

# Declared Plant Policy

## under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004



Government  
of South Australia

### 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.

##### Implementation

- NRM authorities in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and SA Murray Darling Basin NRM regions to locate and prioritise any current infestations of parrot feather.
- NRM authorities in these regions to organise control of priority infestations.
- NRM authorities in all regions to inspect pet shops, aquarium supplies and garden shops for any parrot feather on sale.

##### Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

NRM Region	Actions
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	contain spread
Alinytjara Wilurara	prevent sale and movement
Eyre Peninsula	prevent sale and movement
Kangaroo Island	prevent sale and movement
Northern and Yorke	prevent sale and movement
South Australian Arid Lands	prevent sale and movement
South Australian Murray Darling Basin	contain spread
South East	prevent sale and movement

## Declaration

To implement this policy, parrot feather 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. In the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and South Australian Murray Darling Basin NRM regions, NRM authorities may require land owners to control parrot feather on their land. NRM authorities in these regions are required to control any plants on road reserves.

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 movement or sale can only be issued by the regional NRM Board pursuant to section 188.

The following sections of the Act apply to parrot feather 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	
185(1) Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves								

## Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2020, 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 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.

## parrot feather policy

### 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:

<b>Land use</b>	<b>Weed Risk</b>	<b>Feasibility of control</b>	<b>Response at State Level</b>
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 Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and SA Murray Darling Basin NRM 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:

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

parrot feather policy

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 Ian Hunter MLC  
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and  
Conservation

Date: 5 January 2017