



## **Policy**

### **Saffron thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*)**

#### **Background**

Saffron thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*) is widespread throughout the cropping areas of the State and there appear to be no areas within its ecological limits that are free of the weed. The plant is now relatively easily dealt with in crops and grazing areas. There are currently 12 cereal herbicides available in South Australia to control saffron thistle and a cost effective method has been found to deal with the problem in grazing areas. This is based on spray topping with paraquat. In addition, there are strong incentives to control the weed in cereal crops as penalties are incurred if it is found in grain delivered to Australian Wheat Board or Australian Barley Board.

There is a strong case for allowing the cost/benefit to farmers to be the sole incentive for controlling saffron thistle.

#### **Discussion**

Animal and Plant Control Boards generally did not comment on the proposed deletion in 1990 of saffron thistle from the classes to be controlled.

The boards commenting wanted to keep enforcement powers, where in most cases there was no control policy in place. In several cases local boards wanted to enforce control on farmland where the land use had changed, perhaps to recreational farming. It is unlikely that enforced control on these areas would benefit the wider community.

#### **Co-ordinated Control Program**

None.

#### **Declaration**

Saffron thistle is not declared, and no sections of the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004* apply to it.