Declared Plant Policy

Government of South Australia

This policy relates to natural resources management under section 9(1)(d) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 *(the Act), enabling co-ordinated implementation and promotion of sound management programs and practices for the use, development or protection of natural resources of the State. Specifically, this policy provides guidance on the use and management of natural resources relating to the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community, as per object s7(1)(f) of the Act.*

Bundy blackberry (*Rubus laudatus*)

Bundy blackberry is a spiny perennial subshrub that forms thickets. It is not yet recorded from South Australia but has similar weedy properties to the European blackberry, which is the subject of a separate policy.

Management Plan for Bundy Blackberry

Outcomes

- Invasion by Bundy blackberry of pasture and native vegetation in the high rainfall areas of South Australia prevented.

Objectives

- Any incursion of Bundy blackberry detected and destroyed.

Best Practice Implementation

- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to ensure any infestations, as determined by the authority, on public or private land are destroyed.

- Introduction and sale of Bundy blackberry in South Australia as a cultivated species to be prevented by declaration.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action
Eyre Peninsula	Eradicate
Green Adelaide	Eradicate
Hills and Fleurieu	Eradicate
Kangaroo Island	Eradicate
Limestone Coast	Eradicate
Murraylands and Riverland	Eradicate
Northern and Yorke	Eradicate
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action

Declaration

To implement this policy, Bundy blackberry is declared under *the Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Its entry to South Australia, movement or transport on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited. Land owners are required to destroy any Bundy blackberry plants growing on their land. Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide are required to destroy plants on road reserves in their regions, and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

Bundy blackberry is declared in category 2 under the Act, for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its entry to the State, road transport or sale can only be issued by the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) or their delegate pursuant to section 197.

Under the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*, Regulation 27 specifies the conditions under which a person is exempt from the operation of section 186 and may transport wool, grain or other produce or goods carrying Bundy blackberry on public roads, or bring them into the State. Regulation 28 specifies conditions under which a person is exempt from the operation of section 188(2) and may sell wool, grain or other produce or goods carrying Bundy blackberry. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive, DEW.

The following sections of the Act apply to Bundy blackberry throughout each of the regions noted below:

Region / Sections of Act	AW	EP	GA	HF	KI	LC	MR	NY	SAAL
186(1) Prohibiting entry to area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
186(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188(1) Prohibiting sale of the plant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
190 Requiring notification of presence									
192(1) Land owners to destroy the plant on their properties	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
192(2) Land owners to control the plant on their properties									
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2025, or in the event of a change in a regional management plan for Bundy blackberry.

Weed Risk

<u>Invasiveness</u>

Flowers are insect pollinated, and the seeds are spread by birds and mammals that eat the fruit. As with European blackberry, germination depends on adequate rainfall, and few seedlings get established.

The clonal infestations spread rapidly by vegetative growth, with stems forming new roots where they touch the ground (tip layering). Although it is slow to spread, established infestations on neglected properties can be expensive to control.

Impacts

Blackberries form dense thickets that can exclude other vegetation and progressively encroach on pasture. They also provide refuge for rabbits.

Potential distribution

In Western Australia, Bundy blackberry has been found on sandy and loam soils on flats, along watercourses and streams, around swamps, and on roadsides. Its potential distribution in South Australia is likely to be similar to European blackberry, which occurs in forested gullies, on roadsides and along creeks, extending into the adjoining permanent pastures. These vulnerable habitats occur discontinuously in the southern part of the State within the 350 mm annual isohyet.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Bundy blackberry can be controlled by the same range of herbicides used for European blackberry. Experience in WA indicates that its period of maximum growth, and consequently the optimum time for herbicide spraying, is earlier than for European blackberry.

No biocontrol agents have been introduced for *R. laudatus*. It is not susceptible to the rust *Phragmidium violaceum* which controls some of the *Rubus fruticosus* species.

Persistence

Blackberry thickets are long-lived, persisting indefinitely as they resist invasion by other woody plants while tolerating a high level of shade from any trees that establish.

Current distribution

Not recorded in South Australia. Naturalised in WA, Tasmania, Sydney area of NSW and Brisbane area of Queensland.

State Level Risk Assessment

Assessment using the Biosecurity SA Weed Risk Management System gave the following comparative weed risk and feasibility of containment scores by land use:

Land use	Weed Risk	Feasibility of control	Response at State Level
Grazing - southern	very high 278	very high 0	eradicate - alert
Perennial horticulture	low 22	very high 0	monitor
Forestry	medium 70	very high 0	contain spread - alert
Native vegetation	medium 69	very high 0	contain spread - alert

Considerations

The species is widespread in eastern USA from Minnesota to Georgia. However, the horticultural form selected by a Mr T. Bundy and introduced to Australia is believed to originate from Missouri. Its present distribution in Australia may reflect the States where it was planted in the past along with European blackberries. In WA it is well established and has been found as far east as Esperance, implying that it would readily grow in South Australia.

Due to its current absence from South Australia, Bundy blackberry is treated as an alert species with an aim of eradicating any future incursions in the six regions where it could grow. There are no potential habitats for it in the Alinytjara Wilurara and SA Arid Lands regions.

Synonymy

Rubus laudatus A.Berger, New York Agric. Exp. Sta. Bull. 2:77 (1925)

Misapplied names:

Rubus bellobatus auct. non L.H. Bailey
Rubus fruticosus auct. non L.

Other common names include early harvest blackberry, early blackberry and plains blackberry.

R. laudatus is in the section *Arguti*, close to the American brambleberries whose hybrids such as loganberry are used for fruit production, but more remote from the European blackberries.

References

Evans, K,.J.,Symon, D.E., Whalen, M.A., Hosking, J.R., Barker, R.M. & Oliver, J.A. (2007) Systematics of the *Rubus fruticosus* aggregate (Rosaceae) and other exotic *Rubus* taxa in Australia. *Australian Systematic Botany* 20: 187–251.

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Minister for Environment and Water

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