

# Pest Plant and Animal Control Policy



# Pest Plant and Animal Control Policy Statement

Controlling existing pest species while minimising the risk of new pest threats are critical for reducing impacts to agricultural productivity, biodiversity and human health. This policy provides guidance to land managers, Landscape Board staff and other relevant stakeholders in regard to their responsibilities for pest animal and plant control under the *Landscape South Australia Act, 2019*. The policy also identifies the priority pest animals and plants for the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board region (the region), and nominates a level of control for pest management. The policy further outlines the principles the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (the Board) will consider when issuing or refusing permits for the movement, sale and possession of a declared pest animal or plant.

## An individual's responsibilities for pest animal and plant control

Part 9 of the Act sets out the requirements for the control of pest animal and plants in South Australia. Under Section 185 of the Act, the Minister may declare a class of animal or plant that requires specific control within the State or specific area of the State.

Once a pest animal or plant is declared, the type of controls that may be prescribed for the region or State include:

- Prevent the movement of a declared animal or plant as per Section 186 of the Act;
- Prevent the possession of a declared animal or plant as per Section 187 of the Act;
- Prevent the sale of a declared animal or plant, and prevent the sale of a product containing a declared plant or animal as per Section 188 of the Act;
- Prevent the sale of a contaminated item(s) containing a declared plant or animal as per Section 188 of the Act;
- Prevent the release of a declared animal or plant as per Section 189 of the Act;
- A requirement to notify the Board of the presence of a declared animal or plant as per Section 190 of the Act;
- A requirement to control a declared animal or plant in accordance with the instruction of an authorised officer as per Section 191 of the Act; and
- A requirement to destroy or control a declared animal or plant as per Section 192 of the Act.

It is the individual's responsibility to comply with these statutory requirements as they apply to a declared pest species. Failure to comply with these provisions may involve penalties. Please visit the Biosecurity SA website ([www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity)) for the latest information on declared pest animal and plants, and which statutory requirements apply for the region. Regional information is also contained on the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board website.

A compliance intervention may become necessary when an individual is unwilling to destroy or control a declared pest animal or plant, and is in breach of subsections 192(1),(2) or (3) of the Act. In these instances the following order of actions will be implemented:

1. The Board or delegate to pursue the individual to implement voluntary action to destroy or control the pest species of concern.
2. The Board or delegate may issue an order (an action order) under section 193 of the Act, requiring the owner of the land to control the pest species of concern.

## Control of priority pest animals and plants

To guide pest control across a large geographical area with limited resources, a risk assessment was undertaken by staff of the Board to determine the region's priority pest animal and plant species (Table 2). This risk assessment was guided by the South Australian Weed Risk Management Guide, which involves:

- An assessment of the relative risk of pest species;
- An assessment of the feasibility for the pest's control; and then
- Assigns a level of pest control based on the pest's assessment scores (Please refer to Table 1 to understand level of pest control).

To accommodate future change and/or local and land use considerations, the Pest Management Plans available on the [Board's website](#) will be used as latest information for required level of pest control within the region. To avoid any doubt, the Pest Management Plans take precedence over the information contained in Table 2.

### Pest control on road reserves

Under subsection 192(8) of the Act, the Board is responsible for destroying or controlling declared pest animals and plants on road reserves within the Region. In addition, the Board may recover costs for pest control on road reserves from each adjoining landholder as per Section 194 of the Act.

To maintain an adequate level of pest control across the region's vast network of road reserves while limiting potential financial impacts on adjoining landholders, the Board will focus pest control on species with the greatest potential to spread and cause adverse impacts. To guide this, the following principles apply:

1. Pest species that are identified as 'eradicate' or 'destroy' in Table 1 or within a Pest Management Plan, will be destroyed by a delegate of the Board if pest species are located within a road reserve.
2. Pest species that are identified as 'contain' or 'protect sites' in Table 2 or within a Pest Management Plan, will be controlled by a delegate of the Board if pest species are located within a road reserve.
3. Pest species that are identified as 'manage', 'monitor' or 'limited action' in Table 1 or within a Pest Management Plan, will be controlled when there is evidence of a significant increase in the pest's distribution or the pest is causing adverse impacts as a result of the road reserve infestation.

