

# Declared Plant Policy

## under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004



Government  
of South Australia

### Cape broom (*Genista monspessulana*)

Cape broom is a shrub that forms dense thickets, excluding native vegetation and providing cover for rabbits. It has become significant weed in the Mt Lofty Ranges region and some coastal localities.

#### Management Plan for Cape broom

##### Outcomes

- Prevent further spread of broom into bush and pasture
- Maintain the integrity of native vegetation.

##### Objectives

- High priority infestations of Cape broom in the control areas controlled.
- Larger infestations in these areas contained.
- No further spread of Cape broom to currently uninfested areas.

##### Implementation

- NRM authorities to control infestations on road reserves.
- NRM authorities and Chief Officer to enforce the prohibition on sale of plants of these broom species.
- NRM authorities in the active control areas to ensure all high priority infestations on private or public land are controlled.
- Infestations too large for immediate destruction in these areas to be the subject of plans for containment and progressive reduction by direct treatment or by encouraging regeneration of native vegetation as appropriate.

##### Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

NRM Region	Actions
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	Manage weed
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action
Eyre Peninsula	Protect sites
Kangaroo Island	Contain spread
Northern and Yorke	Protect sites
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action
South Australian Murray Darling Basin	Contain spread
South East	Protect sites

## Cape broom policy

### Declaration

To implement this policy, Cape broom is declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. The movement or transport of the plant on a public road, by itself or as a contaminant, or the sale by itself or as a contaminant is prohibited. NRM authorities in all regions except Alinytjara Wilurara and SA Arid Lands may require land owners to control Cape broom plants growing on their land. NRM authorities in these regions are required to control plants on road reserves, and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

Cape broom 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 Officer pursuant to section 188.

The following sections of the Act apply to Cape broom throughout each of the NRM regions noted below:

Sections of Act	Region							
	AMLR	AW	EP	KI	NY	SAAL	SAMDB	SE
175(1) Prohibiting entry to area								
175(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
177(1) Prohibiting sale of the plant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
177(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
180 Requiring notification of infestations								
182(1) Landowners to destroy the plant on their properties								
182(2) Landowners to control the plant on their properties	X		X	X	X		X	X
185 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves	X		X	X	X		X	X

### Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2020 or in the event of a change in one or more regional management plans for Cape broom.

### Weed Risk

#### Invasiveness

Cape broom is a leguminous shrub that grows rapidly after the first year and produces large quantities of hard seed.

Seed is scattered locally when the pods burst. Longer distance dispersal is due mainly to road graders and earthmoving equipment, or occasional contamination of fodder and farm machinery. Infestations are only found in regions where Cape broom has been used as an ornamental.

Germination occurs in autumn and spring after the seed coat has been damaged by fire or abrasion. Major disturbance, such as fire or partial clearing, is usually needed before Cape broom can establish in native vegetation, and most infestations begin on disturbed areas such as timber plantations, quarries and road construction sites.

## Cape broom policy

### Impacts

Cape broom forms dense thickets that exclude native shrubs, at least in the short term, and provide cover for rabbits and foxes. Being a leguminous shrub, it fixes nitrogen and consequently increases soil fertility providing a favourable habitat for other weeds to invade. Although stock will eat seedlings and thereby prevent encroachment into managed pasture, old broom infestations on neglected land can exclude stock and necessitate more expensive control measures to restore the land to production.

Cape broom is a fire hazard in wooded areas where it can form an inflammable understorey at the edge of forests where fires are most likely to start. The infestation of abandoned grazing paddocks on the periurban fringe by Cape broom thickets is also a fire hazard that increases the risk of bushfires moving into residential suburbs.

### Potential distribution

In SA, Cape broom infestations occur in areas receiving 400 mm to 950 mm annual rainfall. It is particularly common on roadsides and in woodland, and is of most concern in native woodlands of south-eastern Australia. It grows on a wide range of soils but does best on sandy soils.

It could be expected to grow in near-coastal and hill vegetation from southern Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Fleurieu Peninsula and Mount Lofty Ranges to the lower South East.

## **Feasibility of Containment**

### Control costs

Due to Cape broom's persistence, no single method gives complete control of broom thickets and the seed bank. A combination of methods is required for long-term control.

Sheep, goats and cattle eat Cape broom, particularly younger seedlings, and may suppress the development of infestations. Larger plants may need to be cut or slashed to allow stock better grazing access.

Several herbicides are registered in South Australia for use as a foliar application or as part of basal bark and cut stump application. Cutting seedlings at 5 to 10 cm high provides effective control of regenerating plants. Thickets can be slashed with a brush cutter and the regrowth sprayed with herbicide.

### Persistence

Cape broom produces up to 2000 seeds per plant annually. These are long lived in the soil with only a small proportion germinating at any time, and soil seed banks up to 50,000 seeds per square are formed.

### Current distribution

The current distribution of Cape broom in SA is much less than its potential distribution. The major infestations occur on the Fleurieu Peninsula and Adelaide Hills, but it extends to Kangaroo Island, the lower South East, the Mount Lofty Ranges as far north as Clare, and Melrose.

## 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	high 185	medium 48	protect sites
Forestry	low 34	medium 45	limited action

## Considerations

Cape broom was first proclaimed for a few Pest Plant Board areas in the Adelaide Hills in 1980. At that time, it was seen as a 'community pest plant' as its impacts are mainly on native vegetation.

Risk assessment indicates a management action at State level of protecting sites in native vegetation. Regional management plans vary according to regional habitats and presence of the weed. In the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region where the largest and longest-established infestations occur the weed is managed. Eyre Peninsula, South East and Northern and Yorke NRM regions protect sites. South Australian Murray Darling Basin and Kangaroo Island where Cape broom is relatively localised aim to contain spread.

Cape broom has been recognised as a Weed of National Significance and will be the subject of a national control strategy.

## Synonymy

*Genista monspessulana* ( L.) L.A.S.Johnson, Contr. N.S.W. Natl. Herb. 3: 98. (1962).

Basionym: *Cytisus monspessulanus* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 740. (1753).

Nomenclatural synonym:

*Teline monspessulana* (L.)K.Koch, Dendrologie 1:30. (1869).

Taxonomic synonyms:

*Genista candicans* L., Cent. Pl. 1: 22. (1755).

*Cytisus candicans* (L.)Lam., Fl. Franç. (Lamarck) 2: 623. (1779).

*Cytisus kunzeanus* Willk., in Willk. & Lange, Prod. Fl. Hisp. 3: 452 (1880).

Other common names include Montpellier broom, soft broom and French broom. It is sometimes called canary broom, but should not be confused with the real Canary Island broom, *Genista canariensis* which is not declared.

Hon Ian Hunter MP  
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and  
Conservation

Date: 28 July 2014