



Government  
of South Australia

## 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.*

### bladder campion (*Silene vulgaris*)

Bladder campion is a deep rooted perennial of Eurasian origin. It is a weed of permanent pastures in the southern parts of the State of South Australia.

This policy summarises the requirements to manage bladder campion under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. It provides interpretation and best practice on how legislative requirements can be met.

### Management Plan for Bladder Campion

#### Outcomes

- Losses to arable and horticultural production from bladder campion competition prevented.

#### Objectives

- Control small high priority infestations according to regional management plans.
- Contain any large infestations that are found, pending their destruction.
- Prevent movement of contaminated soil or produce.

#### Best Practice Implementation

- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to ensure that priority infestations on private or public land are controlled.
- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to control priority infestations on road reserves.
- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to facilitate the management of larger infestations by extension information and action plans as necessary.
- To assist local control programs, the sale and movement of bladder campion is prohibited.

## Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action
Eyre Peninsula	Limited action
Green Adelaide	Monitor (assess impacts)
Hills and Fleurieu	Monitor (assess impacts)
Kangaroo Island	Contain spread - Regional alert
Limestone Coast	Protect sites
Murraylands and Riverland	Protect sites
Northern and Yorke	Monitor
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action

## Declaration

To implement this policy, bladder campion is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Its transport on a public road, by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant, are prohibited. Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide may require land owners to control bladder campion plants growing on their land. Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide are required to control plants on road reserves and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

Bladder campion is declared in category 2 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its movement 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 bladder campion on public roads. 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 bladder campion. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive of DEW.

The following sections of the Act apply to bladder campion 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									
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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## **Review**

This policy is to be reviewed by 2025, or in the event of a change in one or more regional management plans for bladder campion.

## **Weed Risk**

### Invasiveness

Bladder campion has high seed production for a perennial; anecdotal evidence suggests it is spread in crop and pasture seeds, hay, grain and by livestock. Most infestations appear to be clonal, because they form distinct circular patterns, indicating that spread by livestock and root fragments may be minimal.

### Impacts

Bladder campion impacts on pasture production although it can be grazed by livestock and is not known to be poisonous. It is an invader in uncompetitive pastures and crops, and also a nuisance in perennial horticulture where herbicides that destroy it cannot be used.

### Potential distribution

Infestations occur on sandy to heavy neutral to alkaline soils receiving annual rainfall from 350 to 600 mm; its present scattered distribution is likely to reflect limited opportunities for transport and establishment rather than its ecological limits.

## **Feasibility of Containment**

### Control costs

Bladder campion is suppressed rather than effectively controlled by phenoxy-acid herbicides, but is more sensitive to the sulfonyleurea group. It grows in uneven clumps which shield late-emerging shoots. For this reason, split applications of herbicide may be needed for effective control.

### Persistence

Bladder campion is a deep-rooted perennial, and is therefore not controlled by routine maintenance of perennial pastures. Unless addressed by a targeted control program it may persist indefinitely.

### Current distribution

Bladder campion is established in parts of the Limestone Coast, Murray Mallee and the Hills and Fleurieu. Isolated patches occur throughout the agricultural regions of the State but most are limited to less than one hectare.

## **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:

## bladder campion policy

Land use	Weed Risk	Feasibility of control	Response at State Level
Grazing - southern	medium 51	very high 8	contain spread alert
Perennial horticulture	low 25	high 27	monitor
Crop/pasture rotation	low 13	very high 1	monitor

### Considerations

Bladder campion was introduced as a cottage garden plant and has been established as a weed in the Mount Gambier area since the 1880s. It is recognised as a major weed in North America, but its full potential in South Australia is uncertain. Risk assessment indicates a management action at State level of containment only in the southern permanent grazing areas. While sale and movement are prohibited uniformly across the State, regional actions vary according to extent of this land use in each region.

The Limestone Coast, and Murraylands and Riverland regions aim to protect vulnerable sites from bladder campion. As it is not established on Kangaroo Island, it is treated as an alert species in that region to contain its spread. The weed is monitored in the Green Adelaide, Hills and Fleurieu, Northern and Yorke, and Eyre Peninsula regions. Only limited action is needed in the South Australian Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara regions, which have no habitats vulnerable to its impacts.

### Synonymy

*Silene vulgaris* (Moench)Garcke, Fl. N. Mitt.-Deutschland, ed. 9 64. (1869)

Basionym: *Behen vulgaris* Moench, Methodus (Moench) 709 (1794)

Taxonomic synonyms:

*Cucubalus alpinus* Lam., Encycl. (Lamarck) 2(1): 200 (1786)

*Cucubalus behen* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 414 (1753)

*Cucubalus inflatus* Salisb., Prodr. Stirp. Chap. Allerton 302 (1796)

*Cucubalus latifolius* Mill., Gard. Dict., ed. 8. n. 2 (1768)

*Silene cucubalus* Wibel, Prim. Fl. Werth 241 (1799)

*Silene inflata* (Salisb.)Sm., Fl. Brit. 467 (1800)

*Silene venosa* Asch., Fl. Brandenb. 1: 86 (1864)

*Silene wallichiana* Klotzsch, Bot. Ergebn. Reise Waldemar 139 (1862)

*Silene zawadskii* Fenzl, Del. Sem. Hort. Vindob. (1851)

Other common names include blue root and rattlebox.

Hon David Speirs MP  
**Minister for Environment and Water**

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