



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 14

MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS ON CALM MANAGED LANDS AND WATERS

DRAFT – AUGUST 2000

POLICY BASE

The Department has responsibility for the conservation and protection of flora and fauna on all State lands and waters under (s 33(1)(d) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act* (CALM Act). It also has responsibilities in accordance with management plan requirements (s 56) or in cases where there is no management plan as a necessary operation under (s 33(3)(b) of the CALM Act.

The Department has responsibilities on CALM managed lands for control of plants that are "declared" under (s 39-41) of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act* 1976 (ARRP Act), viz. "A Government department shall control declared plants and declared animals on and in relation to public land under its control". However, the *Agriculture Protection Board Act*, 1950 (APB Act) takes precedence over the ARRP Act to the limit of any inconsistency between the two Acts. Sections 22(1), (2) and (3) of the APB Act preserve the "rights, powers, authorities or duties of any Government department".

This is interpreted as allowing CALM, in carrying out its responsibilities under the ARRP Act, to reserve the right to decide priorities and the level of control in accordance with availability of funds

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE

To achieve the safe, effective and coordinated management of environmental weeds on CALM lands and waters, in accordance with established priorities and consistent with CALM conservation objectives.

POLICY

The Department will:

1. Utilise a strategic approach to environmental weed management based on the following four key activities. (after Braysher 1993).

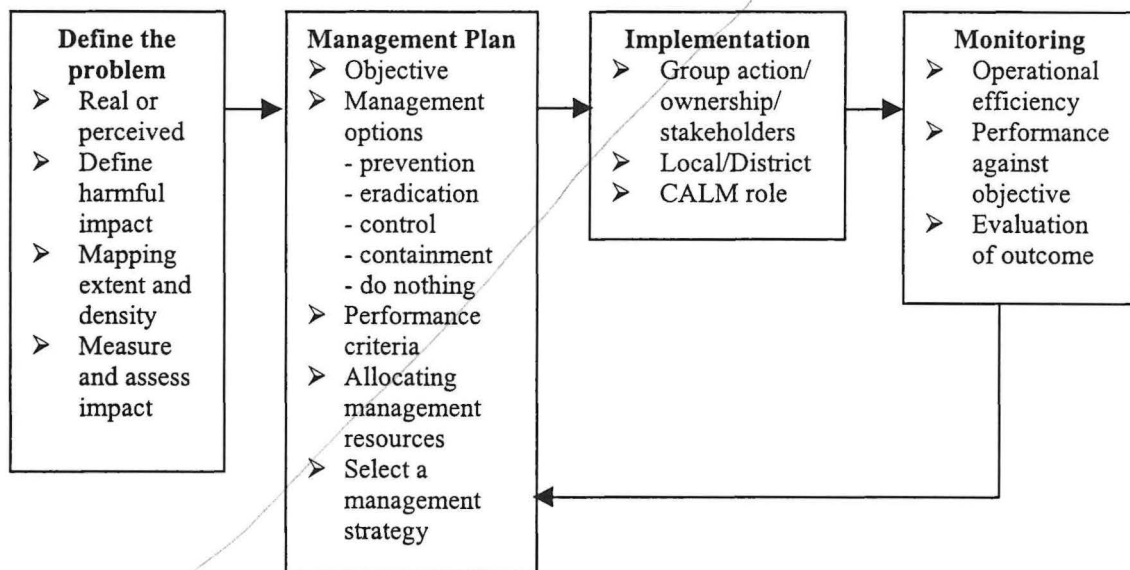
Defining the Problem - The problem should be defined in terms of impact on or threat to conservation values or CALM assets and the level of control required to reduce or prevent the damage.

Developing a Management Plan – Regions and Districts are to prepare Weed Control Action Plans. Managers must establish clear objectives in terms of the desired conservation outcome sought. Options for environmental weed management include prevention, eradication, control, containment or do nothing.

It is clearly the preferred option to prevent the introduction of environmental weeds to natural ecosystems through appropriate management of cultural operations such as nursery and establishment practices, silvicultural practices, entry hygiene, fertiliser applications, importation of basic raw materials, burning and road works. Eradication will rarely be a feasible goal. This policy recommends sustained strategic management as the principal management option.

Implement the Plan - A large-scale (regional) approach to environmental weed management is usually most effective. This requires a cross boundary approach to weed management between CALM and surrounding land holders. It also requires liaison with other land management and research agencies, voluntary organisations and interested individuals to achieve coordination and integrated management of weeds.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Plan - Monitoring has two aspects. Operational monitoring assesses the efficiency of any specific control operation. Performance monitoring involves gathering information to determine whether the strategy is meeting the desired long-term conservation goal.



2. Manage environmental weeds on CALM managed lands and waters using the following priorities. These priorities will be addressed in the Weed Control Action Plan:

Priority 1: Any weed impacting on threatened flora, fauna or ecological communities, or any weed threatening priority 1 or 2 listed flora or fauna.

Priority 2: Any weed listed in the Environmental Weed Strategy for WA occurring in areas of high conservation value, or any weed threatening priority 3 or 4 listed flora or fauna.

Priority 3: Small infestations of weeds listed in the Environmental Weed Strategy for WA with an Environmental Weed Rating of high or moderate.

Priority 4: Any weed with an Environmental Weed Rating of high or any weed affecting CALM assets or values.

Priority 5: Any other weed with an Environmental Weed Rating.

3. Support and implement the recommendations of the Environmental Weed Strategy for Western Australia 1999.
4. Support legislative controls on the introduction into Western Australia of any potential weed species, and seek legislative powers for CALM to manage such plants already established in Western Australia, including on private land.
5. Support national controls on the introduction into Australia of any plant that is considered likely to become invasive of native ecosystems.
6. Provide funds on a continuing and priority basis for weed management.
7. Promote and sponsor research into the identification, distribution, biology, impact and control of environmental weeds.
8. Ensure staff have the necessary skills and knowledge to develop plans and undertake management and monitoring of environmental weeds in accordance with this policy statement.
9. Develop an integrated approach to environmental weed management through:
 - Identifying and managing the process leading to weed invasion.
 - Developing an understanding of the biology and ecology of weed invasion.
 - Considering all available control methods based upon feasibility, cost-effectiveness and environmental efficacy.
10. Promote local species as alternatives to potential environmental weeds for rehabilitation, commercial and agricultural uses.
11. Heighten community awareness of the serious threat to native ecosystems posed by environmental weeds.
12. Ensure that information on identification, distribution and control methods of environmental weeds is widely accessible to CALM staff and other relevant land management agencies and community groups. This information will be made available using a variety of integrated and standardised information systems.

RELATED POLICIES/STRATEGIES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the "Environmental Weed Strategy for Western Australia 1999" and Policy Statements;

- N^o. 9 (Conservation of Threatened Flora in the Wild).
- N^o. 10 (Rehabilitation of Disturbed Land).
- N^o. 15 (Community Involvement - public participation and volunteers).
- N^o. 27 (CALM's Role in Management of Vegetation in Rural Areas).
- N^o. 31 (Management of Reserves for the Conservation of Nature) and,
- N^o. 40 (Road Management).

CONTROL

Prepared by Nature Conservation Division.

Approved by Corporate Executive on2000

Review Date.....2005

Dr Wally Cox

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Distribution: Lists A, B, D, E and L