



## **Policy** poverty weed (*Iva axillaris*)

### **Background**

Poverty weed (*Iva axillaris*) is a summer-growing perennial which was first recorded in SA in 1933. The plant spreads by outward growth of its root system and by sprouting from root fragments transported during cultivation. It is able to survive on severely salted, alkaline and overgrazed land and under these conditions competes with any remaining desirable plants; it is unpalatable but not poisonous.

The only infestations of *Iva* in this State, at Riverton and Sevenhill, were eradicated over 25 years ago and have not reappeared.

The other infestations in Australia are restricted to a few small patches in Victoria. These rarely produce viable seed (Pritchard, 1987). Control was regarded as difficult (Parsons, 1973) but can be achieved by repeated treatments with clopyralid or picloram (Pritchard, 1987).

The name “poverty weed” or “poverty bush” has also been applied to various native species of *Sclerolaena*.

### **Discussion**

Poverty weed is extinct in this State and has not become established here, implying that it has little potential as a weed in South Australian environments.

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

No program necessary. Previously infested sites will be monitored.

### **Declaration**

No sections of the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004*, apply to poverty weed.