identified align with our agenda. [Our Plan](#) sets out what our priorities would be.

Our federal policy on Biological Diversity is [here](#), and our state policy [is here](#).

In relation to the priorities in your document, please find our responses below. All statements are complementary to statements by the Greens' spokespeople, including myself, and other policy documents that are on the public record.

1. The Greens support the eradication of red fire ants from South-East Queensland. I've been [campaigning and raising awareness about this issue for some time](#) - even in my electorate in Brisbane, they are a big issue because most of the west side is in a 'fire ant biosecurity zone'.

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Tel: (07) 37374100
maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au
www.michaelberkman.com.au

With sightings in Fig Tree Pocket and Toowong, my electorate is right on the edge of the infestation zone.

2. We fully support the continuation of the South-East Queensland red fire ant eradication program in its current form. As the representative for an electorate on the border of RIFA zone 2, this is particularly important to myself and my constituents.
3. We support the eradication of yellow crazy ants from North and Far North Queensland. We have been [fighting to increase funding for eradication programs for years](#).
4. We support \$1.5 million per year for at least the next three years for the eradication of the Townsville yellow crazy ants.
5. We support the continuation of the \$3 million per year for the eradication of the Cairns yellow crazy ants beyond June 2022.
6. We support funding for a feasibility study for eradication of yellow crazy ants in Brisbane, and movement controls for high-risk goods.
7. We support new funding to update and implement the Feral Deer Management Strategy.
8. We support a renewed Feral Deer Management Strategy.
9. We support funding for the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy of at least \$5.4 million per year, adjusted for inflation.
10. We support the retention of the Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council.
11. We support a dedicated role on the Council for both an environmental sector representative and a natural resource management representative.
12. We support appropriate funding to implement the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy.
13. We support ensuring the Feral Pest Initiative and Environmental Conservation grants are directed to supporting community action towards responding to the early stages of invasions by environmentally damaging weeds, pests and diseases.
14. We support expanding funds for Queensland government research into invasive pests and weeds.
15. We support the creation of a ministerial portfolio 'Minister for Biosecurity' to oversee all Queensland government biosecurity activities.

Thank you again for sharing your organisation's priorities with us.

I hope that this information is of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind regards,



Michael Berkman MP