Jacqueline Arnold
PO Box 9124
Alice Springs NT 0870
jacqueline.arnold77@gmail.com

22/10/2025

Dear NBSAP Taskforce Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the implementation plan for *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030*. My main concerns relate to governance arrangements, particularly:

- overuse of collaborative models without rules in place that ensure decisions prioritise public interests
- too much outsourcing and contracting, especially problematic because of the lack of competition (low rates of open tenders, contract application and awards to associated groups / members of one collective / coalition)
- committee membership and observership – over representation of industry and members of the 'biosecurity collective'
- Lack of community engagement.

Regards,

Jacqueline Arnold

Outcomes for Targets

Target	Outcome	Does it represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action I am taking	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
Protect and conserve 30% of Australia's landmass and 30% of	1. Public and private protected and	Yes	Governments should manage to best practice standards rather than handing over roles and	Ingrained position of powerful non-government coalitions e.g. the 'Biosecurity Collective and industry	Rebuild public service Minimise outsourcing / contracting of governance -	Interrogating governance arrangements	Number of governance responsibilities (strategy development, plans, frameworks,

Target	Outcome	Does it represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action I am taking	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
Australia's marine areas by 2030	conserved areas are expanded on land *"All Australian governments, non-government stakeholders, First Nations groups, and the philanthropic and private sectors need to work collaboratively to expand protected and conserved areas."*		responsibilities to those with money, power and influence. Where collaborative models are used they must governed in ways that ensure fair and equitable representation so those with the most financial resources (industry, profiteers, philanthropists (who are likely to have profited from exploitation of resources) cannot exert undue influence on decision making.	groups e.g. MLA, Farmers Federation and groups with shared histories with industry e.g. Landcare Position and resources available to industry and other groups enable them to have inordinate representation / influence	development of strategies / plans etc Ensure applications and membership on committees represents a balanced variety of stakeholders and are not just the same industries / organisations and people affiliated with them Ensure all / most contracts go to open tender and applications for tenders reflect a range of stakeholders All crucial conservation and protection areas should be in public ownership and any leases for other use e.g. pastoral purposes need to be justified as needed (e.g. the world does not need more beef or cotton) and be properly regulated, bond should be paid to cover any damage.	Raising awareness about current arrangements at market stalls, on social media, letter writing to politicians, NGOs, journalists Providing feedback (complaints, submissions etc where possible)	implementation etc) outsourced is reduced Number of contracts that go to open tender increased Number and variety of applicants for tenders increased. Applications and membership of governance bodies (including observers) reflect diversity. Minutes demonstrate discussion of conflicting viewpoints. Increase transparency re relationships between stakeholders with governing roles e.g. How many TAP Coordinators, contractors such as Wild Matters are or are 'Project Leads' at CISS?
	2. Protected and conserved areas on land are well connected, ecologically representative and include areas of particular importance for biodiversity	Yes	As per the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Section D 9. Drivers of undesirable change that have exacerbated biodiversity loss will be	Industry power and the political support it receives	Governance systems that prioritise public interests Stronger regulation of industry – we have witnessed the results of self-regulation,		Better informed community Breakdown of colonial / industry tropes

Target	Outcome	Does it represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action I am taking	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
			reduced and/or reversed e.g. clearing / re-clearing of native vegetation, spread of buffel grass and other weeds and stocking has ceased in the Brigalow belt and the area is being restored		incentives, and support for change. Industries that fail to change (e.g. destock when there is a chance of drought / flood, stock areas prone to flooding, plant high fuel load invasive plants) should be absolutely ineligible for any taxpayer support when their stock burn, starve, drown. The reality should be exposed – their animal management should be publicised		
	3. First Nations Peoples are supported to care for land and Sea Country	Yes	A diversity of First Nations representatives apply for, and are members on governance bodies (including those not representing corporations)	Racism - First Nations people relegated to program / implementation level Participation embedded in colonial structures that inhibit genuine representation First Nations people are often blocked from caring for country where they have co-exiting Native Title on land leased for pastoral purposes (gates locked, threats made).	Defer to First Nations peoples on this Institute and enforce laws that discourage lease holder interference in Native Title Holders' care (as per Goal A Section H Target 13 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework)	Spending time with / listening to Country and First Nations people Trying to appreciate the limits of my ability to understand and respect the right to privacy regarding Country and knowledge held by First Nations peoples	Defer to First Nations peoples on this
	4. Protected and conserved areas across land and sea are effectively managed	Yes		Where these are under lease / private ownership interest can be low e.g.	Strong, binding agreements, investment in monitoring and	Complaining	Focus on outcomes not just outputs

