

# WEED MANAGEMENT SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

**MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 21 May 2002**

## **TOUGH TALK ON OLIVES**

"It's time to get serious about feral olive trees," said Dr David Bass, President of the Weed Management Society of South Australia.

"The cost removing feral olives is astronomical. At \$10-15,000 per hectare it will take millions to clear the Adelaide Hills," said Dr Bass. Unregulated expansion of the olive industry means that the problem will only get worse.

"We must make sure that expansion of the olive industry is done responsibly and that it not pose risks to native vegetation," said Dr Bass.

The Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc. held an open forum in 2001 addressing concerns of industry, government and community groups about olive management in South Australia. "The outcome of the forum was the *Olive Position Paper*. The paper outlines responsibilities and actions by local Councils, State Government and the Olive Industry," said Dr Mary Rieger, weed scientist from Adelaide University, who organised the open forum.

"Research has shown that olives reduce diversity of native vegetation," said Mr Neveille Crossman, Flinders University postgraduate researcher. "We know how olives invade bush, and we know what they can do. We should use that knowledge to prevent problems in the future," said Mr Crossman.

"If all Councils use the Animal and Plant Control guidelines for risk assessment and management of olive orchards at the development phase we can reduce the risk to native vegetation from feral olives. We must look after the future of our natural resources for our children's children," said Dr Bass.

The Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc. has requested responses from local government, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Minister for Small Business, Science and Information Economy; the Minister for Environment and Conservation; and Olives South Australia to the issues raised in the position paper.

"The feedback we receive will help in the strategic management of the Olive Industry and protection of natural resources in South Australia," said Dr Bass.

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### **General information**

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