



Declared Plant Policy

This policy relates to natural resources management under section 9(1)(d) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (the Act), enabling co-ordinated implementation and promotion of sound management programs and practices for the use, development or protection of natural resources of the State. Specifically, this policy provides guidance on the use and management of natural resources relating to the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community, as per object s7(1)(f) of the Act.

cat's claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*)

Cat's claw creeper is one of the thirty-two Weeds of National Significance, which are subject to a prohibition on sale in all States and Territories. It is a tropical plant that does not grow wild in South Australia.

Management Plan for Cat's Claw Creeper

Outcomes

- Prevention of national trade in Weeds of National Significance

Objectives

- Prevent any supply of cat's claw creeper by growers in South Australia to other jurisdictions where it is an invasive weed.

Best Practice Implementation

- Compliance action in the event of cat's claw creeper plants being found on sale in South Australia.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Prohibit sale and movement
Eyre Peninsula	Prohibit sale and movement
Green Adelaide	Prohibit sale and movement
Hills and Fleurieu	Prohibit sale and movement
Kangaroo Island	Prohibit sale and movement
Limestone Coast	Prohibit sale and movement
Murraylands and Riverland	Prohibit sale and movement
Northern and Yorke	Prohibit sale and movement
South Australian Arid Lands	Prohibit sale and movement

Declaration

To implement this policy, cat's claw creeper is declared under *the Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia so that any further sale or movement of plants can be prevented. Its entry to South Australia, movement or transport on a public road or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited.

Cat's claw creeper is declared in category 2 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its entry to the State, road transport or sale can only be issued by the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) or their delegate pursuant to section 197.

Under the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*, Regulation 27 specifies the conditions under which a person is exempt from the operation of section 186 and may transport wool, grain or other produce or goods carrying cat's claw creeper on public roads, or bring them into the State. Regulation 28 specifies conditions under which a person is exempt from the operation of section 188(2) and may sell wool, grain or other produce or goods carrying cat's claw creeper. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive, DEW.

The following sections of the Act apply to cat's claw creeper throughout each of the regions noted below:

Sections of Act	Region								
	AW	EP	GA	HF	KI	LC	MR	NY	SAAL
186(1) Prohibiting entry to area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
186(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188(1) Prohibiting sale of the plant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
190 Requiring notification of presence									
192(1) Land owners to destroy the plant on their properties									
192(2) Land owners to control the plant on their properties									
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves									

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2025, or in the event of a change in one or more regional management plans for cat's claw creeper or a change in its status as a Weed of National Significance.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Cat's claw creeper is dispersed by its abundant seed, which is carried a short distance by wind after it is shed from the fruit but over longer distances by flood waters and down streams. It spreads primarily into the gaps in rainforest canopies, particularly areas disturbed by stock. It tolerates low-light conditions, especially as a seedling, but grows more vigorously in open sunny habitats. Plants may reproduce vegetatively from roots and runners, with the trailing stems forming new roots where they touch the ground.

Impacts

Cat's claw creeper invades and displaces native woodland and vine thicket vegetation in the moist tropics. Due to its habit as a large vine it can smother standing vegetation, including large trees, and cause canopy collapse. It then persists as a dense cover that excludes native regeneration.

Potential distribution

Cat's claw creeper is not expected to become naturalised in native vegetation in South Australia as it is adapted to summer-rainfall tropical and subtropical habitats. Its native range is forest with 750-2400 mm annual rainfall.

Feasibility of Containment

Persistence

Cat's claw creeper is a perennial that forms a large underground tubers from which it can regenerate.

Current distribution

Cat's claw creeper is widely cultivated in gardens in South Australia but is not naturalised.

State Level Risk Assessment

Assessment using the Biosecurity SA Weed Risk Management System gave the following comparative weed risk and feasibility of containment scores by land use:

Land use	Weed Risk	Feasibility of control	Response at State Level
Native vegetation	negligible 4	very high 0	Monitor

Considerations

Cat's claw creeper is native to tropical America, and is naturalised in south-eastern USA, Uganda, Tanzania, south-east Asia and some oceanic islands, as well as in tropical Australia.

It was recognised by Australia as a Weed of National Significance in 2012 and will be the subject of a national control strategy.

Cat's claw creeper is grown as a garden ornamental in SA and the other southern States of Australia but is no longer promoted by the nursery industry. Beyond preventing any further retail or wholesale trade in this plant, it is not proposed to address existing garden plantings in South Australia.

Synonymy

Dolichandra unguis-cati (L.) L.G.Lohmann, Nuevo Cat. Fl. Vasc. Venezuela 273 (2008).

Basionym:

Bignonia unguis-cati L., Sp. Pl. 2: 623 (1753).

Nomenclatural synonyms:

Doxantha unguis-cati (L.) Miers, Proc. Roy. Hort. Soc. London 3: 189 (1863).

Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) A.H. Gentry, Brittonia 25(3): 236–237 (1973).

Taxonomic synonyms:

Bignonia acutistipula Schlttdl., Linnaea 26: 375 (1854).

Bignonia gracilis Lodd., Bot. Cab. 18: t. 1705 (1831).

Bignonia inflata Griseb., Abh. Königl. Ges. Wiss. Göttingen 24: 256 (1879).

Bignonia triantha DC., Prodr. 9: 148 (1845).

Bignonia tweediana Lindl., Bot. Reg. 26: t. 45 (1840).

Bignonia unguis L., Syst. Nat. ed. 10 2: 1114 (1759).

Dolichandra kohautiana C.Presl, Abh. Königl. Böhm. Ges. Wiss. V, 3: 522 (1845).

Doxantha radicans Miers, Proc. Roy. Hort. Soc. London 3: 190 (1863).

Spathodea kohautiana (C.Presl) Walp., Repert. Bot. Syst. 6: 513 (1838).

Other common names include cat's claw climber, cat's-claw vine, catclaw trumpet, funnel creeper, macfadyena and yellow trumpet vine.

Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

Date: 28 March 2021