Target	Outcome	Does it represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action I am taking	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
				Irbmangkara Running Waters is under a conservation covenant but is being trashed by the pastoral lease holders and public who camp there.	compliance, application of penalties for breaches		
Priority degraded areas are under effective restoration by 2030	1. Priority degraded areas are identified to guide restoration where it will best support native species and ecosystem recovery	Yes, but regeneration has to be conducted at scale – it's madness to allow 're-clearing' of vast tracts of Qld (which impacts not only that land but also the oceans including great barrier reef) to focus on smaller specific areas.				Regenerating an important site in my town Raising awareness of processes that are degrading places in my area and offer ideas for action	
	2. Effective restoration is clearly defined to promote best practice	Yes		Use of current governance arrangements by groups with vested interests to create a monopoly over this discourse under the guise of 'uniformity of messaging', effectively silencing discussion / alternatives			
	3. On-ground restoration is supported	Yes	Industry culture of opposing regulation and not regarding sustainable practices as non-negotiable / mandatory needs to change	Industry expectation that they should be compensated for any restoration	Bond for pastoral leases and institution of expectation that costs of private land management cannot all be externalised to taxpayers As per the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Goal A Target 19 (f) Enhancing		Is the support distributed fairly and equitably? E.g. how much support do grass roots public Landcare groups receive compared to industry / industry associated Landcare groups? Outcome measures – restoration of

Target	Outcome	Does it represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action I am taking	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
					the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions[13] and non-market-based approaches		ecosystem functioning and services.
Eradicate or control invasive species in priority landscapes and further minimise their introduction by 2030	1. Stronger collaboration and alignment across governments and sectors improves invasive species management	No – collaboration is an example of how collaboration can lead to capture by NGOs motivated by profit 'for purpose' and how that set us up for ongoing, expensive failure that causes division and great upset across communities.	Respect and care for all sentient beings fostered (in keeping with The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Section A. vision of living in Harmony with nature)	Lack of interest / education in field including among ecologists, land managers and policy makers re 1. ethics (beyond crude consequentialism) and 2. how to recognise and manage industry interference Too much focus on collaboration - this is not always appropriate Fundamental drivers of parties involved (whether environmentalist or extractive industry) - competitive, ambitious, profit / funding driven, lacking respect for / real deference to independent / rigorous / demonstrably effective sources of knowledge including science and traditional knowledge	Where private and public interests conflict - public, private collaboration is prohibited e.g. management of invasive weeds such as buffel grass that may benefit industry in the short term but devastate everyone and everything else, 'wild dog' management Institute agreements / laws re lobbying	Investigating and raising awareness of the limits of collaborative models. Rules re collaboration with industry lobby groups when their position conflicts with the publics (the WHO has well developed resources on this re governance and the Tobacco industry)	Are marketable solutions developed and promoted by for profit (including 'profit with purpose') groups ethical, efficient and effective? Are plans developed this way e.g. the National Wild Dog Action Plan ethical, do they reflect and respect the perspectives of First Nations peoples and the wider community? How much is being spent on creating 'social licence' for certain activities e.g. widespread use of exclusion fencing and pesticides (including herbicides and insecticides) rather than understanding, respecting and responding to actual social standards?

Target	Outcome	Does it represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action I am taking	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
	2. On-ground action controls and, where feasible, eradicates established invasive species in priority landscapes and places	Yes – but landscape level also has to be a focus. E.g. it's insane to pour resources into controlling buffel grass in priority landscapes and places while pastoralists continue to plant it (including new more resilient strains).	Focused control in priority landscapes is supported by wider management	Industry influence	Equitable governance arrangements		
	3. Environmental biosecurity minimises the introduction and establishment of new invasive species	Partial – and Agricultural Biosecurity?	Biosecurity across all sectors minimising the introduction of new invasive species and stops deliberately spreading and unduly interfering with management of established invasive species (such as buffel grass example of undue interference is buffel grass nomination as a Weed of National Significance).	Industry capture – the fact that Michele Allen was appointed to 'independently' review the IGAB speaks volumes. The fact that only 30 public submissions were received and that she concluded industry is not one of the main 'risk creators' but bears most of the management burden was predictable and shameful. This is another example of our communities and Country being set up to fail in the most avoidable ways. Membership of other committees e.g. the NIC are also inequitable. See Appendix C.	Overhaul biosecurity governance.	Submitting complaints, comments, raising awareness regarding current Biosecurity governance arrangements.	Application and membership and observers of committees, other appointments reflect diverse views that focus on public interests at every level. A wide number and range of submissions on governance reviews are received.
	4. Research and development improve tools and technologies	Yes – but should also explicitly include imperatives that align with the Kunming-	Management does not impact nature's opportunity to manage itself / regain its own	Outsourcing / contracting of RD&E strategies / plans etc, particularly to groups	Rebuild public service role in RD&E governance	Interrogate governance arrangements and where funding is being	Is RD&E funding distributed fairly and equitably based on merit and potential? (It

Target	Outcome	Does it represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action I am taking	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
	for managing invasive species	Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Section H Target 7: • Minimising pollution (from pesticides) • Reducing the overall risks from pesticides • Integrated pest management based on science (this should not be interpreted as using a combination of marketable solutions as per Goal A Target 19 (f) of The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework).	balance / learn to adapt (e.g. through poorly targeted pesticide use, exclusion fencing etc)	who have / are linked to groups that are invested in marketed / marketable solutions (e.g Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and ACTA).		channelled (which researchers, universities and focus issues). Interrogate rigour of research, including looking for recognition and mitigation of bias, reliability of methods, results and conclusions.	would be interesting to know how much funding is being channelled to universities associated with those contracted to write the RD&E strategies including funding strategies e.g. UNE) Is RD&E being produced rigorous and reliable (or being funnelled into production of poor quality inconclusive evidence / muddying waters? Is original research being produced / how much funding is being directed to defending / promoting use of solutions that industries are already heavily invested in (e.g. 1080)? How much research is focused on industry rather than public cohorts (e.g. impacts of 'wild dog' management on farmers vs public or First Nations) Are solutions developed and promoted by 'profit

