

Wildlife trade operation to harvest
Yacca Gum *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*
ssp. *tateana* from private land on
Kangaroo Island, South Australia

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1. Title and introduction

1.1 Scientific name(s)

Xanthorrhoea semiplana ssp. *tateana*

1.2 Common name

Yacca Gum, Yakka Bush, Kangaroo Island Grass Tree or Tate's Grass Tree

1.3 Location of harvest

Kangaroo Island, South Australia

1.4 Description of what is being harvested

Dead *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* ssp. *tateana* single plant stumps (no twins, bunches or clutches)

1.5 Species protection

For dead plant stumps, there is no special protection under State or Federal legislation to our knowledge.

Because they are dead stumps, they will not be taken in contravention of South Australia's *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* or the *Native Vegetation Management Act 1991*.

2. Statement of general goals/aims

The objective is to collect single dead Yacca Gum stumps from privately owned properties. Once collected, these dead stumps will be processed into a coarse grade material for bagging and export.

This has been a regular business from Kangaroo Island dating back many years. Due to market forces, overseas demand diminished in recent times and the last permit to export expired several years ago. We are now receiving customer enquiries to re-establish this trade.

3. Harvest Details

3.1 Area

Section 10, 103 Hickmans Road, Seddon SA / Section 9 / Lot 109, 110, 111 Seddon SA / 319 Starrs Road, MacGilivray, Kangaroo Island.

3.2 Land Ownership

All properties are privately owned.

3.3 Harvest Quantity

Initial requirement is for 40–60 metric tonnes of coarse granules Yacca Gum.

3.4 Methods of Harvesting

Plants are picked by hand, loaded onto vehicles for removal from site and then transported to a stationary machine located at the section 10 property.

3.5 Timeframe of Harvesting

Most of the plants to be processed for the current requirements are regrowth from land cleared 58 years ago and have died between 1993 and 2012, approximately. Most of the harvesting was carried out 3–5 years ago.

4. Impact of Harvest

There will be no impact on any other Yacca species nor the ecosystem now and into the future, as only dead plants are collected.

5. Monitoring and Assessment

As per previous arrangements, against each order an application for consent to export will be sent to the National Parks & Wildlife SA – Department for Environment and Water. The application form will nominate the amount of dead Yacca Gum obtained, the property owner, property location and collector. The Senior Ranger from the SA National Parks & Wildlife Service will then review the application and if acceptable under their jurisdiction, a certificate of approval/endorsement will be issued. This approval certificate is to then be provided to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment & Energy along with the relevant form to apply for an export permit.

The Senior Ranger will issue the approval certificate only if the Yacca Gum has been acquired from dead stumps and has not been taken in contravention of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* or the *Native Vegetation Management Act 1991*.

6. Management strategies

We do not expect to detect any population changes from this activity, as only dead Yacca Gum stumps are sourced.

7. Compliance

Refer to question 5. Only material which has been endorsed by the National Parks & Wildlife Service SA will receive a formal approval letter, which can then be used to apply for an export permit from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment & