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ALIEN PLANT MANAGEMENT UNDER THE NEW SOUTH WALES THREATENED SPECIES LEGISLATION: *CHRYSANTHEMOIDES MONILIFERA*: A CASE STUDY

The management of invasive alien plants is difficult due to the scale of the problem (in the area occupied, the range of habitats invaded, their continued persistence and rate of spread), the limited resources available to control them (financial and human), and obtaining an accurate assessment of their impacts. The South African coastal shrub *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* (L.) T.Norl. (Asteraceae) is one of Australia's 20 worst alien plants. Within New South Wales, it occupies >80% of the coastline and threatens many native plant communities. To date, National, State and regional strategies have been developed to address the problem. However, these broad management strategies provide little direction for on-ground management. A new strategy has been developed to focus alien plant management on specific outcomes – in this case, plant conservation. This strategy was developed under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* - alien plants can be listed as Key Threatening Processes (KTP) under the Act. Following the listing of a KTP, a Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) is then developed, which outlines the native species affected and strategies to reduce the threat posed by the KTP, in this case invasion by an alien plant. In the past, the lack objective data on the impacts of alien plants on native species has greatly hampered our understanding and management options. The draft *C. monilifera* TAP presents a series of models which identify the species and sites that are most affected by the invasion of this alien shrub in NSW. This process identified approximately 150 species at risk from the invasion of *C. monilifera*. The combination of the species and the site models can direct resources and focus control efforts to provide on-ground outcomes in areas where the impacts to native species are greatest, independent of land tenure.

keywords: threat abatement plan, native species, model