Pest Plants & Animals

Background

Pest plants and animals can place significant pressure on Australia's native ecosystems and biodiversity. Invasive species can spread quickly, affect native species, alter habitats, disrupt ecological processes, and contribute to the decline of native plants and animals.

Managing pest plants and animals takes time and ongoing effort. The right approach will depend on the local area and should protect native plants, animals, and habitats wherever possible.

HOPE Inc. (Australia)'s Position

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) believes that responsible management of pest plants and animals is an important part of protecting the prosperity of native species, biodiversity and supporting sustainable environmental stewardship.

We support evidence-based and responsible approaches to invasive species management that protect native ecosystems, encourage appropriate control practices, and strengthen cooperation between governments, researchers, councils, environmental organisations, landholders, and communities.

HOPE Inc. (Australia) also recognises the importance of accurately identifying pest species and considering potential impacts on native species when developing and implementing control programs.

Why This Position Matters

Invasive species can put native plants and animals at risk and make it harder for damaged ecosystems to recover. Managing them is a challenge requiring ongoing effort, appropriate control measures, and cooperation between government, council and local communities.

Climate-related changes may also contribute to the expansion and spread of some pest plants and animals, increasing the need for effective identification, monitoring, prevention, and long-term management.

HOPE Inc. (Australia) believes that greater public awareness, coordinated management, scientific research, and community participation can strengthen efforts to prevent and manage the impacts of invasive species.

Key Advocacy Priorities

HOPE Inc. (Australia) advocates for:

- responsible and evidence-based management of pest plants and animals that protects native biodiversity and ecosystems;
- stronger coordination between federal, state, and local governments in invasive species management;
- effective use of established frameworks, including Weeds of National Significance and Threat Abatement Plans;
- greater public awareness, education, and community participation in identifying, reporting, and responsibly managing invasive species;
- collaboration between universities, councils, environmental organisations, community groups, landholders, and other relevant partners; and
- continued research, investment, and development of effective and environmentally responsible approaches to invasive species control.

HOPE Inc. (Australia)’s Commitment

HOPE Inc. (Australia) is committed to raising awareness of pest plants and animals and encouraging responsible invasive species management through education, advocacy, collaboration, and engagement with communities and local councils.

We will continue to share information about invasive species and their impacts, support partner initiatives, promote responsible control practices, encourage community participation, and work with universities, councils, environmental organisations, and other partners to help protect Australia's native ecosystems and biodiversity.

Closing Statement

This Position Statement reflects HOPE Inc. (Australia)’s commitment to advocating for responsible and sustainable stewardship of the environment. It supports the objectives of the **HOPE Strategic Plan 2024–2029** and provides the foundation for HOPE Inc. (Australia)’s advocacy, partnerships, and community engagement on Pest Plants & Animals.

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia)

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