



File Ref: [REDACTED]

4 September 2014

Biodiversity Legislation Review  
P O Box A290  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1232

Dear Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel

**RE: Issues paper – Management, conservation and regulation of biodiversity  
in NSW**

Following the release of the Issues Paper in August 2014, Lockhart Shire Council has generated this following response for review and consideration by the Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel.

Answers to the following questions are those taken directly from the Issues Paper.

**Theme 5: Wildlife management**

- 1. Have the threats to biodiversity posed by: (a) people taking animals and plants from the wild, (b) feral animals and weeds, and (c) illegally imported species, been effectively managed?**

While it is undeniable that the protection of threatened species and habitats of conservation value is absolutely essential, analysis of management practices is required, in particular reference to the control of feral animals and weeds.

In some instances, the location of threatened species is approached through the protection of specific sites, therefore treating the location as isolated rather than from an ecological community or catchment aspect. Biodiversity is a dynamic process rather than isolated and static.

The biodiversity value present on government owned or managed land is hardly considered in regards to the implications inflicted on threatened species. The

management of these areas, in particular their use, has an impact on the successful of biodiversity recovery projects in the local vicinity. While these areas are usually protected in regards to human activities and visitation, removal of vegetation and native species, and destruction of habitat, little management is focused on the control of feral animals and weeds on these sites.

The feral animals and weeds that are present within these sites have potential adversary affects in the success of biodiversity recovery in adjoining areas. The prospective damage by feral animals and weeds is dependent on the migration activities of both native animals and feral animals, as well as the dispersal mechanisms involved in regards to the spread of feral weeds.

By controlling feral animals and weeds in government owned or managed land, threatened species protection sites, and key migration or corridor sites in the vicinity of protection areas, biodiversity recovery is potentially enhanced, and provides feral animals and weeds control holistically, throughout the community, involving both landholders and government bodies.

#### **Further comments**

Lockhart Shire Council appreciates the time taken by the Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel to consult with the public, and trusts that the information provided in the submission will be taken strongly into consideration.

Yours faithfully

*Dan Webb*

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