

Pest plant and animal control on the lake and shoreline

A changing landscape

Low water levels are exposing lake and river beds providing an ideal habitat for invasive weed species. The lake bed environment with water level variations and wind-blown expanses provides opportunity for pests to spread quickly and widely.

Fencing, vegetation and weed control trials and activities are occurring around the shoreline in response to acidification, weed spread, soil erosion and dust, with further vegetation works planned for autumn 2010.

Some private land extends into those now-dry lake beds as shown on the map (see reverse), which illustrates an example of property boundaries in relation to changed water levels. Changing water levels, fencing and vegetation works are raising questions about pest management responsibilities.



Spiny rush (*Juncus acutus*) regenerating on exposed lake bed

Responsibilities for pest and weed management

Changed shorelines and fencing have not affected land holder responsibilities. Under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* landholders are required to control specified declared pest plants and animals on their properties. This applies to both freehold land and leasehold land.

This includes control of specified declared pest plants and animals to the cadastral (property) boundary, regardless of where fences are located.

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) is required to control specified declared pest plants and animals on unoccupied Crown Land.

A number of weeds are not declared but are considered 'environmental weeds' in that they pose a threat to local ecosystems (see list below). Control of these weeds may significantly benefit your property and the local ecosystem.

Pest species you may find on the lakebed and shoreline

Declared pest weeds:

- African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissium*)
- African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)
- Athel Pine (*Tamarix aphylla*)
- Bathurst Burr (*Xanthium spinosa*)
- Caltrop (*Tribulus terrestris*)

Environmental weeds:

- Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*)
- Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halapensis*)
- Golden Wreath Wattle (*Acacia saligna*)
- Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*)

* denotes introduced species

Declared pest animals: rabbits, foxes, deer

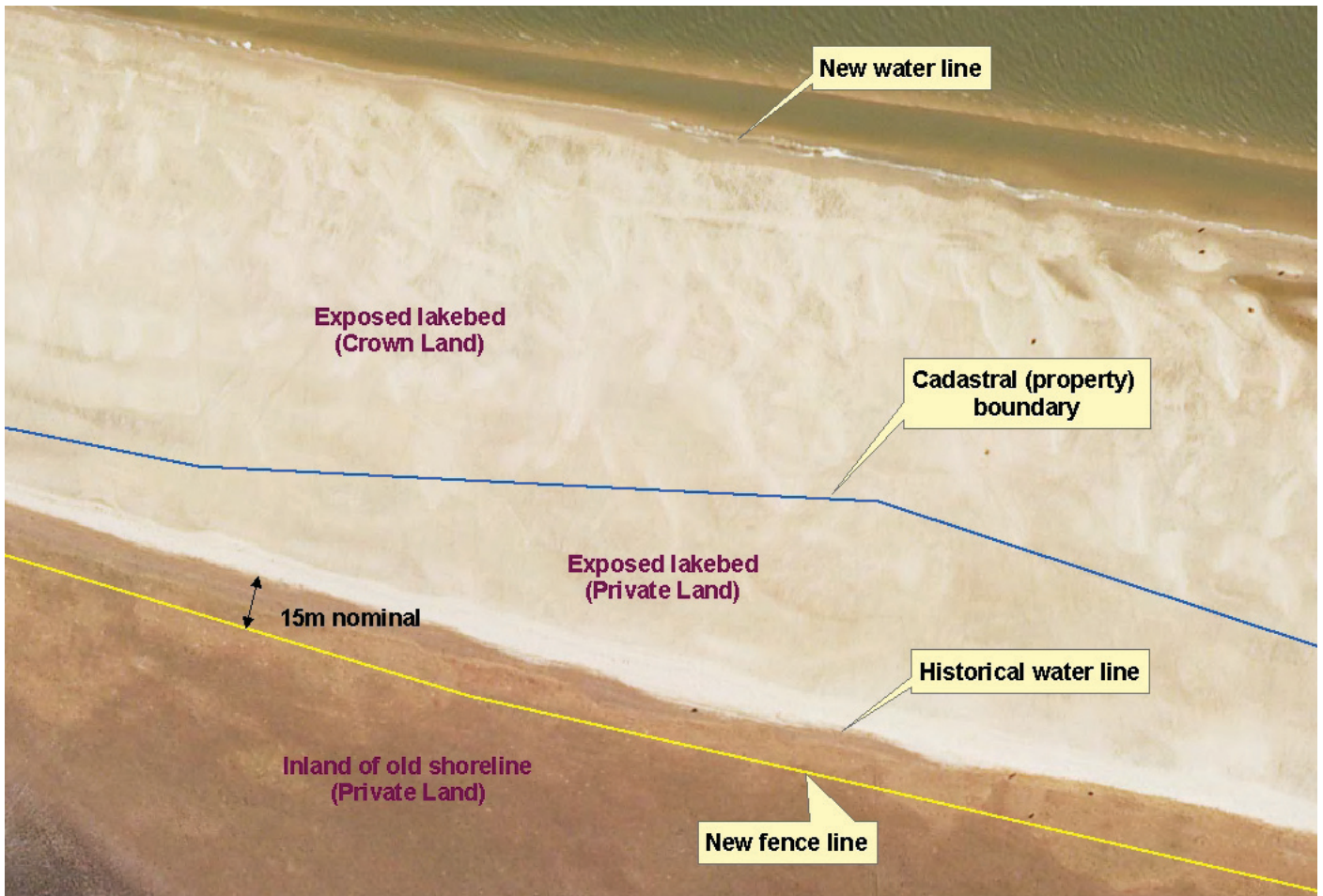
What's happening now?

Managing pests in the Lower Lakes region will require a co-operative and coordinated approach, with landholder and other stakeholder contributions essential. A long-term plan is required to guide funding for control of weeds in the lakes region.

The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board is identifying pest plant and animal control priority areas for both declared and other environmental weeds that pose a threat to local ecosystems.

The SA MDB NRM Board, in partnership with Rural Solutions SA and local land holders, has commenced urgent control activities on some identified priority infestations. This includes burning an infestation of spiny rush and removal of isolated individual plants.

DEH will work with local landholders and other stakeholders and use this information to develop a pest management plan to guide funding priorities and control activities in the Lower Lakes region.



Map showing property boundaries on exposed lake bed with fencing to exclude stock

Further Information

For further information on the Natural Resources Management Act, pest and weed risks and control measures, please contact:

SA MDB NRM Board:

www.samdbnrm.sa.gov.au

Phone: (08) 8391 7500

For further information on the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) DEH Projects please contact:

Department for Environment and Heritage

Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Projects

www.environment.sa.gov.au/cllmm

Phone: 1800 226 709 (free call)

Or drop into or contact:

The Lakes Hub

Daranda Tce, Milang

Phone: (08) 8537 0808

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Department for Environment and Heritage
Rural Solutions SA
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

