



To the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee, concerning the Inquiry into Red Imported Fire Ants in Australia.

CEBRA: Update to verbal submission

- 1 Professor Robinson stated that the estimated cost of the RIFA incursion, unchecked, was “at 2.8 per cent of GDP, which is approximately half of a COVID *every year*”. He later added “Yes, it is 2.8 per cent *ongoing*,” responding to a question from the chair. These are mistakes. In fact, CEBRA estimated the *cumulative* impact of the RIFA incursion for 30 years as 2.8 per cent of GDP (estimated as at 2054), which is approximately half of a COVID every 30 years.
- 2 The breakdown of these damages by sector, as requested by the Chair, is provided below.

Sector	30-year Cumulative Damage (\$AUSB)
Agriculture	16.7
Domestic Animals	13.4
Recreation	11.0
Tourism	8.0
Recreational horses	4.3
Infrastructure	3.9
Sequestration	2.2
Erosion	1.3
Gene pool	1.4
Existence	1.4
Water	1.3
Flood mitigation	0.8
Forestry	0.8
Toxin mediation	0.8
Indigenous	0.4
Subsistence	0.0
Total	67.6

Yours truly,

Professor Andrew Robinson,
on behalf of the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis.

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