It is important to note that the recovery of pest control costs will be considered on case-by-case basis.

It is important to note that the risk assessment was conducted at a regional level using a generalised land use, however there are instances when a pest species pose a greater or lesser risk for a local area and/or specific land use. There is also the potential that the

relative pest risk and/or the feasibility of control will change in the future from what was assigned in Table 2. For both these instances the required level of pest control may be escalated or downgraded.

Table 1 – Control actions in order of priority

Category	Aim	Controls
Alert	to prevent new pest species of significant threat from arriving and establishing in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prevent entry into the region and prevent the movement, sale and possession of pest species</li> <li>b. Ongoing surveillance for incursions of new pest species</li> <li>c. Report incursions of alert species to enable early eradication. For the latest information of alert species visit the Biosecurity SA website</li> <li>d. Conduct awareness raising activities to enable early detection</li> </ul>
Eradicate	to remove the pest animal and plant species from the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Detailed surveillance and mapping to locate all distributions</li> <li>b. Destroy all pest plant infestations including seed banks, or destroy all pest animal populations including juveniles</li> <li>c. Prevent entry into region and prevent the movement, sale and possession of pest species</li> <li>d. Remove all cultivated plants and prevent plantings</li> <li>e. Monitor progress towards eradication</li> </ul>
Destroy	to significantly reduce the extent of the pest animal and plant species in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Detailed surveillance and mapping to locate all distributions</li> <li>b. Destroy all populations, aiming for local eradication where feasible</li> <li>c. Prevent entry into region and prevent the movement, sale and possession of pest species</li> <li>d. Consider quarantine provisions and prevent plantings</li> <li>e. Monitor progress towards reduction</li> </ul>
Contain	to prevent the ongoing spread of the pest animal and plant species in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Detailed surveillance and mapping to locate all distributions</li> <li>b. Enforce control of all populations, aiming for a significant reduction in pest density</li> <li>c. Prevent entry, movement, sale and possession of pest species unless under permit conditions</li> <li>d. Monitor change in current distribution</li> </ul>
Protect sites	to prevent spread of the pest species to key assets of high economic, environmental and/or social value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Locate distributions and assess the pest’s ability to migrate to key assets in the region</li> <li>b. Enforce control of populations in close proximity to key assets, aiming for a significant reduction in pest density</li> <li>c. Prevent entry, movement, sale and possession unless under permit conditions</li> <li>d. Monitor change in current distribution within and in close proximity to key assets</li> </ul>
Manage species/sites	to reduce the overall economic, environmental and/or social impacts of the pest animal and plant species through targeted management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Research and develop integrated pest animal management (IPM) packages for the species, including chemical and biological control where feasible</li> <li>b. Promote IPM packages to landholders</li> <li>c. Monitor decrease in pest animal and plant impacts with improved management</li> <li>d. Identify key sites/assets in the region and provide adequate resources to manage the pest animal and plant species</li> </ul>

Category	Aim	Controls
Monitor	to detect any significant changes in the pest risk	a. Monitor the spread of the species and review any perceived changes in pest risk
Limited action	take no action unless local pest spreads to a land use where the pest is a higher priority	a. Undertake control measures if required for the benefit of other land uses at risk b. Provide limited advice to landholders

Table 2– Risk matrix for priority declared pest animals and plants for the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board region\*

