



Think Globally. Act Locally!

**Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday, 14 July 2025

**Re: Unwanted Invaders: HOPE Inc. Calls for Coordinated Action on Pest Plants and Animals**

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. is raising concerns about the significant and ongoing threat posed by introduced weeds and pest animals to Australia's environment, agriculture, and economy.

For many years, HOPE Inc. has recognized the detrimental impacts of these unwanted invaders, which have either been introduced deliberately or accidentally, disrupting native ecosystems and causing substantial losses across various sectors.

"From the insidious spread of weeds that outcompete native flora, to the devastating impact of pest animals on agricultural production and biodiversity, the issue of invasive species demands a unified and effective response," says Frank Ondrus, Office Manager, HOPE Inc.

### **The Cost of Invasion:**

Weeds, defined as plants "in the wrong place," can aggressively colonize diverse environments, impacting everything from farm fields and gardens to national parks. Similarly, pest animals, ranging from feral herbivores to disease-carrying insects, cause significant damage to crops, forestry, and infrastructure, while also threatening native wildlife.

### **Controlling the Spread:**

HOPE Inc. recognizes that managing these pests requires a multi-faceted approach, including:

- **Prevention:** Robust biosecurity measures to prevent new introductions.
- **Early Intervention:** Rapid response to new incursions to prevent establishment.
- **Strategic Control:** Implementing safe and effective control measures, which may include manual removal, biological controls (such as targeted grazing by animals like goats), and carefully considered chemical applications as a last resort.

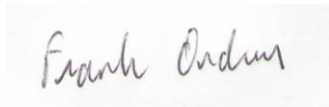
## **Shared Responsibility:**

HOPE Inc. emphasizes that the responsibility for managing pest plants and animals is shared across various levels, including individual landowners, community-based Landcare groups, Local Government Authorities (LGAs), and State and Federal Government agencies. Coordinated efforts and adequate funding are crucial for effective control and eradication programs.

"Understanding who is responsible and ensuring effective collaboration between all stakeholders is paramount to tackling this national challenge," Mr. Ondrus states.

HOPE Inc. calls for increased awareness, research, and the implementation of cohesive national strategies, potentially building upon existing frameworks like national Threat Abatement Plans, to mitigate the adverse impacts of weeds and pest animals on Australia's unique natural heritage and productive landscapes.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Ondrus". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph. 07 4639 2135  
*Written by Meet Karan Rana, HOPE media officer NSW)*

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