**Directorate: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development**

**17/678 - ACT Government Position on the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) Review Final Report Recommendations and Agreement to a Revised IGAB**

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| **Summary of Impacts** |
| * Improvements to the national biosecurity system will assist in reducing the incursion of new pests and diseases into the ACT, and in managing the impacts of established pests and diseases within the ACT.
* Pests and diseases:
1. impact on social amenity and human health (eg, Red Imported Fire Ant, Avian Influenza);
2. cause economic impacts through losses to primary production, export market access and tourism, damage to infrastructure, and the costs of prevention, control and remediation; and
3. represent the biggest threat to biodiversity after land clearing.
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*Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue – neutral and Green – positive.*

**Social**

No impact

**Economic**

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| **ACT Government Budget** | * This submission has no impact on the ACT Government budget.
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| **Productivity** | * Key pests and diseases that reduce, or have the potential to reduce, primary production in the ACT include rabbits, invasive grasses and possible incursions of pests and diseases such as giant pine scale and foot-and-mouth disease. Controlling a large (12 month) incursion of foot-and-mouth disease could cost Australia $16 billion. Improvements to national prevention, surveillance, eradication and containment programs, and coordinated management of nationally significant pests and diseases, are anticipated to substantially reduce the risk of economic impacts on production across Australia, including the ACT.
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| **Investment** | * The ACT currently invests around $350,000 annually in national eradication programs (primarily for invasive ants) to reduce the risk of these pests entering the ACT and to secure assistance from other jurisdictions should the ACT experience an incursion. The Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) incursion in South East Queensland is currently costing $411.4 million over ten years (cost-shared nationally) because the ants were widely established when the program commenced. The cost of other RIFA eradication programs has been much lower because detections have been made earlier in the establishment phase of the incursions. Improvements to the national biosecurity system under the revised IGAB should significantly reduce the ACT’s financial contribution to national eradication programs.
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| **Competition** | * Nil.
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**Environmental**

No impact.