		Feasibility of control		
		High	Medium	Low
Relative Pest Risk	High ALERT	<b>Eradicate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffel Grass</li> <li>• White Weeping Broom</li> <li>• Pig</li> </ul>	<b>Contain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridal Veil</li> <li>• Bathurst Burr</li> <li>• Boneseed</li> <li>• Carrion Flower</li> <li>• Fountain Grass</li> <li>• Hoary Cress</li> <li>• Innocent Weed</li> <li>• Khaki Weed</li> <li>• <i>Opuntia</i> sp.</li> <li>• Horse/Donkey</li> </ul>	<b>Manage Species</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Boxthorn</li> <li>• Aleppo Pine</li> <li>• Bridal Creeper</li> <li>• Caltrop</li> <li>• Gazania</li> <li>• Horehound</li> <li>• Italian Buckthorn</li> <li>• Cat</li> <li>• Deer</li> <li>• Fox</li> <li>• Goat</li> <li>• Mouse</li> <li>• Pigeon</li> <li>• Rabbit</li> <li>• Starling</li> </ul>
	Medium	<b>Destroy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Love Grass</li> <li>• Bifora</li> <li>• Creeping Knapweed</li> <li>• Cut-leaf Mignonette</li> <li>• Yellow-burr Weed</li> <li>• Camel</li> <li>• Wild Dog / Dingo</li> </ul>	<b>Protect Sites</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bladder Campion</li> <li>• Gorse</li> <li>• Polygala</li> <li>• Silver-leaf Nightshade</li> <li>• Salvation Jane</li> <li>• Three-horned Bedstraw</li> </ul>	<b>Manage Sites</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lincoln Weed</li> <li>• Olive</li> <li>• Skeleton Weed</li> <li>• Three Corner Jack</li> </ul>
	Low	<b>Monitor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog Rose</li> </ul>	<b>Limited Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackberry</li> <li>• False Caper</li> </ul>	

\*For latest assessment of priority pests please see Pest Management Plans on the [Board's website](#).

## Permits for the movement, sale or possession of a pest animal or plant

The Board as a relevant authority under the Act for pest animal and plant control, may issue a permit to allow the sale, import to the region, or road transport of a Category 3 declared animal(s) or plant(s) as per subsection 197(1) of the Act. The Board can also make recommendations to the Chief Executive on the issuing of permits for the sale, import or road transport of a Category 1 or 2 declared plant, or for the sale, movement or keeping of a declared animal.

In these instances the Board will consider the following principles for issuing or refusing a permit:

1. A permit is unlikely to be granted for the proposed movement, sale or possession of a pest animal or plant if:
  - a. identified as an alert pest species on the [Biosecurity SA website](#); or
  - b. identified as 'eradicate' or 'destroy' within Table 2 or a Pest Management Plan.
2. Subject to Principle 1, a permit is likely to be granted for the proposed movement, sale or possession of a pest animal or plant identified as 'contain' or 'protect' within Table 2 or a Pest Management Plan.
3. A permit application for pest animal and plant identified as 'contain' or 'protect' within Table 2 or pest management plan must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board or delegate that it will not increase the distribution or abundance of a pest animal(s) or plant(s) beyond what is proposed in the application.
4. A permit application for the possession of a pest animal(s) or plant(s) must:
  - a. detail the management practice(s) to prevent impact(s) to the property where the possession of a pest animal(s) or plant(s) is proposed to be located; and
  - b. demonstrate no impact to surrounding properties.
5. A permit application for the movement of a pest animal(s) or plant(s) must:
  - a. detail how the pest species is to be transported; and
  - b. demonstrate how the pest species is to be enclosed to prevent any spread or escape.
6. A permit application for the sale of a pest animal or plant must include an agreement between the vendor and purchaser in how the pest animal(s) or plant(s) is to be controlled once the sale is finalised.
7. The applicant may be required to prepare and provide a risk management plan to the satisfaction of the Board or delegate.
8. The risk management plan must assess and address the risks involved with the movement, sale or possession of a pest animal or plant.
9. The risk management plan may require the inclusion of monitoring arrangements for the applicant to undertake.
10. The Board or delegate may request the applicant to resubmit the risk management plan if risks or monitoring arrangements are inadequately addressed.
11. The Board may refuse a permit application if the applicant fails to address principles within this section.
12. The Board may specify conditions on the permit as per section 197(3) of Act.
13. For the purposes of this section, the Pest Management Plans take precedence over information contained in Table 2 if there is any discrepancy.

## Impact-causing native animals

The Landscape Act outlines a new general function of the Board to assist with the management of native animals that adversely affect the natural or built environments, people or primary production or other industries, or to facilitate action to mitigate or manage the impact of those native animals. The Board will undertake a review of current impacts of native animals within the region to inform the development and adoption of a clear strategy to deliver the following initiatives:

1. supporting educational initiatives; or
2. identifying or promoting mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs to manage the native animals; or
3. supporting other steps or action to improve the management of native animals; or
4. providing information about the management of native animals in these circumstances.

## Reference

<sup>1</sup> Virtue JG (2008), *South Australian Weed Risk Management Guide*, the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.



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