Prevent new incursions of weeds, aquatic pests and animals

Draft issue

The AMLR region has approximately 1,160 (vascular) plant species, that were not present prior to 1836, but that have now naturalised into the landscape.

Natural dispersion (spreading) can lead to non-locally native species spreading into new areas. Post-industrialisation, humans have sped up both the speed and area of this dispersion. The region has many more species held in collections, gardens, or aquaria that have the potential to naturalise. The density and diversity of non-native flora and fauna present within AMLR provides the potential for new incursions (spreading to new areas) of species that are not yet problematic to the natural landscape.

There is also potential for further spread beyond the AMLR region to neighbouring regions. In some respects the AMLR region is fortunate that there is a large spatial barrier between AMLR and other populated centres of the Eastern states, which helps manage the spread of invasive species from the eastern states.

Complexities of the issue

There are two major complexities associated with the ‘Prevent new incursions of weeds, aquatic pests and animals’ issue within the AMLR region:

1. Education and promotion on managing for biosecurity risk is not highly prioritised

In relation to the first of these biosecurity systems have been demonstrated to be well complied with when actively promoted. An example of this is international customs and intra state boarder stations. In these cases the priority is tailored to customs excise, illegal drugs, and direct threats to food health and primary production. And while authorities are generally aware of overall risk from things such as seeds, soil, or pathogen spores, the direct promotion of these is limited, with little attention being drawn in publishing biosecurity threats that may have secondary or long time lag until their impact will be noticed.

2. Under the current economic / lifestyle model there is an ever increasing number of daily transport movements occurring

A higher number of transport movements further increase the chance that a deliberate or incidental biosecurity occurrence that breaches safeguards can either occur or simply go undetected. The varying spatial scales, the direction of movement (into or out from the region, or entirely within the region) and the potential ranges for potentially threatening species, makes it a complex issue to define.

In addition, as success is measured by the ability of the program to mitigate against a tide of potential unknowns, simply managing the complexity that exists within the biosecurity problem is itself a specialist skill.

Subregions affected by the issue

- Central Hills
- Fleurieu Peninsula
- Marine
- Metropolitan Adelaide
- Northern Coast and Plains
- Northern Hills
- Willunga Basin

Conceptual models related to the issue

- Community support for natural resources management
- Sustainable primary production
- Terrestrial landscape health
- Marine health
- Building capacity of natural resources managers
- Adapting to climate change
- Aquatic health


What are these draft issues?

The information in this document relates to a list of draft issues that are impacting on the natural resources of the region.

The issues list has been developed based on information collected during a regional planning process, and a range of projects that the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board has undertaken.

New issues are added to the list as they become apparent, and as issues are addressed by projects they drop off the list. As the issues are constantly evolving, the information in this document may no longer be relevant. Check the current list for the most up-to-date issues: naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/about-us/our-regions-plan/conceptual-models/sustainable-primary-production

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