

Sydney golden wattle (*Acacia longifolia* (Andrews) Willd.) on the south coast

John Moore

Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia, 444 Albany Highway, Albany,
Western Australia 6330, Australia
(john.moore@agric.wa.gov.au)

Summary There was one Sydney golden wattle for every 23 native trees on average in untreated bushland in the area surveyed around Albany. At both the local level and the landscape level it would appear that the area of Sydney golden wattle is doubling every five years. At this rate 18% of the local native bushland will be replaced by Sydney golden wattle by 2020. This makes it the most serious environmental weed in the area.

The optimal window for good levels of detection is about three weeks of which only six days are likely to be suitable for aerial surveillance, one third to one half of the infestation could be mapped each year. The cost of Sydney golden wattle surveillance was 22c per hectare and mapping of the Albany region is estimated to cost around \$54,000 for an in-house project. This should be coupled to a control program of around \$75,000 to arrest the spread and allow

strategic control and evaluation to occur simultaneously. From the preliminary survey, control programs in the Torndirrup National Park appear to be preventing the establishment of Sydney Golden Wattle in the park, in spite of significant adjacent infestations.

Control and education programs are run by the Green skills, South Coast NRM, City of Albany, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Department of Main Roads, Water corporation, Denmark Weed Action Group, Friends of the Porongurups, Plantation managers, Noongar Community, Bushcarers, Department of Agriculture, the Wellstead CRC, Great Southern Development Corporation and many individuals or local groups.

Keywords Sydney golden wattle, *Acacia longifolia*, South Coast, Albany, Western Australia, invasive, weeds.