



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.

parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Parrot feather is a submerged aquatic plant growing from a rhizome in shallow fresh water. It has been introduced to South Australia as an aquarium plant.

Management Plan for Parrot Feather

Outcomes

- Protect the integrity of native riparian vegetation by preventing further spread and minimising the impacts of existing infestations.

Objectives

- Prevent the introduction of parrot feather to waterways and ponds.
- To assist local control programs, any sale and movement to be prevented.

Best Practice Implementation

- Landscape boards in the active control area to locate and prioritise any current infestations of parrot feather.
- These authorities to organise the control of priority infestations, where feasible.
- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to inspect pet shops, aquarium supplies and garden shops for any parrot feather on sale.
- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to inspect waterways and wetlands for the presence of aquatic weeds.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

| Region | Actions |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Alinytjara Wilurara | Prevent sale and movement |
| Eyre Peninsula | Prevent sale and movement |
| Green Adelaide | Prevent sale and movement |
| Hills and Fleurieu | Contain spread |
| Kangaroo Island | Prevent sale and movement |
| Limestone Coast | Prevent sale and movement |

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| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Murraylands and Riverland | Contain spread |
| Northern and Yorke | Prevent sale and movement |
| South Australian Arid Lands | Prevent sale and movement |

Declaration

To implement this policy, parrot feather 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. Green Adelaide and the Hills and Fleurieu and Murraylands and Riverland landscape boards may require land owners to control parrot feather on their land. These authorities are required to control any plants on road reserves in their regions.

Parrot feather 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 board 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 parrot feather 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 parrot feather. 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 parrot feather 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 | | |
| 194(1) 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 parrot feather.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Stems may float out over water surfaces to form dense tangled rafts of plant material, from which the emergent shoots arise to give an impenetrable mat. Small fragments of root easily

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establish in mud to form new colonies after being moved in water, by boats or in dumped aquarium waste. Vegetative propagation is the only means of dispersal as parrots feather does not produce seeds in Australia, being represented only by female clones.

Impacts

Parrot feather is found growing in shallow waters on muddy substrates. It interferes with the flow of water in streams, recreational freshwater fishing and other recreation. It competes with native aquatic plants for habitat.

Potential distribution

Parrot feather grows best in warm, shallow water and eutrophic conditions. It tolerates slightly brackish water to 3.3 ppt salinity.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Parrot feather is highly susceptible to herbicides, which are most effective when applied to young, actively-growing plants. Mechanical cutting is rarely effective because of its ability to regrow rapidly from shoot fragments.

Parrot feather resembles some of the native *Myriophyllum* species that grow fully submerged in water, and therefore new infestations might not be rapidly noticed.

Persistence

Parrot feather is noted for its ability to tolerate mechanical cutting, regrowing rapidly. In its native range it is kept under control by herbivorous fish and insects.

Current distribution

Parrot feather has been found in the Murray River near Murray Bridge.

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 |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aquatic (riparian) | medium 56 | very high 3 | contain spread |

Considerations

Parrot feather is a popular aquatic plant used in aquaria. The demand for it may lead to trading in Australia, including internet trade.

Risk assessment indicates a management action at State level of containment. This is implemented in the Hills and Fleurieu and Murraylands and Riverland regions where infestations may be present. Limited action is required in other regions where there is little or no vulnerable habitat.

Synonymy

Myriophyllum aquaticum (Vell.) Verdc., Kew Bull. 28: 36 (1973).

Basionym:

Enhydria aquatica Vell., Fl. Flumin. 1: 57, t. 150 (1829).

Nomenclatural synonyms:

Myriophyllum brasiliense Cambess., Fl. Bras. Merid. 2: 252 (1830).

Myriophyllum proserpinacoides Gillies ex Hook. & Arn., Bot. Misc. 3: 313 (1833).

Other common names include Brazilian water milfoil, diamond milfoil and thread of life.

Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

Date: 28 March 2021