

**From:** [Tony Peacock](#)  
**To:** [Committee, Environment \(REPS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Cane toad inquiry  
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I have submitted my 2007 report to the Western Australian Environment Minister on On-ground cane toad control, as it is not always easy to find. Although 10 years old, it covers many of the issues the committee may be interested in. At the time I wrote the report, I hedged a bit on whether physically picking up toads had any impact on spread, recommending to the Minister that current efforts at that time be allowed to play out. Subsequent information shows that widespread physical removal of toads is pretty useless in most situations. That's not to say it can never work, but big volunteer efforts picking up toads as happened in the NT in the mid-2000s may have even assisted the spread rather than slow it (98% of the toads picked up were male, which doesn't limit the population growth).

This report and the work Professor Rick Shine and I did on the Threat Abatement Plan for Cane Toads advocated for shifting the emphasis from widespread control of the toads themselves to concentrating on protecting threatened species and areas.

I did the project in my capacity as the CEO of the Invasive Animals CRC at the time. I've moved on but still keep an eye on things.

I wish you the best with this inquiry. I am located in Canberra and happy to discuss the report or other matters related to toad control. Professor Rick Shine is of course much better placed than I to give the best and most recent scientific evidence.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Tony Peacock FTSE FAICD

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