Have your say on planned changes to weed management

South Australian land owners and plant growers, including farmers, graziers, bush managers, local councils and gardeners, are invited to have their say on proposed changes to managing nine weeds.

Phase four of the declared plant review is now underway, with five new weeds proposed for declaration due to the threats they pose to primary industry, the natural environment and public safety.

Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) Manager NRM Biosecurity John Virtue said the review has been important for effective weed management.

"Five new weeds are proposed for statewide prohibition on sale and for enforced control in some areas," Mr Virtue said.

“These are alisma, coastal tea-tree, dune onionweed, giant reed and parrot feather.

“Regional Natural Resources Management (NRM) boards are asking that these weeds are declared now, so that we can minimise their spread by coordinated management to protect our native vegetation and productive lands from their impacts.”

NRM boards in each region use strategic regional management plans to prioritise actions to manage declared plants. Declarations of weeds differ in each region depending on the risks assessed for the land uses in that region.

“To support regional weed management programs, we’re also seeking comment from stakeholders on changing declarations for familiar weeds," Mr Virtue said.

“There are some proposed changes with willow species, but the weeping willows that are a well-known feature of River Murray landscapes are not proposed to be targets for control.

“Nor is any substantial change proposed to the current declaration of feral olive trees, with the revised draft policy continuing to allow the cultivation and sale of domestic olive plants.

“It is important the community has their say on new weed policies as they may have information vital to our understanding of how a particular weed affects the land, or concerns about how it is being managed.”
Information about the review and proposed changes to declaration for the nine plants can be found at [www.yoursay.sa.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.sa.gov.au)

The website includes a feedback form, summaries of the proposed changes, draft policies for each weed, frequently asked questions and fact sheets illustrating the five new weeds. Alternatively, an information pack can be obtained by phoning (08) 8303 9620.

The public consultation period will close on 3 June 2016.