BACKGROUND

Historical evidence indicates that Acacia cyclops is native to the west coast of South Australia, west of Ceduna. There has also been debate about whether populations on Kangaroo Island and Yorke Peninsula are native or introduced, but it is considered that (even if there were originally small native populations in eastern South Australia) these would now be swamped by the naturalized (weedy) populations that are spreading rapidly in these areas.

Thus, in South Australia the native range of A. cyclops is considered to be west of Ceduna. In other areas of the State it is considered to be a non-indigenous and invasive plant.

NATIVE VEGETATION COUNCIL GUIDELINE

The Native Vegetation Council has considered the management of A. cyclops and, in conjunction with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), has developed the following guideline.

1. While its distribution and extent have changed drastically since settlement, A. cyclops is considered to be a plant indigenous to coastal and near-coastal environments in the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources region west of Ceduna. As such, this guideline does not apply to the management of A. cyclops in the environments west of Ceduna. Approval for the control of A. cyclops in dunes west of Ceduna 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 A. cyclops in these areas may be permitted by the Native Vegetation Council within an approved management plan.

2. Subject to any other Act or Regulation, A. cyclops may be cleared without specific consent from the Native Vegetation Council, providing that
   - the clearance does not consist of A. cyclops in coastal and near-coastal environments west of Ceduna (consistent with point 1 above)
   - 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 DEWNR’s Native Vegetation Council Secretariat and is not to proceed under this guideline unless endorsed by the Secretariat.

APPROVED REMOVAL METHODS

Management of A. cyclops under this guideline is restricted to methods of control that do not result in excessive soil disturbance, as these are likely to damage other indigenous flora and induce prolific germination of A. cyclops. Approved methods of manual control (according to best practice bush regeneration techniques) include
   - hand removal of small plants by pulling and
   - cutting larger plants with hand-held equipment, such as loppers or a chainsaw, and swabbing with herbicide.

Under this guideline, the use of heavy machinery is only approved where
   - Acacia cyclops is growing in a thicket as a monoculture and
   - where access for machinery is possible from open grazing/farm land and
   - cleared vegetation is not pushed up or dumped on other native vegetation and
   - works are undertaken in consultation with NRM/DEWNR regional staff.
If a proposal varies from the above it would require separate consent from the Native Vegetation Council and supporting documentation in the form of an approved management plan.

**OTHER ISSUES TO CONSIDER**

When embarking on a control program for *A. cyclops*, land managers should also consider the following.

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

- **Because the seed is dispersed by birds, seeding plants on neighbouring properties will continue to provide a source of re-invasion.** Discuss co-ordination of the management effort with your neighbours, concentrating on the least invaded areas first.

- **Leave cut material where it falls.** The cut leaves and stems of *A. cyclops* rot relatively quickly and will not smother other understory vegetation. In addition, it is not practicable to physically remove the amount of material that will result when controlling larger infestations.

**IDENTIFICATION**

In its native environment *A. cyclops* grows in temperate regions, on sandy or loamy soils and mainly in coastal heath or dry scrubland communities. This species has also become naturalized in other parts of the world and is particularly widespread in southern Africa. In southern Australia *A. cyclops* has been widely grown as a garden ornamental and has been employed as a stabiliser of coastal sand dunes.

It has been introduced in many areas through revegetation works and has a propensity to form dense thickets that suppress indigenous vegetation. It readily invades areas of native vegetation, including within conservation parks and reserves.

*A. cyclops* is similar to other native wattles but is easily identified by the following distinguishing features. It

- is usually a sprawling shrubby plant 1-4 metres high (up to 7 metres) with alternately arranged phyllodes (‘leaves’).
- has relatively thick and leathery phyllodes (up to 4-9cm long & 6-12mm broad) with 3-5 longitudinal veins, small hard lateral mucrones (‘points’) at the phyllode tip and glands at the base, if present.
- has yellow flowers borne in small globular clusters that are usually arranged in pairs in the phyllode forks.
- has elongated and flattened leathery pods (up to 10cm long) that become twisted and coiled after opening.
- has dark brown or black seeds that are encircled by two folds of a conspicuous orange to bright red fleshy aril.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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