



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.

white weeping brooms (*Retama raetam* and *Retama monosperma*)

The weeping white brooms are shrubs from the Mediterranean basin that are planted as ornamentals and encroach into native vegetation.

Management Plan for White Weeping Brooms

Outcome

- Maintain the integrity of native vegetation by minimising invasion and impacts of white weeping broom, and preventing further spread.

Objectives

- Identification of the full extent of white weeping broom infestations in the active control areas.
- High priority infestations of white weeping broom in the control areas controlled.
- Increase awareness about the impacts of white weeping broom
- No further spread of white weeping broom to currently uninfested areas.

Best Practice Implementation

- All regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to enforce the prohibition on sale of white weeping broom.
- Regional landscape boards in the active control areas to inspect, map and monitor infestations of white weeping broom in coastal and native vegetation.
- Regional landscape boards in the active control areas to ensure high priority infestations on private or public land are controlled.
- Regional landscape boards in the active control areas to control infestations on road reserves.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

white weeping brooms policy

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action - prohibit sale
Eyre Peninsula	Contain spread
Green Adelaide	Limited action - prohibit sale
Hills and Fleurieu	Limited action - prohibit sale
Kangaroo Island	Limited action - prohibit sale
Limestone Coast	Destroy infestations
Murraylands and Riverland	Contain spread
Northern and Yorke	Limited action - prohibit sale
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action - prohibit sale

Declaration

To implement this policy, white weeping broom is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* 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, its entry to South Australia, or the sale by itself or as a contaminant, are prohibited.

The Alinytjara Wilurara, Eyre Peninsula, Limestone Coast, and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Boards may require land owners to control white weeping broom plants growing on their land. These four landscape boards are required to control plants on road reserves in their regions and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

White weeping broom is declared in category 3 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its entry, 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 white weeping broom 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 white weeping broom. 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 white weeping broom 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	X	X				X	X		
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves	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 white weeping brooms.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

White weeping broom reproduces from seed. Each plant produces hundreds of seed pods and up to thousands of seeds on larger plants. The seeds drop close to the parent when the seed pods split open, but can be spread short distances by rainwater running off. Seed may be eaten by animals including rabbits and hares, and germinate after being passed some distance away.

Impacts

White weeping broom competes with native shrubs in coastal vegetation, mallee and some other vegetation types. It is unpalatable to grazing stock.

Potential distribution

It invades nutrient-poor to fertile, well-drained soils where it has an advantage as a nitrogen-fixing species. White weeping broom has a high tolerance to drought and frost, moderate fire and salt tolerance, but low tolerance to waterlogging. It could grow in most coastal shrublands and woodlands on sandy soils, and some similar habitats inland in the southern part of the State.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

No herbicides are registered for control of white weeping broom. In the case of other exotic brooms chemical control is effective in the short term but is expensive and needs to be followed up for many years until the seed bank has been depleted. With any herbicide use there is also a risk of damage to non-target species.

Physical removal is an option for isolated plants, especially if they have not seeded. Seedlings may be hand pulled or cut and the stumps poisoned or dug out. However, bulldozing can cause massive soil disturbance and consequent dispersal of seeds.

Fire effectively kills white weeping broom and can help to break seed dormancy. Experience using fire to control other species of broom indicates that it kills a large proportion of seeds but lightly scorched plants may re-sprout. Follow-up chemical treatment after fire will probably be needed for many years until the seed bank is depleted.

Persistence

White weeping broom has hard seeds, and large seed banks accumulate in the soil under infestations.

Current distribution

Both species of white weeping broom are scattered at coastal sites from Streaky Bay to Southend and also around some towns in the agricultural zone as far north as Peterborough. Its distribution is discontinuous, depending on where they have been planted.

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 177	very high 14	destroy infestations alert

Considerations

The two species of white weeping broom are native to northern Africa, the Mediterranean coasts and the Middle East. They have been widely planted as ornamental shrubs since being introduced to South Australia in 1845, and were first noted as naturalised in 1906.

Risk assessment indicates a management action at State level of destroying infestations in native vegetation. While sale and movement are prohibited uniformly across the State, regional actions vary according to the presence of the plant in each region.

Infestations of white weeping broom are contained in the Eyre Peninsula and Murraylands and Riverland regions, and destroyed in the Limestone Coast region. In other regions, action is limited to enforcing the prohibition on sale.

Synonymy

Retama raetam Webb & Berthel., Hist. Nat. Îles Canaries 2: 56. 1842

Nomenclatural synonyms:

Genista raetam Forssk., Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 214. 1775

Lygos raetam (Forssk.) Heyw., Feddes Repert. 79: 53. 1968

Taxonomic synonym:

Retama duriaei (Spach) Webb, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 2, 20: 279 1843

Retama monosperma (L.) Boiss., Voy. Bot. Espagne 2: 144. 1840

Nomenclatural synonyms:

Spartium monospermum L., Sp. Pl. 2: 708. 1753

Lygos monosperma (L.) Heyw., Feddes Repert. 79: 53. 1968

Taxonomic synonym:

Retama rhodorhizoides Webb & Berthel., Hist. Nat. Iles Canaries (Phytogr.) 3 (pt. 2, sect. 2, livr. 62): 54. 1842

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Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

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