

To: [Committee, EC \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Submission on Invasive Species
Date: Monday, 28 July 2014 3:45:19 PM

Firstly I welcome this inquiry into the "adequacy of arrangements to prevent the entry and establishment of invasive species likely to harm Australia's natural environment".

For many years I worked as a bushland regenerator, removing non-indigenous species from our natural environments, such as national parks. In many ways it was a losing battle as year-after-year we saw new species dumped in the bush, spreading quickly and smothering native vegetation. Removing weeds after they are established is slow, expensive and hard yakka. Often once the species are established - such as in the case of many grasses - eliminating them entirely is impossible, no matter how large your budget.

The most frustrating part of the job was that many of these invasive species were still being sold by local nurseries - quite legally - and the people buying them had no idea that these invasive species posed a real danger to Australia's environment.

I believe the best way to stop invasive species spreading, is to firstly stop them entering Australia through enhanced biosecurity, and, if they are detected, such as the case of the Asian black-spined toad, target them relentlessly so they don't become established in the country. Obviously there would also be a list of species nurseries were prohibited from selling, and these would be enforced. It's not rocket science!

I agree with many of the ideas put forward by the Invasive Species Council such as:

- * Establishing Environment Health Australia, a collaborative body to prioritise risks, better prepare for environmental invaders and monitor progress
- * Improving contingency planning
- * Improving responses to incursions
- * Improving surveillance
- * Setup a public incursions database
- * Review failures
- * Improve enforcement.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Warwick Sprawson