

Civic Offices, Limerick Road,  
Nenagh, County Tipperary



Christopher O'Sullivan T.D., Minister of State with Special responsibility for Nature, Heritage, and Biodiversity.

Custom House,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 W6X0.

2 June 2026

**Re: Water Forum Recommendations and Advice to address the management of IAS in Ireland**

Dear Minister O'Sullivan,

In 2023, the Water Forum submitted policy recommendations and advice on the management of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Ireland to Minister O'Brien and Minister Noonan, and to officials of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). These policy recommendations were based on research commissioned by the Water Forum.

The Forum welcomes the new partnership between the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) and the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC), and the plans for this Invasive Species Bureau to develop a National IAS Strategy.

To ensure that these recent developments translate into action for IAS management, the Forum has the following recommendations:

- **The Forum recommends that the resourcing requirements to support the newly established Invasive Species Bureau and to manage IAS in Ireland (across NPWS, NBDC, Government Departments, Local Authorities) are identified and addressed urgently.** While welcoming the recent announcement about the creation of the Bureau, timely and adequate resourcing will be necessary to ensure that the Bureau can deal with the many issues facing it if we are to successfully tackle the significant environmental, social and economic risks and costs associated with invasive alien species. The research commissioned by An Foram Uisce clearly demonstrates the economic benefits of early intervention with post-invasion retroactive management found to be 25-times more costly than pre-invasion management.
- **The Forum recommends that a National IAS Biosecurity Strategy should be developed as a matter of urgency, which will outline the roadmap to managing IAS, along with identifying key roles and responsibilities of all relevant government departments and agencies.** This would also deliver on the relevant action in the 2024 National Biodiversity Action Plan and contribute to the Sectoral Action Work Plan for invasive alien species required under the Water Action Plan and still awaiting completion. Insufficient management of IAS leaves Ireland

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at significant risk of non-compliance with EU and national law and at risk of incurring greater damage and costs resulting from failure to deal promptly and adequately with the threat of existing and new invasive alien species.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our research and advice in greater detail and are available to do so at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

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Dr Matt Crowe  
Chair

cc:

*Fintan Towey, Assistant Secretary, Water Division, Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.  
Colin Byrne, Principal Adviser, Water Advisory Unit, Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.  
Niall Ó'Donnchú, Director General, Director General, National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Áinle Ní Bhríain, Principal Officer, International and EU Affairs, National Parks and Wildlife Service*

- [Letter-to-Minister-OBrien-regarding-Invasive-Alien-Species-Management April 2023.pdf](#)
- [Water-Forum-Invasive-Alien-Species-Policy-Brief.pdf](#)
- [Water-Forum-Submission-to-NPWS-Strategy-Statement-13122022.pdf](#)
- [Lucy-et-al.-Invasive-Alien-Species-Report Policy-Recommendations-for-their-Management.pdf](#)