Declared Plant Policy

Desert Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*)

Desert ash is a deciduous tree that has been widely planted in South Australia and is now naturalised in some high-rainfall areas.

Management Plan for Desert Ash

Outcomes

- Protect native vegetation from further invasion by desert ash.

Objectives

- Achieve control of existing desert ash infestations that threaten priority native vegetation in the control area.
- Prevent further spread of desert ash within the Kangaroo Island region.

Implementation

- Natural Resources Management (NRM) authorities in the control area to record and monitor desert ash infestations near priority sites.
- NRM authorities in the control area to organise control of desert ash infestations in or near priority native vegetation and riparian sites, with enforcement actions as necessary.
- Biosecurity SA to publicise the status of desert ash as a declared plant, and its impacts.
- NRM authorities and Chief Officer to enforce the prohibition on sale of desert ash.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NRM Region</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges</td>
<td>protect sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alinytjara Wilurara</td>
<td>limited action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyre Peninsula</td>
<td>limited action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroo Island</td>
<td>contain spread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern and Yorke</td>
<td>limited action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australian Arid Lands</td>
<td>limited action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australian Murray-Darling Basin</td>
<td>limited action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>manage weed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Declaration

To implement this policy, desert ash is declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Sale is prohibited throughout...
Desert Ash policy

the State. NRM authorities in the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island NRM regions may require land owners to control desert ash 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.

Desert ash is declared in category 3 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its sale can only be issued by the regional NRM Board pursuant to section 188.

The following sections of the Act apply to desert ash throughout each of the NRM regions noted below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections of Act</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>175(1) Prohibiting entry to area</td>
<td>AMLR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads</td>
<td>AW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177(1) Prohibiting sale of the plant</td>
<td>EP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods</td>
<td>KI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 Requiring notification of infestations</td>
<td>NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>182(1) Landowners to destroy the plant on their properties</td>
<td>SAAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>182(2) Landowners to control the plant on their properties</td>
<td>SAMDB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>185 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves</td>
<td>SE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Declaration does not include the cultivar *Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood', known as claret ash.

**Review**

This policy is to be reviewed by 2020, or in the event of a change in one or more regional management plans for desert ash.

**Weed Risk**

**Invasiveness**

Each desert ash tree produces a large amount of seed which is dispersed short distances by wind and may be carried further by water. It also sends out suckers that can form dense thickets.

**Impacts**

Desert ash can form dense thickets that may become impenetrable, and exclude native regeneration. As with other deciduous trees growing along streams, the leaf fall of desert ash in autumn produces a sudden flush of nutrients that reduces water quality.

**Potential distribution**

Desert ash requires at least 450 mm annual rainfall, providing a reliable water supply while it is in leaf from early spring to autumn. It tolerates a range of soils including moderately calcareous ones. It is likely to be restricted to stream banks and gullies in the higher rainfall regions of South Australia.
Desert Ash policy

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Large trees are expensive to remove, but hazardous to simply poison and leave standing. The size of mature desert ash makes them difficult to control and remove in both native vegetation and riparian situations.

General tree-killing herbicides are registered for use but there are no selective herbicide treatments.

Persistence

Desert ash trees are likely to be long-lived, regenerate by seed or stump shoots and to form permanent stands that prevent the unaided establishment of native trees.

Current distribution

Naturalised in settled areas of South Australia south of Port Augusta, mainly in towns but invading native vegetation in the Adelaide Hills and lower South East. On Kangaroo Island it is restricted to two sites at Hogs Bay Road and Kingscote.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land use</th>
<th>Weed Risk</th>
<th>Feasibility of control</th>
<th>Response at State Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native vegetation</td>
<td>low 16</td>
<td>high 16</td>
<td>monitor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Considerations

Desert ash is native to Mediterranean Europe and south west Asia, where it occurs in deciduous scrub and forest, including rocky places, floodplains and streams.

Risk assessment indicates a management action at State level of monitoring in native vegetation. However, the local weed risk of desert ash in high rainfall areas is higher, up to 152 in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region where a strategy of protecting high priority sites is justified. The Kangaroo Island NRM region aims to contain spread since it is localised there. The South East NRM region has a strategy of management but does not require enforced control. In other regions, action is limited to enforcing the prohibition on sale.

The cultivar *Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood' is an iconic South Australian tree that does not spread from seed.
### Synonymy

_Fraxinus angustifolia_ Vahl, Enum. Pl. [Vahl] 1: 52. 1804

Taxonomic synonyms:

- Fraxinus rotundifolia Mill., Gard. Dict., ed. 8. n. 2. 1768

_Fraxinus angustifolia_ includes several subspecies in its native range which have sometimes been treated as species. All subspecies, including oxycarpa, are included in the declaration.