Target	Outcome	Does it represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action I am taking	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
							with purpose' ethical efficient and effective? Balance of non-market-based solution
No new extinctions	1. Species at imminent risk of extinction are identified and supported to persist	Partial	All native species in country where species at imminent risk of extinction live are protected.	This is like trying to save certain groups in a war zone rather than trying to stop the war	Focus on key threatening processes and ecosystem supports rather than individual species		How many experts (e.g. in governance, evaluation, philosophy / ethics, science) from a range of institution submitted comment?
	2. Species at imminent risk of extinction are identified and supported to persist	Partial	At some point we need to admit we know what the threat to these species are and focus on managing these	Real interest or care across most of the human population	Fostering respect and care for all sentient beings		No more clearing / re-clearing of native vegetation Destocking No new fossil fuel mines approved
Minimise the impact of climate change on biodiversity	1 Continue Australia's efforts to mitigate climate change and deliver on Australia's net zero by 2050 target	No – if we continue down this path we are doomed even more than we already are. By 2050 the opportunity will be gone.					No more clearing of native vegetation Destocking No new fossil fuel mines approved
	2. Nature is thriving to the greatest extent possible despite climate change	Partial – thriving is an unrealistic outcome	Protect refugia - stop clearing native vegetation and mining water, especially groundwater (e.g. revoke the Singleton water licence)	A dominant paradigm that fosters and reward stupidity, ignorance, greed, corruption, laziness and societal level poor mental and physical health?	Shift the paradigm – foster the opposite.		Community level of knowledge, engagement and action.
	3,. Integrated climate and nature policy approaches are reflected across policy and decision making	Yes		They are not binding			

Target	Outcome	Does it represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action I am taking	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
Increase Australia's circularity rate and reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity by 2030	1. Markets are developed to support producers and consumers to shift to a circular economy	Partial	Production, waste and consumption of most goods including high polluting foods and materials (sugar, wheat, cotton, beef) is reduced Quality over quantity is supported Consumers are aware of the impacts of their consumption (litres of water mined, type and amount of pesticides used, invasive species spread, species threatened, landscape level destruction caused etc. with images) Minimise transportation of goods – localise production and distribution	Power of industry and the concept of continuous growth Transport industry profits are a main driver of pollution – associated packaging, waste, pesticide use, emissions	Do not allow industry to influence governance and demand to the extent that it is.	Minimising consumption Addressing global population growth	Decreased waste Decreased sales Decreased obesity rates Decreased rates of diseases attributable to overconsumption Consumer understanding of the resources used to produce goods Increased local production (this will also massively shift what we are consuming and therefore increase biodiversity – homogeneity and monoculture production and this level of waste only works when there are global markets)
	2. Pollution and its impacts on biodiversity are understood, measured and managed at local, state and national levels, with a focus on plastics and harmful pollutants	Partial – At some point we have enough 'understanding' to stop directing resources into this and get on with management (prevention and harm minimisation etc).		Political decision makers who do not support real action (evidenced by the fact that our taxes are being spent on establishing a giant petrochemical plant at Middle Arm Point).	A revolution?	Raising awareness re impacts of pollutants (plastics, those associated with fire (smoke, water and soil), dust, pollen etc caused by industrial activity) on human health	Make the deliberate planting and spread of high fuel load invasive plants (including pasture grasses like buffel grass) that pollute air, soils and water illegal.

Target	Outcome	Does it represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action I am taking	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
	3. Efforts to clean up contaminated environments are enhanced and implemented at scale	Partial – this outcome is currently an output	Contaminated environments <u>are</u> cleaned up				

Outcomes for Enablers of Change

Enabler	Outcome	Represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
Ensure equitable representation and participation in decisions relating to nature, particularly for First Nations peoples.	1. First Nations peoples are supported to preserve and apply Traditional Knowledge, with governance arrangements that enable culturally grounded, self-determined decision-making	Yes		Poor accessibility The expectation that participation is based on "willingness to enter into partnerships, co-design and joint management" Dominant and overarching colonial system of governance	There should be opportunity for independence.		
	2. Decision-making is informed by diverse voices, including youth, people with disabilities and people of all genders	Yes	Decision making should represent these voices, not just be informed by them. Experts are engaged – submit comment on 'have your say' etc. (It would be great to	Poor accessibility Those that do stand up and have their say can face strong criticism and social isolation. Those of us that live in close proximity to people whose interests	Systems in place that ensure • Diverse application and membership on decision making committees etc	I have scaled back my engagement in paid employment as much as possible and social life in order to write submissions, and encourage my community to engage (through formation of	Diverse engagement increases Diverse expert engagement increases Community and experts feel

