



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.

dune onion weed (*Trachyandra divaricata*)

Dune onion weed is a sand binding perennial of coastal dunes, introduced to South Australia from southern Africa.

Management Plan for Dune Onion Weed

Outcomes

- Native coastal vegetation protected from degradation by dune onion weed.

Objectives

- Prevent any further spread of dune onion weed in South Australia.

Best Practice Implementation

- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to record and monitor any infestations within coastal areas.
- To assist local control programs, any sale and movement to be prevented.
- Identification of the extent of dune onion weed infestations within the Green Adelaide region.
- Organise control of dune onion weed, including enforcement, where required to prevent spread and/or protect native vegetation within the active control area.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

dune onion weed policy

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

Declaration

To implement this policy, dune onion weed is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Its movement or transport on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant, are prohibited. The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and Green Adelaide may require land owners to destroy dune onion weed plants growing on their land. These authorities are required to control plants on road reserves in their regions, and may recover costs from adjoining land owners.

Dune onion weed is declared in category 3 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its road transport or sale can only be issued by the regional landscape boards or Green Adelaide 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 dune onion weed 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 dune onion weed. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water.

The following sections of the Act apply to dune onion weed throughout each of the regions noted below:

Region	AW	EP	GA	HF	KI	LC	MR	NY	SAAL
Sections of Act									
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			X	X					
192(2) Land owners to control the plant on their properties									
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves			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 dune onion weed.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Dune onion weed is perennial and reproduces by seed. Seed can be spread when dry plants break off and are rolled along beaches by the wind.

Impacts

Dune onion weed can be toxic to livestock, causing photosensitisation. This has occurred in Western Australia on coastal dunes that were used for pasturing cattle.

Potential distribution

The distribution of dune onion weed is most likely to be restricted to coastal sand dunes, as per its native habitat in South Africa.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Spot spraying scattered isolated plants can be an effective and relatively low cost method but requires follow up treatment.

Large and established infestation are difficult and expensive to control in the medium to long term. Where chemical control is not appropriate for large infestations, expensive control by hand pulling and disposal offsite may be required. Hand pulling across large areas must be done in stages and quickly followed by revegetation to stabilise the area, minimising erosion.

Persistence

Dune onion weed is perennial, and its seed is believed to remain viable for many years. Uprooted plants will regrow several weeks after pulling if the rootstock is covered again by the movement of sand.

Current distribution

Dune onion weed was established on the east coast of Eyre Peninsula, for example at Tumby Bay where it may no longer be present.

A limited number of isolated infestations of dune onion weed are located along the coast line of the Green Adelaide region. It is a recognised weed in several coastal management publications including being classified as a priority weed in the Henley South and West Beach Dune Reserve Management Plan, the Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan and the Metropolitan and Northern Coastal Action Plan.

Outside South Australia, dune onion weed is also well established on the coast of Western Australia.

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	low 16	very high 3	monitor

This assessment of low risk reflects the likely restricted potential distribution in South Australia to coastal dune environments.

Considerations

Dune onion weed is not deliberately sold or planted for any purpose in South Australia and would have little appeal as an ornamental plant. The infestations in the Green Adelaide region are believed to have been caused by revegetation with native plant seed collected from infested dunes on Eyre Peninsula.

The Green Adelaide and Hills and Fleurieu regions aim to contain spread of dune onion weed. In the remainder of the State the weed is monitored; sale and transport are prohibited in order to contain it to its current distribution.

Synonymy

Trachyandra divaricata (Jacq.) Kunth, Enum. Pl. 4: 580 (1843).

Basionym:

Anthericum divaricatum Jacq., Pl. Hort. Schoenbr. 4: 7 (1804).

Other common names include branched onion weed, strap weed and trachyandra.

References

Heyligers, P.C. (1999) Dispersal of exotic coastal dune plants *Gladiolus gueinzii* and *Trachyandra divaricata* in Australia. *Cunninghamia* 6: 315–329.

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water

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