



Native Vegetation Council Interim Guideline

Clearance of all forms of *Acacia longifolia* – Coastal Wattle, Sallow Wattle and their hybrids in the South East NRM Region under Regulation 5(1)(zj)

BACKGROUND

Historical evidence indicates that the only form of *Acacia longifolia* that was 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 highly limited distribution, being sparsely distributed in some of the primary dunes closest to the coast.

Another form of *Acacia longifolia*, Sallow Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* var. *longifolia*) from Australia's east coast, was brought into cultivation as an ornamental very early in Australia's settlement. Along with Coastal Wattle, Sallow Wattle has subsequently been distributed widely into new parts of Australia (and the world) through the nursery trade and through well intentioned, but poorly informed, government-sanctioned revegetation and soil stabilisation programs.

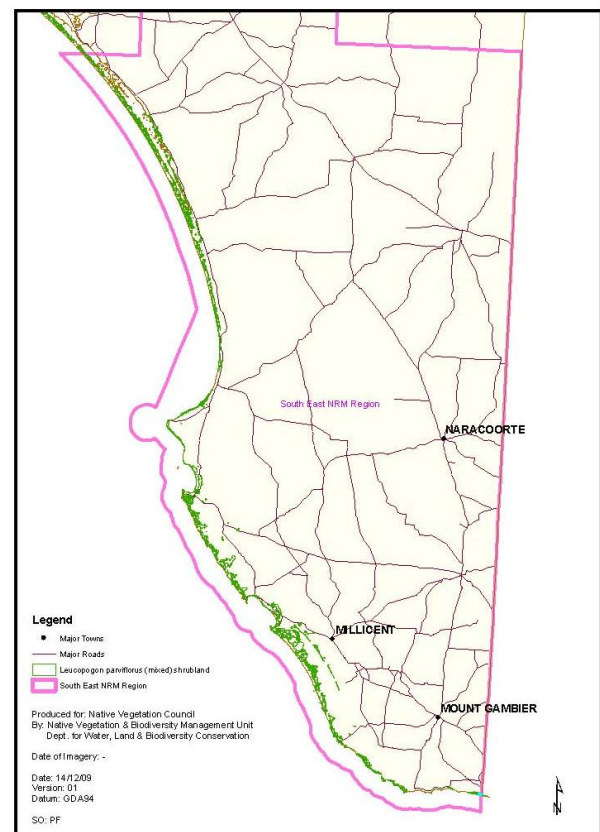
Being closely related forms of the same species (that have now been brought into close proximity in many areas including the South East), has also enabled Sallow and Coastal Wattle to readily hybridise, with hybrids appearing to be particularly vigorous. Additionally, both Coastal and Sallow Wattle (and their hybrids), also readily hybridise with another indigenous *Acacia* in the South East, Spike Wattle (*Acacia oxycedrus*).

GUIDELINES

The Native Vegetation Council has considered the management of *Acacia longifolia* and developed these guidelines in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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 these guidelines, 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*. Hence a well justified case to control Coastal Wattle in dunes may be permitted by the NVC in an approved management plan.

These guidelines do not apply to coastal dunes of the South East NRM Region, marked by the green areas in the map below.



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 Native Vegetation Council providing 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 these guidelines; and
- the approval of the landowner has been obtained.

Clearance of regrowth beyond these parameters must be referred to the Native Vegetation Council Secretariat, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and is not to proceed under these guidelines unless endorsed by the Secretariat.

APPROVED REMOVAL METHODS

Management of *Acacia longifolia* under these guidelines 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 *Acacia longifolia*.

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

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

Consistent with the guidelines above, the use of heavy machinery is not approved under these guidelines and if proposed would require supporting documentation and separate consent from the NVC, in the form of an approved management plan.

OTHERS ISSUES TO CONSIDER

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

1) ***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, and follow-up for several years will be required.

2) ***As the seed is dispersed by birds, seeding plants on neighbouring properties will continue to provide a source for re-invasion.***

Discuss co-ordination of management effort with your neighbours, concentrating on the least invaded areas first.

3) ***Leave cut material where it falls.***

Acacia longifolia will not smother other understorey vegetation after being cut as leaves and stems rot relatively 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 prescribed burning *Acacia longifolia* infestations need to be prepared in consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and approved by the Native Vegetation Council.

IDENTIFICATION

Sallow Wattle (below) is typically an erect small tree with a single stem 3-10m high, and with long, narrow phyllodes (leaves).



Sallow Wattle

Hybrids of Coastal and Sallow Wattle (right) exhibit features that grade from those associated with both forms described. Many (but not all) hybrids have the upright single-stemmed growth habit of Sallow Wattle, and have phyllodes of moderate length.

This form of *Acacia longifolia* appears to be proliferating in woodlands of the mid and lower South East.

Coastal Wattle (below) is usually a sprawling shrubby plant that layers (ie. lateral stems taking root where they touch the ground). Phyllodes are shorter and rounder, and dried seed pods are more likely to curl than in Sallow Wattle.



Coastal Wattle



Hybrid *Acacia longifolia*

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 vegetation that is causing problems in certain circumstances. Adhering to these guidelines will ensure that there is no breach of the Native Vegetation Act. Copies of this and other Guidelines can be downloaded from the Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Unit, DENR website <http://www.nvc.sa.gov.au/native/nvsa/policy.html>

For more detailed information, please contact the Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Unit, Department of Environment and Natural Resources on (08) 8303 9725.