

Clearance of Western Coastal Wattle (*Acacia cyclops*)

Native Vegetation Council Guideline under Regulation 8(16) of the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017* |
1 July 2017

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.

Therefore, 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.

The Native Vegetation Council (NVC) 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 the 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*.
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;
 - the approval of the landowner has been obtained; and
 - **notification** is sent to nvc@sa.gov.au with applicant and property information, a description of the area(s), location and the proposed amount to be cleared - including a map and photographs.



Open seed pods of *Acacia cyclops*

Clearance of regrowth beyond these parameters must be referred to DEWNR's Native Vegetation Branch and is not to proceed under this guideline unless endorsed by the NVC.

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 not approved and if proposed would require separate consent from the Native Vegetation Council.

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



Dense thicket of *Acacia cyclops*



***Acacia cyclops* seed pods**

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:

- 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

For more information

Native Vegetation Branch
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

T (08) 8303 9777

E nvc@sa.gov.au

www.environment.sa.gov.au/nativevegetation