



19/1 Hordern Place, Camperdown NSW 2050
PO Box 366, Westgate NSW 2048

E: office@nsw.greens.org.au | Ph: (02) 9045 6999
www.greens.org.au/nsw

20 February 2023

Andrew Cox

CEO

Invasive Species Council

RE: Invasive Species Council: Priorities for the next NSW Government

Dear Mr Cox,

Thank you for reaching out to the Greens NSW with the Invasive species Council's 2023 NSW Election policy platform.

1. Invest in new frontline jobs in pest and weed control

The Greens support calls from the Invasive Species Council for a minimum investment of \$37.5 million/year for 300 new full time equivalent positions in frontline weed and pest management programs. The distribution of these positions should be decided by needs based modelling but Local Land Services, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Local Councils and DPI biosecurity should all be included as priority focusses to manage weeds and pests across all NSW land tenures, ports and borders.

2. Increase First Nations leadership and employment in invasive species management

The Greens support the ISC's proposal to increase First Nations Leadership and employment in invasive species management including greater involvement by First Nations people in management and custodianship of NSW land and waters. We support dedicated indigenous positions, including a possible NSW Indigenous Commissioner for Country, at leadership, advisory and frontline levels to better understand and respond to colonial impacts on culture and country. We have launched our policy that calls for Traditional Custodians to be given resources and authority to manage NSW lands wherever possible.

3. Take action to reduce the threat of feral deer and feral pigs

The Greens support the ISC's asks including a call for a comprehensive review by the Natural Resources Commission into the distribution, impact and management of invasive pest species. We agree that exclusion programs should be a priority for the Government to minimise the spread of isolated populations of invasive pest species and support a \$30 million funding stream for regional feral deer and pig pest animal plans. We acknowledge and support the use of all necessary means of feral animal control including lethal and non-lethal. Our policy supports the exercise of aerial shooting in National Parks where



necessary but only by suitably trained and experienced NPWS staff or professional contractors.

4. Protect the Snowy Mountains - strengthen feral horse control in Kosciuszko National Park

The Greens support the ISC's asks to strengthen feral horse control in Kosciuszko National Park including repealing the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 and will push for a towards-zero policy of feral horses throughout the Kosciuszko National Park. The Greens support the use of aerial culling as a means to control invasive species and believe that protected areas should not be subject to allowable populations of damaging feral animals.

5. Improve the management of cats to protect wildlife

The Greens support all ISC's proposed measures to reduce the risk of companion animals, particularly cats, becoming feral and contributing to the extinction crisis. Mandatory desexing and local government initiatives should be given all of the funding and support necessary to manage feral cats and the Natural Resources Commission should review feral cat management.

6. Tackle noxious weeds and prevent the introduction of new weeds

The Greens support ISC's proposal to tackle noxious weeds including native revegetation programs in both rural and urban settings. Nurseries should be supported to reduce the accessibility of non-native plants and we must eliminate the sale of high risk weedy species. All state and federal government plantings should be conducted with native species and a transition plan should be developed to replace existing non-native plantings with native alternatives. The Weeds Action program funding should be increased to \$20 million/year and should be guaranteed beyond 12 month limitations.

7. Strengthen the NSW biosecurity system and ensure environmental priorities are given equal weight to industry priorities

The Greens support ISC's asks to strengthen NSW biosecurity including the creation of a statutory, independent Biosecurity Commissioner and associated State Biosecurity Advisory Committee. There should be an independent and complete review of the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 and the implementation of the General Biosecurity Duty. Interdepartmental agreements between Regional NSW and DPE are essential to ensure cooperation between agencies on biosecurity and DPE must designate a lead role in the administration of the Biosecurity Act. The Greens strongly support state and national investment into alternatives to 1080 poison and other non-lethal control options. We support an update to the 2015-2021 NSW Invasive Species Plan and the 2021-2030 Decade of Biosecurity initiative.

Thank you again for reaching out to the NSW Greens with your 2023 Election platform.

Warm regards,

Sue Higginsons

Greens MP and environment spokesperson.