Enabler	Outcome	Represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
			know that a whole lot of people who specialise in governance, ethics, evaluation etc have had a look at this draft strategy)	conflict face real personal threats / danger (e.g. those of us living in rural and remote areas)	• Diverse participation in 'have your say' opportunities (current systems are very hard to engage with for those that do not have a lot of time, energy, high levels of English literacy, confidence etc) • Safety and support for community members who speak up including: • Better regulation of social media • Clear reporting and serious penalties for people making threats • Community engagement and support officers with legal expertise employed in environment departments	a letter writing group, market stalls) etc. I can only do this because I am in a relatively privileged position, but still it is not really sustainable to continue at this level going forward and it is very challenging at times scary.	comfortable and safe to speak up
Mainstream nature into government and business decision-making, including in	1. Protection and restoration of nature is embedded in the planning, policy and	Yes		Political reluctance to regulate industry			

Enabler	Outcome	Represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
financing, policies, regulations and planning processes	regulatory decisions of government						
	2. Businesses embed nature in their decision-making	Change wording to industries and businesses	Make it an offence for industries and businesses to fail to embed nature in their decision making	Political reluctance to regulate industry			
	3. People and communities better understand and care for nature and its many values	Yes		Outsourcing / contracting of information supply to NGO's including those with 'profit for purpose' motives and strong industry connections and who aim to grow social licence for their aims rather than respond to public and First Nations values and priorities	Rebuild public service Employees in industries (like pastoralism) to: • complete mandatory training that informs them of acceptable standards and reporting • have regular opportunities to make reports / seek advice and support safely (I worked as a station hand during the millennial drought and did not have a voice, many people employed in these industries are in very vulnerable		Number of reports made, response, action taken
Ensure environmental data and information are widely accessible and support decision-making	1. High-quality, consistent and fit-for-purpose data and information is produced to support decision-making	Somewhat At some point we have enough data and information to shift our focus and resources on abating known threats.		Outsourcing / contracting information hubs = increases risk of unreliable / skewed information available e.g. Weeds Australia – The Strategy for Nature actually mentions buffel grass			

Enabler	Outcome	Represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
				as a particularly destructive weed yet both DAFF and CISS who have the contract to 'power' this platform have refused to include buffel grass (see appendix A for related correspondence)			
	2. Improved and interoperable systems and tools are developed and made accessible to analyse and apply data effectively	Partial – focus on data when we already know so much seems like a profit / control driven focus, there are limits to what we need to know to act	Acknowledge and actively avoid risks of this producing an information / systems / tools that are controlled by contractors, especially those who profit / 'profit with purpose' – Systems and tools must be fully owned and operated by the public / public services NOT by contractors, especially where any real competition is minimal e.g. as in the current case in invasive species management	Existing contracts – extent to which governance has already been captured by NGOs	Rebuild public service Where private enterprise is included ensure there is real competition	Approach platforms with degree of cynicism – interrogate as far as possible who is collecting, analysing and reporting and presenting data	Are the information sources under the control of small coalitions with interests vested in areas other than public interests?
	3. Indigenous data are governed according to the FAIR and CARE principles and meaningfully inform decision-making	Yes	Ethics should be expanded to other stakeholders especially industry e.g. pesticide industry				Yes
	4. Research and development improve tools, technologies and understanding for managing drivers of biodiversity decline and assisting recovery			Outsourcing to contractors e.g. Biocontrol pip line – buffel grass not included in priority list because of 'lack of promising biocontrol			

Enabler	Outcome	Represent main area where action should be focused?	Additional outcomes	Barriers	Solution	Action	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
				options' while industry and governments devote substantial resources into trying to manage existing biological threats that are potential controls. See Appendix B for more.			

APPENDIX A

From: **Invasive Species** <invasivespecies@dcceew.gov.au>
Date: Mon, 6 Nov 2023 at 9:54 AM
Subject: RE: Webform submission from: Contact us [SEC=OFFICIAL]
To: buffelgrass.nt@gmail.com <buffelgrass.nt@gmail.com>
Cc: Customer Enquiries <customerenquiries@dcceew.gov.au>

Dear Jacqueline

Thank you for your email on buffel grass and why it is not profiled on the Weeds Australia website.

The main purpose of the Weeds Australia website is to have information on each of the Weeds of National Significance, and to provides links to other sources of invasive plant information. Buffel grass is not a Weed of National Significance, so it does not have a profile. The Weeds Australia website does include a link to the Atlas of Living Australia, with the atlas having a profile for buffel grass. There are many invasive plant species in Australia, and most jurisdictions have information on the common weed species for that area. There is detailed information on buffel grass available on New South Wales, South Australia and Northern Territory government agriculture and/or environment department websites.

Kind regards

Liz

Biodiversity Division
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Yuggera Country
GPO Box 3090, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
E weeds@dcceew.gov.au
DCCEEW.gov.au ABN 63 573 932 849

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From: **Jacqueline Arnold** <buffelgrass.nt@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 6 Nov 2023 at 10:17 AM
Subject: Re: Webform submission from: Contact us [SEC=OFFICIAL]
To: Invasive Species <invasivespecies@dcceew.gov.au>
Cc: Customer Enquiries <customerenquiries@dcceew.gov.au>

Good morning,

Weeds Australia lists 398 weeds. There are 32 weeds of national significance.

Can you please elaborate on the selection process for inclusion / exclusion of weeds on the publicly funded Weeds Australia platform and why DCCEEW in partnership with CISS have decided to not list cenchrus ciliaris on this platform?

