

WEED MANAGEMENT SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

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Local Council's olive free zone

"Local Councils have to take a strong position on olive orchards if South Australia is to avoid an environmental catastrophe," said Dr David Bass, President of the South Australian Weed Management Society. His comments follow the launch of the *Olive Position Paper* this week.

Local Councils are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on control of feral olives. At the same time the olive industry is planting hundreds of thousands of olive trees.

"We know that these new plantings will produce feral trees if poorly managed," said Mr Neville Crossman, Postgraduate Researcher in 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.

The Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc. invited a range of government, industry, research and community groups to an open forum held in 2001. "We were encouraged by the free information exchange," said Dr Mary Rieger, weed scientist at University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, who organised the meeting. 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 local government to help formulate strategic management of the olive industry," said Dr Rieger.

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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General information

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