

MANAGEMENT OF *PHYTOPHTHORA* AND DISEASE CAUSED BY IT

POLICY STATEMENT No.3 of DECEMBER 1998

INTRODUCTION

This document replaces Department of Conservation and Land Management Policy Statement No.3 of January 1991 and should be read in conjunction with other Policy Statements and the background paper :-

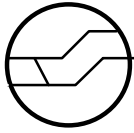
“ Management of *Phytophthora* and disease caused by it: A revision of Department of Conservation and Land Management Policy Statement No.3 of January 1991 ”
prepared by F.D. Podger & K.R. Vear July 1998

INTRODUCTION

1. CALM has a responsibility to monitor the health of native plants, ecological communities and fauna habitat and to respond according to need on a case by case basis.
2. At least 8 distinct species of *Phytophthora* recur at various places in native plant communities of Western Australia. Whilst the potential importance of several of them still require some further elucidation, *Phytophthora cinnamomi* alone represents by far the greatest ongoing threat to conservation and other benefits to society which native plant communities provide. This policy therefore concentrates on *P. cinnamomi*.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Progressively identify uninfested protectable areas and manage human access to them so that the role of humans as vectors in establishing new centres of infestation is reduced to the lowest possible level,

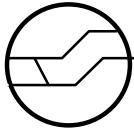


2. Manage already infested and unprotectable areas in a manner which sustains an appropriate level of environmental and social benefits,
3. Implement, as a component of broader management programs to protect threatened flora, threatened ecological communities and the habitat of threatened fauna, a program for the use of the protective chemical phosphite,
4. Implement programs of interagency research and liaison which are closely linked with:-
 - a) management requirements, and
 - b) other Western Australian, interstate, Commonwealth and international institutions involved in research and management on *Phytophthora*.
5. Encourage community interest and participation particularly through support of the Dieback Consultative Council (DCC) and its prospective Regional Coordination Groups.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

A. MANAGEMENT OF UNINFESTED AREAS WHICH ARE PROTECTABLE

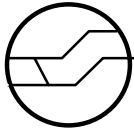
1. Establish and maintain a set of protocols, founded on science and logic, which guide land managers in identifying and managing protectable areas and prioritise the allocation of available resources for protecting them.
2. Implement a long term management system of hygienic access to protectable areas which incorporates the following elements :-



- a) The use of accredited Interpreters, supported by the Vegetation Health Service, to prepare up-to-date maps of the distribution *P. cinnamomi* through the detection and analysis of the disease symptoms in native plants characteristic of disease caused by *P. cinnamomi*.
 - b) The progressive identification of protectable areas, which are free of the evidence of infestation by *P. cinnamomi*, and which are amenable to being protected from the establishment of new centres of infestation arising from the activities of man through the imposition of hygienic management practices.
 - c) The documentation, implementation and regulation of plans for hygienic human access to all protectable areas,
 - d) The implementation of appropriate monitoring and review programs.
3. Provide protection, as appropriate, through phosphite application.
 4. Provide and maintain appropriate management guidelines and training programs.

B. MANAGEMENT OF LANDS ALREADY INFESTED WITH *P. cinnamomi* OR THOSE THAT ARE NOT PROTECTABLE

1. Develop and maintain a set of protocols, founded on science and logic, which establish guidelines for identifying and managing infested and unprotectable areas and for setting priorities among management options for them.
2. Where appropriate provide protection through the application of phosphite.



3. Provide appropriate management guidelines and training programs.

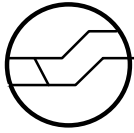
C. PROTECTION OF THREATENED FLORA, THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES AND THE HABITAT OF THREATENED FAUNA BY THE USE OF A SCHEDULE OF TIMED APPLICATIONS OF THE PROTECTIVE CHEMICAL PHOSPHITE

1. Develop and maintain a set of protocols founded on science and logic which :-
 - a) guide land managers in identifying threatened flora, threatened ecological communities and the habitat of threatened fauna that may benefit from protection through phosphite application, and
 - b) may be used to establish realistic priorities for use of available resources.
2. Implement and monitor a program using scheduled applications of the protective chemical phosphite for protection of threatened flora, threatened ecological communities and the habitat of threatened fauna.

D. RESEARCH AND LIAISON

As a component of broader programs of research and liaison :-

1. Implement coordinated programs of research and collaboration, which are closely linked to management requirements, and involve other Western Australian, interstate, Commonwealth and international land management and research institutions.
2. Through interaction with the *Phytophthora* Research Advisory Group establish clear research priorities and agreed allocation of those priorities amongst relevant institutions.



3. Provide appropriate levels of support to the Dieback Consultative Council, its Regional Coordination Groups, and the team responsible for the implementation of the National Threat Abatement Plan for *Phytophthora spp.*

E. ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION

1. Encourage community interest and participation particularly through support of the Dieback Consultative Council (DCC) and its prospective Regional Coordination Groups.
2. Provide appropriate levels of information to the public on the matters related to *P. cinnamomi* and disease caused by it.

Responsibility for the maintenance and review of this policy rests with the Executive Director.

Dr S Shea

Executive Director

December 1998