Regards,
Jacqueline Arnold

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NO RESPONSE

APPENDIX B

Buffel Grass (Cenchrus Ciliaris) has not been prioritised for biocontrol because of 'low biocontrol prospects' https://weeds.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/NWBPS-Prioritisation-Results.pdf

I don't really understand this explanation given Australian governments and industry are spending millions researching and trying to get rid of biological threats that are devastating buffel grass pastures in Qld (thanks to Arid Lands Environment Centre for the poster outlining these threats included in the below graphic). These are just the known threats in Australia – there are others across the world including in Mexico and Kenya.

APPENDIX C

Biosecurity Governance

and why representatives for the environment, First Nations and public need to get involved

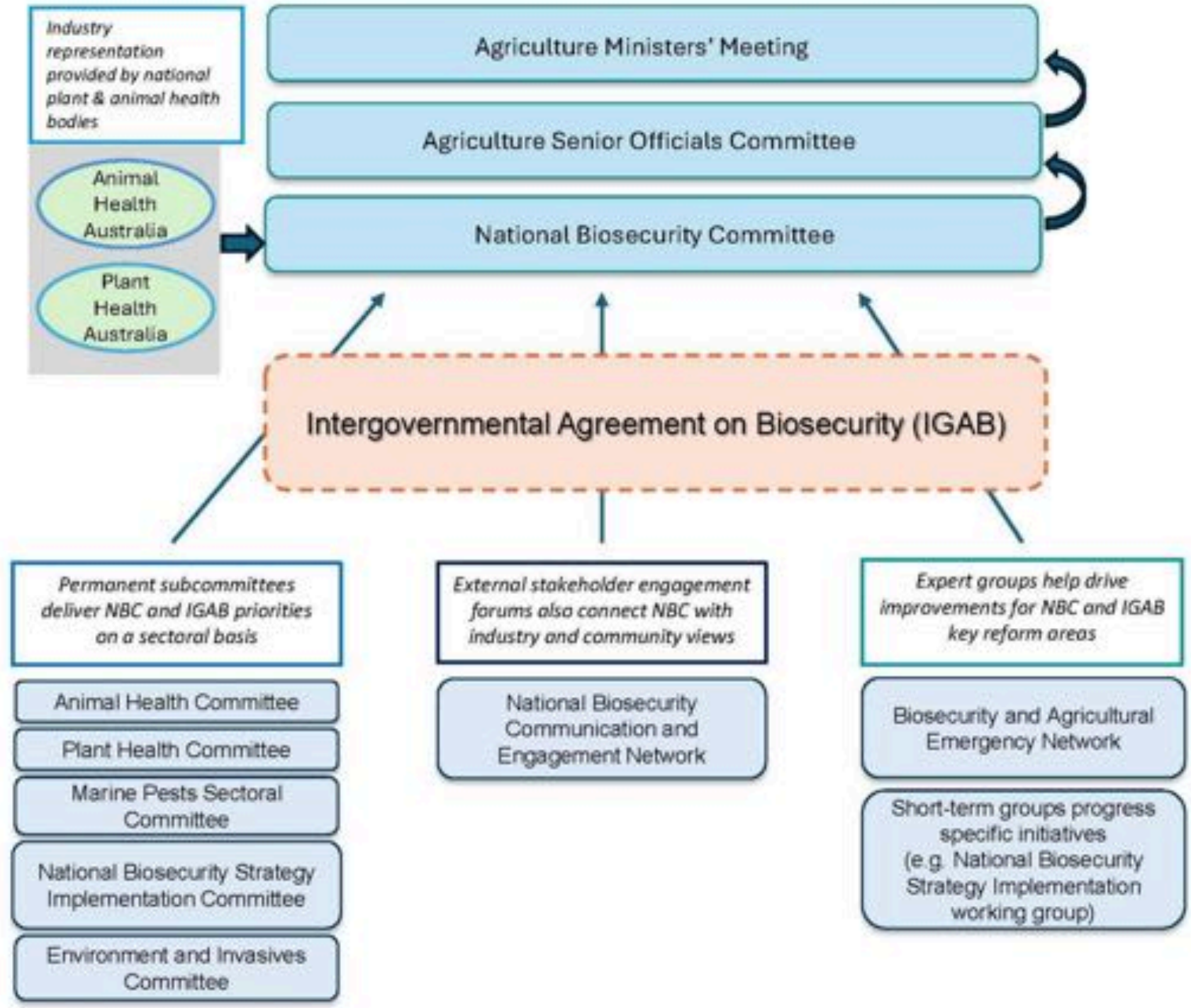
Current Governance Arrangements

Please read the following and ask yourself – is there disproportionate representation of:

- Agricultural industry interests?
  These are sometimes in direct conflict with environmental and First Nations interests e.g. buffel grass invasion, dingo protection

- Non-government organisations / corporate charities etc that have interests in marketable solutions and are invested in existing products (fencing, pesticides (including herbicides), delivery devices, apps etc)?

