



Policy

Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Background

Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) was introduced as an ornamental, was growing at the Adelaide Botanic Garden in 1871, and had been recorded as a garden escape in the south-east by 1917. Due to its toxic properties it was declared a noxious weed for all parts of the State under the *Noxious Weeds Act, 1931-39*. Under the *Pest Plants Act, 1975*, and the Animal and Plant Control Act 1986-89 it was proclaimed for only a few board areas.

It has never been a weed of cultivation, but occurs as small patches on waste ground, roadsides and neglected pastures as well as in gardens where it was originally planted.

Hemlock is restricted to the high rainfall regions of the State; within these areas it is an established weed that has reached its ecological limits. It is not an aggressive species, having no effective means of long-range dispersal of its seeds, and is easily controlled by herbicides or cultivation. Therefore it does not conform to the criteria for proclamation under the Act.

Hemlock is most prominent as an urban weed. On public land and reserves it can be controlled by councils without the use of any sections of the Animal and Plant Control Act. Its toxicity cannot be classed as a significant problem for primary production as it is unpalatable and does not invade established pastures.

Co-ordinated Control Program

None.

Declaration

Hemlock is no longer declared for any part of the State; no sections of the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004*, apply to it.