

Native Vegetation Council Guideline

Clearance of *Acacia longifolia* in the South East NRM Region under Regulation 5(1)(zj)

Native Vegetation Information Sheet No.20

February 2014

THIS GUIDELINE RELATES TO ALL FORMS OF *ACACIA LONGIFOLIA* – COASTAL WATTLE, SALLOW WATTLE AND THEIR HYBRIDS

BACKGROUND

Historical evidence suggests that the only form of *Acacia longifolia* present in the South East of South Australia at the time of European settlement was Coastal Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* var. *sophorae*). At that time, Coastal Wattle appears to have had a very limited distribution, being sparsely dispersed in some of the primary dunes closest to the coast.

Sallow Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* var. *longifolia*) is a form of *Acacia longifolia* from Australia's east coast and was brought into cultivation as an ornamental soon after settlement.

Both Coastal Wattle and Sallow Wattle have subsequently been distributed widely into new parts of Australia (and the world) through the nursery trade and through revegetation and soil stabilisation programs.

Because Sallow Wattle and Coastal Wattle are closely related forms of the same species and have been brought into close proximity in many areas (including the South East) they have been able to readily hybridise. The hybrids appear to be particularly vigorous. Additionally, both Coastal and Sallow Wattles (and their hybrids) also readily hybridise with other indigenous *Acacia* in the South East, such as Spike Wattle (*Acacia oxycedrus*).

NATIVE VEGETATION COUNCIL GUIDELINE

The Native Vegetation Council (NVC) has considered the management of *Acacia longifolia* and consulted with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) to develop the following guideline for the management of *Acacia longifolia* in the South East NRM Region.

1. While its distribution and extent have changed dramatically since settlement, Coastal Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* var. *sophorae*) is considered to be a plant indigenous to the coastal dune environment in the South East NRM region and, as such, control of Coastal Wattle in coastal dunes specifically is not subject to this guideline – see map opposite.

Approval for the control of Coastal Wattle in dunes is therefore subject to the regular processes for clearance of native vegetation as administered under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*. A well-justified case to control Coastal Wattle in dunes may be permitted by the NVC within an approved management plan.

2. Subject to any other Act or Regulation, all forms of *Acacia longifolia* (Coastal Wattle, Sallow Wattle and their hybrids) may be cleared without specific consent from the NVC provided that
 - the clearance does not consist of Coastal Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* var. *sophorae*) in coastal dunes (consistent with point 1);
 - the methods used are in accordance with those approved in this guideline; and
 - the approval of the landowner has been obtained.

Clearance of regrowth beyond these parameters must be referred to the NVC Secretariat, DEWNR – phone 8303 9777 or email nvc@sa.gov.au – and is not to proceed under this guideline unless endorsed by the Secretariat.



APPROVED REMOVAL METHODS

Management of *Acacia longifolia* under this guideline is restricted to methods of control that do not result in excessive soil disturbance. Such disturbance is likely to damage other indigenous flora and to induce prolific germination of *Acacia longifolia*. The use of heavy machinery is not approved and, if proposed, would require supporting documentation and separate consent from the NVC, in the form of an approved management plan.

Approved methods of **manual control** (according to best practice bush regeneration techniques) include

- hand removal of small plants by pulling, and
- cutting and swabbing (with herbicide) larger plants, using hand-held equipment such as loppers or a chainsaw.

OTHER ISSUES TO CONSIDER

In embarking upon a control program for *Acacia longifolia*, land managers should also consider the following.

Weed control, even in small areas of bushland, is a long-term exercise. Seedlings of *Acacia longifolia* will continue to emerge long after control of the mature plants has been achieved. Follow-up for several years will be required.

As the seed is dispersed by birds, seeding plants on neighbouring properties will continue to provide a source for re-invasion. Discuss co-ordinating management efforts with your neighbours, concentrating on the least invaded areas first.

Leave cut material where it falls. *Acacia longifolia* will not smother understorey vegetation after being cut, as leaves and stems rot very quickly. In addition, when controlling the species in larger infestations, the amount of material cut is not practical to physically remove.

NOTE: Feasible broad-acre control methods in areas with substantial infestations are being examined. The use of fire for management of *Acacia longifolia* is currently being investigated by government agencies in South Australia and Victoria. Due to the experimental nature of this method, any plans for the prescribed burning of *Acacia longifolia* infestations must be prepared in consultation with the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources and approved by the Native Vegetation Council.

IDENTIFICATION



Sallow wattle is typically an erect small tree with a single stem 3-10 metres high and with long, narrow phyllodes ('leaves')



Coastal wattle is usually a sprawling shrubby plant that layers (i.e. lateral stems take root where they touch the ground). Phyllodes are shorter and rounder and dried seed pods are more likely to curl than Sallow Wattle



Hybrids of Coastal and Sallow Wattles have graded features associated with both forms. Many (but not all) hybrids have the upright single-stemmed growth habit of Sallow Wattle and phyllodes of moderate length. The hybrid appears to be proliferating in woodlands of the mid and lower SE

FURTHER INFORMATION

Guidelines issued in relation to the clearance or management of native vegetation are legally enforceable. The guidelines set out methodologies for dealing with native vegetation that is causing problems in certain circumstances. Adhering to the guidelines will ensure that there is no breach of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.

For specific information and advice contact the Native Vegetation Management Unit: GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE 5001:
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www.environment.sa.gov.au/nativevegetation



Native Vegetation Council



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