Figure 2 The IGAB and governance arrangements for the national biosecurity system



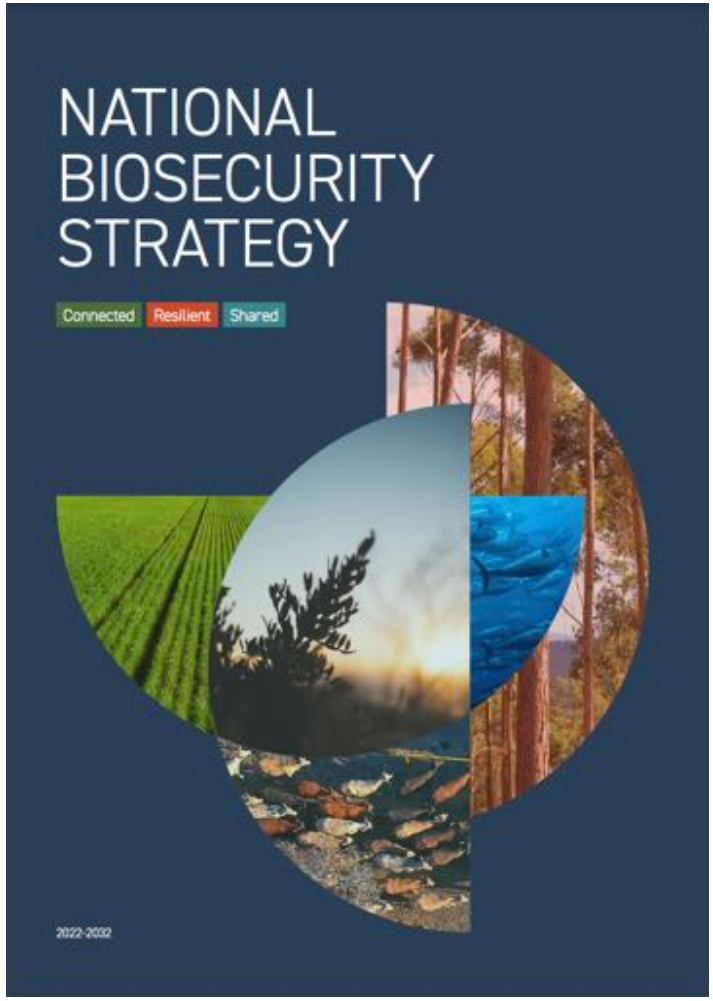
Reviewed by Dr Michele Allan 2024-2025

Chancellor of Charles Sturt University

<u>Chair</u>
SmartSat CRC (and a non-executive Director)
Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence CRC
Wine Australia
20 Degrees (trademarks and intellectual property for the horticulture sector)

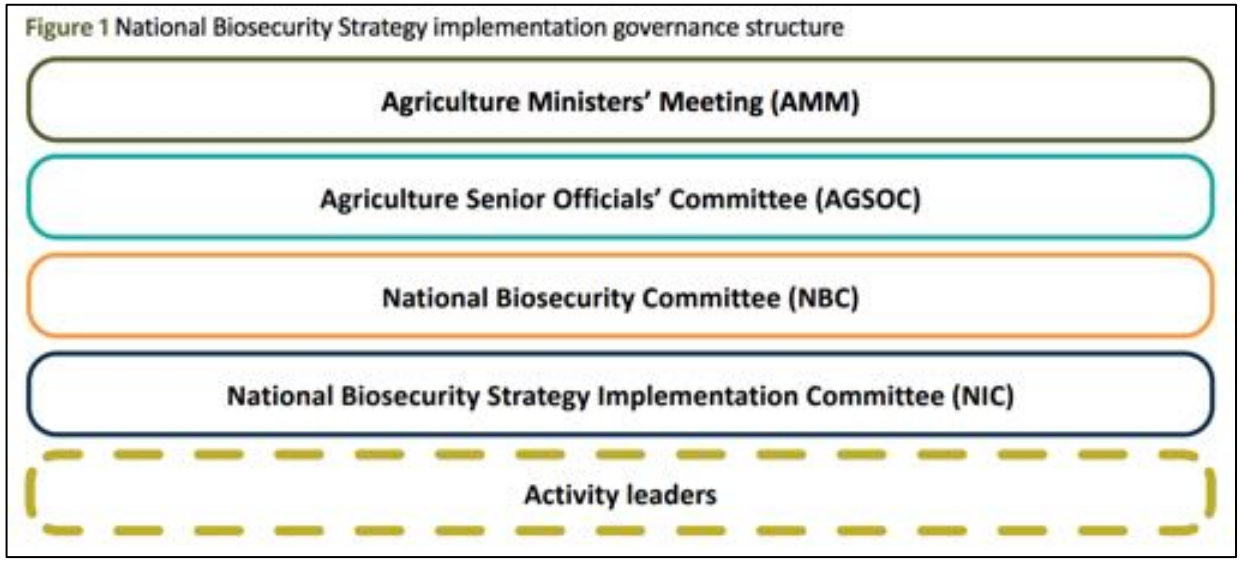
<u>Previous Board roles include</u>
Meat and Livestock Australia – longstanding Chair and Director
Grain Growers Limited
Tasmanian Irrigation
Innovation Australia
Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation
Forest and Wood Products Australia
CSIRO

<u>Previous Executive roles</u>
Amcor Limited
Kraft Foods
Bonlac Foods Limited
Johnson & Johnson
Nestle.



