

Submission

Inquiry into ‘adequacy of arrangements to prevent the entry and establishment of invasive species likely to harm Australia’s natural environment’.

1. **Preventing new invasive species should be one of the government’s highest environmental priorities.**
 - Devastating impacts of invasive species
 - High rate of new incursions
 - Environmental biosecurity lags behind agricultural biosecurity.
2. **Note the high economic costs of failures to keep out environmental invaders.**
 - Puts existing eradication programs at risk
 - Late detection wastes eradication funds
 - Greatly increases costs to save threatened species and protect national parks
 - Costs to industry, including tourism
3. **Below are examples of incursions detected since 2000 that are likely to have serious impacts on the environment.**
 - Myrtle rust, Asian black-spined toad, red-imported fire ant, Mexican feather grass, smooth newt, pigeon paramyxovirus, yellow crazy ant, electric ant, Asian honeybee
4. **The major systematic biosecurity gaps and flaws with the current system.**
 - Insufficient risk analysis
 - Lack of contingency planning
 - Insufficient surveillance
 - Poor responses to incursions
 - Failure to learn from failures
 - Lack of transparency and reporting
5. **Support these recommendations to stop new invasive species that harm the environment.**
 - Establish **Environment Health Australia**, a collaborative body to prioritise risks, better prepare for environmental invaders and monitor progress
 - Improve contingency planning
 - Improve responses to incursions
 - Improve surveillance
 - Setup a public incursions database
 - Review failures
 - Improve enforcement