



13/2/2025

Biodiversity Coordination Unit

Department for Environment and Water
GPO BOX 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

RE: Draft Biodiversity Bill feedback

To valued members of the Biodiversity Coordination Unit,

The Weed Management Society of South Australia (the Society) is an organisation that brings together research scientists, extension officers, consultants, environmentalists, other practitioners and members of the public interested in conservation and weed management. The society promotes the study and understanding of weeds, weed management and, through advocacy, seeks to protect Australian environments from the impact of weeds.

Our members have reviewed the draft Biodiversity Bill and see potential issues with the proposed change to the definition of *native plants*. Currently, weed control undertaken by land managers throughout South Australia includes the management of species that are not native to the area but are native to other parts of Australia, or even other parts of South Australia (*Australian native plants*). Many of these introduced weedy Australian native plants are environmental and agricultural weeds with some species listed and subject to the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, while others are not. Under the proposed bill, some or all of these non-native weedy Australian plants will require an application for native vegetation clearance an unnecessary addition of red tape that will not aid to support positive biodiversity outcomes.

The Society encourages the Biodiversity Coordination Unit to consider including a definition for *native plants* and one for *South Australian endemic plants* to disentangle potential issues that may arise with weed management throughout our beloved State. A definition should be unambiguous with a reference point based on the *Census of South Australian plants, algae and fungi*, published by the authority on the Flora of SA, The State Herbarium of South Australia

Yours sincerely,

