

Dear Committee Members

I wish to provide comment on the discussion paper on Modernising Australia's approach to managing established pests and diseases of national significance.

My concern is about weeds that are being propagated in agriculture and other industries that have already entered the country.

Buffel Grass is one of the most serious threats to arid/semi-arid Australia and yet new and more hard-to-control varieties are being promoted by Queensland and Northern Territory Governments. A coordinated approach would mean that this would cease to happen and the cattle industry would need to determine how to run sustainably without the propagation of more weeds.

Prevention is the most effective approach, but this document only deals with borders. Attempts to grow *Arundo donax* (Giant Reed) as a biofuel could do irreparable damage to adjacent waterways. This would not be prevented in the approach presented in the discussion paper. It is in the country and is not a major threat at the moment. However, growing this as a crop would change the situation dramatically.

Plants that are already being propagated for home gardens can often be a threat to the environment and possibly agriculture. These need to be addressed in the plan.

I hope these thoughts help your considerations.

Yours sincerely,

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