

MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 22 May 2002

Development controls needed for Olive industry

"Development controls are needed for Olive industry if South Australia is to avoid an environmental catastrophe from olive orchards," said Dr David Bass, President of the South Australian Weed Management Society. His comments follow the launch of the *Olive Position Paper* this week.

Unregulated expansion of the olive industry will cause real environmental harm from feral olives.

"We know that these new plantings will produce feral trees if poorly managed," said Mr Neville Crossman, Postgraduate Researcher from the School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management at Flinders University. "We know how feral olives invade and we know what they can do to native bush, we should be using that information to protect reserves and identify suitable sites for olive orchards," said Mr Crossman.

"We have a tool to help assess the risks of olive developments and we have suitable management guidelines – what we need is local councils to use the Animal and Plant Control olive risk assessment and management guidelines across the board," said Dr Bass.

Dr Mary Rieger, Weed Scientist from Adelaide University, organised an open forum of government, industry, research and community groups in 2001. "The *Olive Position Paper* is an outcome of the forum that outlines responsibilities and actions of local councils, state government, and the olive industry to provide a coordinated strategy for the management of the olive industry. The Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc. is seeking responses from state and local government, industry and environmental groups to help formulate strategic management of the olive industry.

Details of the *Olive Position Paper*, and the Animal and Plant Control Board risk assessment and management guidelines for olives are available from the Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc web site <http://www.ssn.flinders.edu.au/geog/weeds/weedssociety.htm>

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