

**To:** [Committee, EC \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
**Date:** Thursday, 31 July 2014 11:01:51 AM

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## **Senate inquiry on protecting the environment from new invasive species - call for submissions**

Submission from:  
North East Tasmania Land Trust Inc.

The Australian environment already has a terrible burden of weeds, pests and diseases that have caused extinctions and massive declines in biodiversity. This is no where more evident than in the North East of Tasmania where gorse and spanish heath have all but taken over some areas. Despite this, new deadly invasive species keep arriving in Australia at a high rate. These failures show that Australia's biosecurity system is poorly prepared for new environmental invaders.

These failures have seen the entry of red fire ants, yellow crazy ants, myrtle rust, Mexican feather grass and most recently the black-spined toad.

Environmental bio-security lags well behind agriculture bio-security yet these two are not separate domains but overlap.

The high economic costs of failures to keep out environmental invaders puts existing eradication programs (such as they are) at risk, while late detection wastes eradication funds and increases costs to save endangered species and negatively affects tourism.

Dr Andrew Lohrey,  
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