An eight-member reference group was formed to provide strategic advice:

- National Farmers' Federation
- Freight and Trade Alliance
- Australian Banana Growers' Council
- Rural Research and Development Corporations representative – Australian Pork Limited
- Seafood Industry Australia
- Invasive Species Council
- CSIRO
- Torres Strait Regional Authority



National Biosecurity Committee (NBC)

Co-chair: Justine Saunders, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Co-chair: Rachel Chay, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Primary Industries

Commonwealth: Christie Sawczuk, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Australian Capital Territory: Bren Burkevics Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

New South Wales: Lisa Szabo and Rachel Connell, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Northern Territory: Lorraine Corowa, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Queensland: Rachel Chay, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Primary Industries

Tasmania: Rae Burrows, Department of Natural Resources and Environment

South Australia: Georgie Cornish, Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Victoria: Charlotte Austin, Agriculture Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Western Australia: Mia Carbon, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

New Zealand: Stuart Anderson, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries

Observer: Samantha Allan, Animal Health Australia

Observer: Sarah Corcoran, Plant Health Australia

National Biosecurity Implementation Committee (NIC)

- Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Australia South Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regions (Chair)
- Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

- North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance
- NRM Regions
- Invasive Species Council

- National Farmers' Federation
- Cattle Australia
- Grain Producers Australia
- Grains Research and Development Corporation
- Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union
- Freight and Trade Alliance

Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC)

Name	Role	Organisation
Enrico Perotti	Chair	Department of Primary Industries, Queensland
Nick Secomb	Deputy Chair	Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia
Kate McArthur	Member	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Victoria
Penny Fisher	Member	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Victoria
Marcelle O'Brien	Member	Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Tasmania
Tony Griffiths	Member	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, Northern Territory
Megan Wylie	Member	Environment, Planning, Sustainability and Development Directorate, Australian Capital Territory
Scott Charlton	Member	Department of Primary Industries, New South Wales
Peta Rose	Member	National Parks and Wildlife Service, New South Wales
Christina Cork	Member	Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Queensland
Bertie Hennecke	Member	Australian Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Commonwealth
Jason Ferris	Member	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Commonwealth
Karli Hillyard	Member	Department for Environment and Water, South Australia
Giverny Rodgers	Member	Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia
Kellie Passeretto	Member	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
Ron Shepherd	Member	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
Raghu Sathyamurthy	Observer	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Rachel Mann	Observer	Plant Health Australia
Samantha Allan	Observer	Animal Health Australia
Shauna Chadlowe	Observer	Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
Sandra Parsons	Observer	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES)
Tiggy Grillo	Observer	Wildlife Health Australia

National Biosecurity Communication and Engagement Network

Our members

Core members are communication managers from:

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- state and territory agriculture/biosecurity agencies
- Animal Health Australia
- Plant Health Australia
- Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (CSIRO)
- Department of Health and Aged Care.
- Observers attend from:
- Wildlife Heath Australia
- Invasive Species Council
- Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
- New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries.

The ‘Biosecurity Collective’

A powerful partnership between the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, Invasive Species Council, Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia

Who are these non-government organisations who have positioned themselves as ‘national coordinators’ for biosecurity?

CENTRE FOR
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

Our Support Systems and Tools

PestSmart and Weeds Australia
Best Practice Management Platform

FeralScan and WeedScan
Community Mapping, Monitoring Management Platforms

Community Action on Invasives
Behavioural Sciences and Social Processes platform

Communications, Mentoring and Leadership
Online communications, social licence and media support

Strengthen Pest and Weed Management Systems

- Develop nationally endorsed Management Plans
- Develop national reporting systems
- Inform state strategies and policy
- Support nil tenure approach to management
- Build awareness and social license
- Identify research gaps to support control
- Translate current research to support management
- Support agency staff and regional coordinators

Strengthen On Ground Managements

- Facilitate community group action
- Support development stakeholder relations
- Support adoption of new tools and techniques
- Encourage reporting and data collection
- Encourage adoption of best practice management

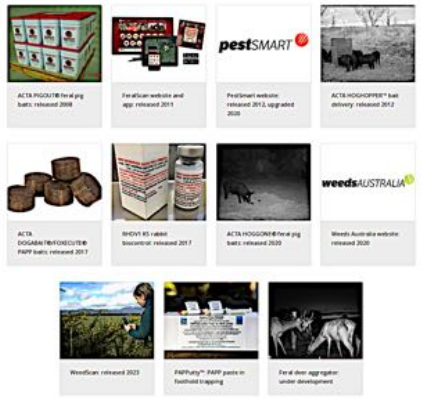
Product development and marketing
‘Hosts’ National Management Coordinators
Central figure (many contracts) for developing national strategies, plans etc

Exerts a very large amount of influence over invasives governance in Australia

2.1 ‘PROFIT WITH PURPOSE’ FUTURE

Tools and Products

We work to counter the impacts of invasive species by developing applying and intergrating new tools, technologies and products across agencies and jurisdictions. This selection of tools and products is the result of decades of collaboration, research, development and commercialisation via the Centre, its predecessor Invasives Animals Cooperative Research Centre and Animal Control Technologies Australia (ACTA) Pty Ltd.



