



Australian Government

Australian approaches to alien invasive species

Australia is one of 17 megabiodiverse countries

- Home to 10% of the world's biodiversity
- 82% of Australian mammal and plant species are found only in Australia
- Australia's long isolation has made its biota vulnerable to introduced species



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Australia has large numbers of invasive species

- 2700 introduced plants (of 30 000 vascular plants)
- Wild populations of 73 introduced vertebrate species
- A range of pathogens, including chytrid fungus
- Weeds and vertebrate pests cost almost 3 billion Euro each year



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Australia is a federation

- A national government – responsible for leadership, coordination, pre-border and border
- 6 states and 2 self-governing territories – responsible for on-ground management
- Local government and regional bodies



Australia has used a sectoral approach to biosecurity strategies

- Crop and livestock biosecurity agreements
- Intergovernmental agreement on marine pest incursions
- National strategies on weeds and vertebrate pests
- Regional arrangements to deal with natural resource management, including invasive species



Successful control campaigns

- Rabbit myxomatosis and rabbit haemorrhagic disease
- Prickly pear reduction
- Eradication of black-striped mussel



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AusBIOSEC - a new national biosecurity system for primary production and the environment

- Red fire ant incursion provided a major stimulus for action
- Comprehensive agricultural biosecurity arrangements are being extended to cover biodiversity
- A national Steering Group established to advise on how to fill the current gaps



AusBIOSEC a comprehensive framework

- All species – animals, plants and pathogens
- All environments – terrestrial, freshwater and marine
- All sectors – primary production, environment and social
- To be given effect in an intergovernmental agreement



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Nationally cost-shared incursion response

3 criteria:

- Nationally significant impacts
- Eradication of the incursion is technically feasible
- Cost-benefit analysis is favourable

Cost-sharing:

- 50% Australian Government
- States and territories on a risk basis



Cross-sectoral action plans

- Surveillance
- Information sharing
- Diagnostic systems for identification
- Reporting new detections
- Communications and awareness
- Research and development



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