



## **SENATE RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

Over the course of the submission period for the inquiry into *Red Imported Fire Ants in Australia*, the committee received approximately 11 submissions from a campaign run by the Australian Wildlife Society.

It was agreed by the committee that a typical example of the form letter, available below, would be published as example.

The committee thanks participants for their contribution to the inquiry.

Dear Committee Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the inquiry into Red Imported Fire Ants in Australia.

Fire ants are projected to cover most of Australia and impact various sectors such as the environment and agriculture. These costs will run up to \$2 billion annually, alongside human health impacts and biodiversity losses.

The current funding amounts are unlikely sufficient to achieve total eradication over the coming decade, as funding ends in 2027. In addition, not all jurisdictions have committed funding to the response plan. Consequently, extra resources and funding are required to track fire ant infestations, engage businesses and communities to control fire ants, and maintain rapid eradication teams to eradicate fire ants.

I support total fire ant eradication, commitment to a 10-year eradication plan, and an increase in funding to protect our native threatened species.

Sincerely,