



Policy

Camelthorn (*Alhagi maurorum*)

Background

Camelthorn (*Alhagi maurorum*) was an accidental introduction first noticed in 1922 at Bundaleer. Being a drought-resistant, spiny, deep-rooted shrub it was declared noxious for the whole State in 1939 after further populations were found, and continued on schedule 2 under the *Weeds Act, 1956*, the *Pest Plants Act, 1975*, and the *Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act, 1986*.

As camelthorn is a summer-growing species it is adapted only to very restricted habitats in this State, and has proved unable to spread rapidly. It does not seed every year, is grazed by cattle in the growing season, and most infestations have been destroyed since picloram came into use.

The major remaining populations of camelthorn in 1990 were:

- (i) on industrial land in the suburb of Wingfield, from which no spread to productive land can occur, where it is gradually being eliminated by urban development;
- (ii) on irrigated fruit blocks and roadsides at Waikerie and Morgan, where no herbicide treatment is possible;
- (iii) on floodout land at the mouth of the Broughton River, where it grows on unproductive land among boxthorn and other declared plants.

Co-ordinated Control Program

None

Declaration

Camelthorn is not declared under any section of the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004*.