



Government  
of South Australia

## Declared Plant Policy

### 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 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.

##### Implementation

- Biosecurity SA to publicise the status of white weeping broom as a declared plant, and its impacts.
- Natural Resources Management (NRM) authorities throughout South Australia to enforce the prohibition on sale of white weeping broom.
- NRM authorities in the active control areas to inspect, map and monitor infestations of white weeping broom in coastal and native vegetation.
- NRM authorities in the active control areas to ensure all high priority infestations on private or public land are controlled.
- NRM authorities 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

NRM Region	Actions
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	limited action - prohibit sale
Alinytjara Wilurara	destroy infestations
Eyre Peninsula	contain spread
Kangaroo Island	limited action - prohibit sale
Northern and Yorke	limited action - prohibit sale
South Australian Arid Lands	limited action - prohibit sale
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin	contain spread
South East	destroy infestations

### Declaration

To implement this policy, white weeping broom 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, its entry to South Australia, or the sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited.

NRM authorities in the Alinytjara Wilurara, Eyre Peninsula, South Australian Murray-Darling Basin and South East NRM regions may require land owners to control white weeping broom plants growing on their land. NRM authorities in these regions are required to control plants on road reserves 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 movement or sale can only be issued by the regional NRM Board pursuant to section 188.

The following sections of the Act apply to white weeping broom 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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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				X	X
185 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves		X	X				X	X

### Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2020, 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 South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM regions, and destroyed in the South East. The Alinytjara Wilurara NRM would destroy any infestations in the event of the plant occurring in that 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

*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

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