

STOP INVASIVES

THE GREENS' PLAN TO STOP INVASIVE SPECIES TO PROTECT AND RESTORE VICTORIA'S ENVIRONMENT AND FARMS



Invasive species destroy habitat, pollute our water, damage farmland and kill precious native plants and animals. The Greens' plan will end the patchy, underfunded approach to invasive species management, to protect nature and our farms.

Our natural environment and farmland are under threat from invasive animal species, like feral deer, goats, cats, rabbits, pigs and many others. Introduced plant species also pose a huge problem to our National Parks and farms.

OUR PLAN

The Greens' Plan to Stop Invasives commits \$240 million over four years to the management of introduced plants and feral animals in Victoria.

The Greens' plan will:

- Create a new Invasive Species Management Authority: a single government body to drive invasive species management across Victoria
- Develop detailed, statewide plans for managing the most threatening invasives species, including \$40 million to manage feral deer
- Change the status of deer to a pest animal and ensure management is professional and effective
- End the use of recreational hunting as the primary means of managing invasive animal species
- Help farmers and gardeners limit the spread of damaging weedy plants with \$32 million to stop weedy pests entering Victoria
- Monitor and manage new invasive species as soon as they appear, to stop them taking a hold in our environment and on our farms
- Provide \$40 million to support research into new techniques and controls for invasive species.

A NEW INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Invasive species management has suffered from underfunding and split and uncertain responsibility within the Victorian Government for too long.

The Greens would create a single new Invasive Species Management Authority, for coordinated action across environment, national parks, agriculture, fisheries and other areas of government.

This new authority will be given \$240 million in funding over four years, as well as rolling in existing invasive species funding. It will develop detailed, statewide plans for managing the most threatening invasives species – including feral deer, goats, pigs, horses, foxes, cats and rabbits – as well as plant pests.

The new Invasive Species Management Authority will also deliver monitoring and research, to ensure we understand and are effectively and humanely managing the threats from invasive species.

An important priority for the Authority will be preventing new pests from establishing in Victoria – stopping them from becoming a bigger and more expensive problem for the future.

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TIME TO TACKLE FERAL DEER

Feral deer are out of control across Victoria. They're polluting our water and destroying our fragile ecosystems. Successive governments have been missing in action when it comes to monitoring and managing the threat from feral deer.

Labor has given in to the Shooters and Fishers Party and allowed recreational hunters into the Alpine National Park, and encouraged hunting across Victoria. Deer continue to be protected as a game species, despite their exploding population and the enormous destruction they cause. This needs to change.

The science is clear: recreational hunters are not effective at controlling invasive species like deer. In many cases, hunters actively spread invasive animals to new areas and keep populations alive so they have animals to shoot for fun.

The Invasive Species Management Authority will develop a comprehensive, statewide plan to manage the deer crisis. The new Authority will be allocated \$40 million over four years to deliver professional, humane and effective deer management, to protect nature and our farms.

STOP DAMAGING WEEDS

The Invasive Species Management Authority will develop a list of plants, known as the 'Weedy Plants White List', that are allowed to be sold or transported in Victoria. We know the system works: it's been a success in Western Australia for twenty years.

Plants not on the list will not be welcome in Victoria. Anyone can propose plants for inclusion on the list, but they will need to be assessed for the risk they pose as a weed.

Every Victorian will know which plants aren't safe for our natural environment. It will help farmers, businesses and gardeners stop the spread of dangerous weeds across Victoria.

The Invasive Species Management Authority will also deliver existing programs and activities to better manage weeds already in Victoria.

MORE SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

There is currently very, very little research being done in Victoria into new methods of controlling invasive species - especially non-lethal and humane methods. Our plan will commit an initial \$40 million to get this research started.

The new Invasive Species Management Authority will work with the scientific community to map the full range of invasive species threats, and how to stop them. This will ensure we have the evidence we need to effectively and humanely protect our state from invasive species.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST

The Greens have committed \$240 million to our plan to Stop Invasives.

This is made up of:

- \$20 million for administration of the new Invasive Species Management Authority (in addition to the rolling in of existing resources from DELWP and DEDJTR)
- \$108 million for monitoring and containment of new invasive species
- \$40 million per year for deer control
- \$32 million per year to implement the Weedy Plants White List
- \$40 million a year for research into biological controls for invasive species.