The ‘Biosecurity Collective’

invasive species council

Focused on collaborative approach, including with industry

Plant Health AUSTRALIA

animal health AUSTRALIA

Our vision

A strong national biosecurity system that ensures the resilience and growth of Australia’s livestock industries.

Our mission

To partner with government and industry to deliver programs that strengthen and protect Australia’s livestock industries.

Consequences

National coordination programs

Feral pigs

ABARES estimates feral pigs cost Australia's agricultural sector over $156 million per year in control costs and agricultural losses. Feral pigs degrade water sources, destroy crops, spread diseases, prey on small animals and eat turtle eggs.

The feral pig national coordination program helps land managers reduce the impacts of feral pigs. Australian Pork Limited (APL) hosts the National Feral Pig Management Coordinator, Dr Heather Channon. She coordinates delivery of the National Feral Pig Action Plan (2021-2031).

The action plan is a co-investment with states, territories and industry. The National Biosecurity Committee agreed to the plan in October 2021. It also supports the National Threat Abatement Plan for predation, habitat degradation, competition and disease transmission by feral pigs (2017).

Feral deer

Feral deer impact Australia's agricultural production, environment, cultural values and road safety. They cost farmers $69 million each year in lost production and control costs. They also cause car and train accidents, costing an estimated $4.5 million each year (Mcleod 2023).

The feral deer national coordination program helps land managers reduce the impacts of feral deer. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South (PIRSA) delivers this program.

Hosted by PIRSA, National Coordinator Dr Annelise Webbin coordinates delivery of the National Feral Deer Action Plan 2023-2028. This is a collaborative plan developed by government and non-government organisations to limit, suppress or eradicate feral deer populations. The National Biosecurity Committee endorsed the plan in June 2023.

Wild dogs

ABARES estimates wild dogs cost Australia's agricultural sector up to $302 million per year. The primary impact of wild dogs is stock losses.

The National Wild Dog Action Plan 2020-2030 is the national strategy for best practice wild dog management. Industry funds the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Mr Greg Mifsud, from the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS). We provide support funding to Australian Wool Innovation Limited, who work with Mr Mifsud to deliver the action plan.

We have also invested with states and territories to manage wild dogs, through activities like the South Australian Wild Dog Fence.

Foxes and feral cats

ABARES estimates European foxes cost Australia's agricultural sector $196 million per year in control costs and agricultural losses, including losses of newborn lambs, poultry and goat kids. Feral cats can also transmit infectious diseases to domestic livestock. Both species cause significant harm to our natural environment. Foxes and feral cats alone have contributed to over 30 native mammal, bird and reptile extinctions.

CISS hosts the Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordinator, Ms Gillian Basnett, who actively promotes effective and humane management tools. The Coordinator supports delivery of the Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) for predation by feral cats and the TAP for predation by European red fox.

European wild rabbits

European rabbits cost Australia's agricultural sector up to $197 million per year in control costs and agricultural losses. Rabbits consume crops and vegetation cover, out compete native species and remove critical habitat. The rabbit is the most cited invasive species affecting our threatened native species.

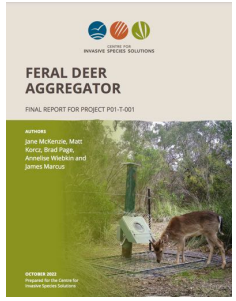
The department co-funds CISS to deliver the national wild rabbit management program. This initial commenced in late 2024. CISS host the National Rabbit Management Coordinator, Dr Heidi Kleinert. Dr Kleinert enhances land managers' capacity to apply humane, effective, and sustainable rabbit control techniques.

Coordinators

Examples from invasive vertebrate governance

Pork Australia Ltd

Jane McKenzie – (CISS 'Feral Deer Aggregator' product project)



Greg Mifsud

CENTRE FOR INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

Gillian Basnett

CENTRE FOR INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

Heidi Kleinert

CENTRE FOR INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

Consequences - Example Strategy

National Framework for the Management of Established Pests and Diseases of National Significance (EPNDS).

The EPNDS appears ideologically driven, taking the view that regulation is unhelpful and industry sets priorities. It clearly states in its introduction, the development of the *EPDNS* was a 'Primary Industries' priority

References https://www.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/biosecurity/framework-pests-diseases.pdf

https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/partnerships/nbc/intergovernmental-agreement-on- biosecurity/national-framework

The *DAWE* website states the *EPDNS* allows for:

- activities to be undertaken by the most appropriate party
- appropriate prioritisation of *EPDNS* based on risk
- effort to be targeted where the greatest biosecurity outcomes can be achieved in the national interest
- investment return to be optimised
- adoption of national investment principles involving beneficiaries and risk creators
- minimisation of regulatory burdens associated with containment of established pests and diseases.

These principles are highly problematic. The main beneficiaries of such public policy should be natural ecosystems and the public, however in this case the actual beneficiaries (and often risk creators) are more properly described as vested interests, which stand to benefit from actions that increase profit margins (such as ongoing spread of invasive pasture grasses or increased herbicide sales) not those that serve the national interest.

It is clear the *EPDNS* prioritises for-profit industry interests, rather than public / environmental interests and views regulation as an encumbrance. It champions the rise of non-government organisations.