

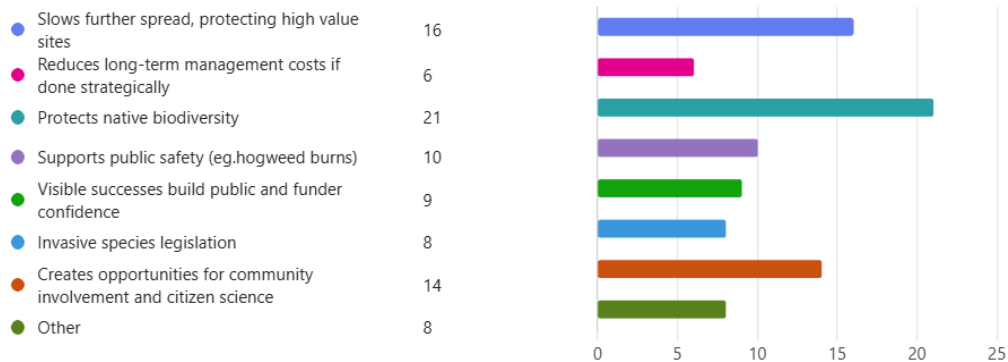
Inaugural Local Action Group Workshop March 2026

Breakout session 3-

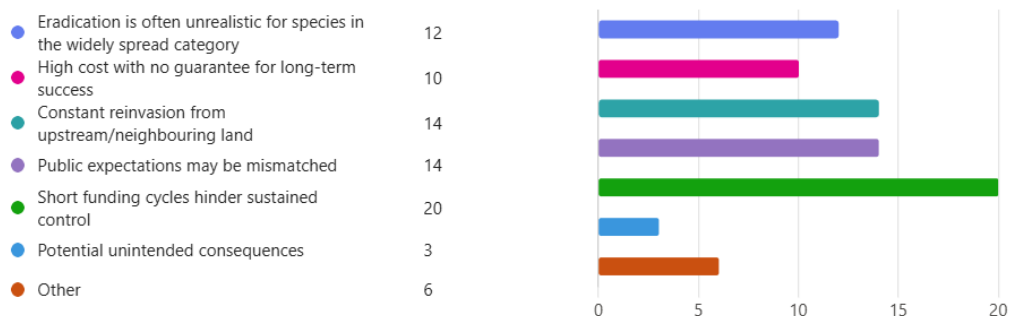
Managing widely spread species- The Pros and Cons

Chair: Rose Muir Rapporteur: Rachel Hamill

1. Which of these pros do you see driving choices most often in your organisation?



2. Which of these create the biggest barriers for your team?



3. Finish this sentence-

"One shift we could make in our approach to invasive species management is..."

Joint up and coordinated approach

All Ireland standardised protocol and catchment approach

Provided more subsidised training

Finding ways to work across agencies and stakeholders

Shift from reactive control to early detection and prevention through stronger biosecurity and rapid response

Funding to undertake on private land

widen control to take in neighboring lands and for upper catchment areas to prevent further spread of treated sites

Raising awareness in order to help local groups to manage invasive species by the coast and in sanddune areas. Training necessary and increased knowledge.

More joined up approach between land owners

More funding for community groups to support insurance costs, kit and training
Stationary biosecurity stations at piers/docks and incorporating messaging into education
Visible enforcement
Integrate solutions into culture
Proactive approach is better than reactive
Creating national support structure (eg resources given to NPWS to enact EU legislation)
Better public engagement so that people understand spread (eg rhodo sold in garden centres)
Inform, educate and build skills/knowledge for community
Public awareness
Comprehensive recording and mapping
More resource and political will

4. Scenario based exercise- delegates were split into groups and given a scenario with a set of questions to work through.

a) Japanese Knotweed on a River System Widespread along 3km

- More upstream
- Limited budget
- Mixed land ownership
- Public pressure is high

1. What is a realistic management objective?
2. Where would you prioritise? (upstream, public hotspots, high value sites)
3. What are the pros and cons of intervening?

b) Himalayan Balsam in a SAC Woodland

- Highly accessible to volunteers
- Upstream infestation not controlled
- Woodland ground flora declining

1. Would you continue annual pulls? Why or why not?
2. What alternative strategies exist?
3. How would you communicate this to stakeholders?

c) Rhododendron ponticum in a Upland Site

- Long-term infestation
- Control is technically challenging and expensive
- Rare bryophytes and lichens present

1. Is full removal feasible?
2. Could containment be justifiable?
3. What are the ecological risks of not acting?