

Dear Andrew

Thank you very much for your considered letter of support. Your letter sought clarification on a couple of points, which are addressed below.

I want to assure you that our central role in coordinating and driving national collaborative RD&E programs for improved vertebrate pest management will continue and hopefully grow.

Our work on the 10 year weeds RD&E plan and proposed program will complement and build on our first portfolio focussed on vertebrate pests. Our approach is more efficient than say the old Cooperative Research Centre model where there were separate invasive animals and weeds CRCs each with their own Board and management team. The CISS approach, with one efficient governance structure for both areas means that more funding can be directed to innovation to develop smarter, more effective, and cheaper vertebrate pest and weed solutions.

Our point on collaborative action was to highlight that many environmental weeds are also pastoral and landscape weeds, just like rabbits are both an environmental and agricultural threat. This joint threat creates a compelling case for government-industry/RDC cooperation. I do, however, take your point in regard to certain plants being considered both useful and a weed. I anticipate that our livestock industry member will ensure that CISS takes a considered and balanced approach if any contested plant species are to be incorporated into any future weeds RD&E portfolio.

Again, thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to talk about our work further.

Yours sincerely

Andreas Glanznig

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