

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government strengthen its leadership role in the national effort to combat invasive species by developing a robust national framework, in consultation with State, Territory and local governments, to regulate, control and manage invasive species. [see paragraph 8.12]

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that as part of developing a list of invasive plant species of national importance, the Commonwealth, States and Territories develop an agreed national Alert List. [see paragraphs 5.36 and 8.15]

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that those States and Territories that have failed to legislate a prohibition on the sale of WONS within their jurisdictions should act to do so as a matter of priority. [see paragraphs 5.25 and 8.19]

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the species listed on the WONS list be reviewed and that other significant threatening species be included as part of a new national control list of invasive plant species. [see paragraphs 5.28 and 8.20]

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth, States and Territories provide funding to enable the Australian Weeds Committee to engage the CRC for Australian Weed Management to produce a scientifically credible and robust national list of invasive plant species. [see paragraphs 5.51 and 8.21]

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth, in consultation with the States and Territories, promulgate regulations under section 301A of the EPBC to prohibit the trade in invasive plant species of national importance, combined with State and Territory commitment to prohibit these same species under their respective laws. [see paragraphs 5.51, 5.107 and 8.22]

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth, in consultation with the States and Territories, produce a list in legislation of taxa that prevents their sale and spread for each state or region. Nominations for each taxon on a state or regional basis can be developed in consultation with natural resource management agencies, state herbaria and members of the general public. [see paragraphs 5.51 and 8.23]

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government investigate the imposition of a 'polluter pays' principle where importers pay for the cost of control and repair should a plant become a weed. [see paragraphs 5.58 and 8.25]

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the National Weeds Strategy better clarify responsibility for funding eradication of 'sleeper weeds' with purely an environmental or social impact. [see paragraphs 5.33 and 8.29]

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that investment in early warning systems be increased for the detection and eradication of sleeper weeds. [see paragraphs 5.32 and 8.30]

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government place on the agenda of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, as a matter of urgency, the issue of progressing development of a National Strategy for Vertebrate Pests. [see paragraphs 5.40, 5.48 and 8.32]

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government take a lead role in Ministerial Councils and other appropriate forums to accelerate progress on the development, implementation and funding of a national system to deal with marine invasive species. [see paragraphs 6.123 and 8.37]

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that, as a matter of urgency, the Commonwealth Government should develop programs to minimise the threat of invasive marine species entering Australia's waters via hull fouling or as a result of the mariculture industries. [see paragraphs 6.100, 6.104 and 8.38]

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government should provide long-term funding for research aimed at identifying and combating marine invasive species, particularly those which may threaten marine parks such as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and those that are in the ports of Australia's trading partners and could be translocated to Australia. [see paragraphs 6.105 and 8.39]

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that the Threat Abatement Process (TAP) be reviewed to enable threatening processes to be listed prior to threatened species reaching a critical stage. [see paragraphs 5.106 and 8.41]

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government act urgently to ensure that:

- all listings on Schedule 5 of the *Quarantine Proclamation 1998* are made by species, not genera;
- a mechanism be developed to ensure that species identified as weeds of national significance are automatically removed from Schedule 5; and
- all listings and applications for the import of plants and seeds be standardised using the scientific names of species. [see paragraphs 6.69 and 8.44]

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the import risk analysis process be modified to guarantee greater independence in their preparation. [see paragraphs 6.18 and 8.46]

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth place on the agenda of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council the need for arrangements to be implemented for environmental pest incursions in parallel with those currently in place for threats to primary industries. [see paragraphs 5.143 and 8.48]

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government take a leading role in relevant international forums to seek better recognition of the environmental consequences of invasive species, particularly in relation to current trade rules. [see paragraphs 6.22 and 8.51]

Recommendation 20

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government provide certainty of funding to research institutions, such as CSIRO and CRCs, to enable them to undertake long-term research projects. [see paragraphs 5.131 and 8.58]

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that, under the National Heritage Trust, the Commonwealth Government initiate, develop and deliver national community education campaigns on invasive species. [see paragraph 8.71]

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government provide the relevant curriculum materials to enable invasive species to be included in relevant schools program across Australia. [see paragraph 8.72]

Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government continue to provide support through the NHT and Envirofund to community groups that deliver education and awareness campaigns. [see paragraph 8.73]

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that all tiers of government immediately commit to an eradication program for all WONS and all locally significant invasive species within their formal plantings. [see paragraph 8.75]

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth, States and Territories, the Nursery and Garden Industry Association and other stakeholders, including conservation NGOs, establish a process under the proposed National Weeds Action Plan to examine the merits of a mandatory labelling scheme on invasive garden plants. [see paragraphs 5.76 and 8.77]

Recommendation 26

The Committee recommends that the nursery and gardening industry give consideration to labelling of all invasive plants which, while able to be sold legally, may have invasive characteristics and should be managed responsibly. [see paragraphs 5.76 and 8.78]

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that gardening and lifestyle programs should be encouraged to include warnings about the appropriateness of the plants suggested on their shows. Such warnings could require an indication of the country of origin of the plant, the areas it is indigenous to, and whether it has proven invasive elsewhere. [see paragraphs 5.82 and 8.80]

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