



## ***Caulerpa taxifolia*** **Update- March 2006**

Surveys to investigate the distribution of *Caulerpa taxifolia* in the Port River were completed during mid 2005. New populations were found to have established in a range of areas downstream away from the original sites of infestations (see *Caulerpa* infestations areas map below). Additional surveys are expected to commence in the next few months.

Based on the density and size of known populations, it is now considered highly unlikely that the weed can be eradicated completely from South Australian waters.

PIRSA is now investigating long-term options to control the weed and minimise the risk of spread. In the interim, PIRSA has contracted commercial divers to remove fringing populations with a portable suction device to minimise the potential spread of the weed.

In addition, an ecological risk assessment for the South Australian strain of the weed is currently being developed. When finished, it will provide an indication of how far the weed may spread and what likely impacts can be expected.

### ***Anchoring Ban***

*Caulerpa taxifolia* can survive out of water for many days and grow from very small fragments. This provides it with the ability to be spread over long distances by boating activity, especially anchoring. Should a boat anchor in Port River one weekend, collect a piece of the weed on its anchor which is then deposited in the anchor-well, this piece of weed can survive until the following weekend to be deposited in another area and establish a new infestation. Consequently, the area where the weed was known to be growing has been closed to anchoring (see Areas closed to anchoring map below).

### ***Dredging Program***

Concern has been expressed regarding the recent dredging program in the Outer Harbour area and its potential to spread *Caulerpa taxifolia* into Gulf St Vincent via dredge spoil. This is unlikely as the area dredged was from near Berth 8 out to sea. Prior to dredging, the area was thoroughly surveyed and no weed was found growing. The nearest established populations of the weed are found near the Torrens Island quarantine station, about three kilometres away from the dredging site.

To minimise the risk of drift weed being taken onboard the dredge, a broad trench was excavated across the Port River near Berth 8 to collect any drift weed, which tends to sink quickly and roll along the seafloor. Material that had drifted into the trench was removed on a regular basis by a large suction device and pumped into a settlement pond on shore. In addition, a regular beam trawling program was also conducted in the area to collect drift material in the vicinity of the trench.



**Topography**

- Main road
- Secondary road
- Track
- Railway
- Breakwater
- Jetty
- Channel

- Known areas of Caulerpa infestation
- Reserve
- Mangrove

2 Kilometres  
Datum GDA 94 - Projection Zone 54

**Port Adelaide River  
CAULERPA  
INFESTATION AREAS**

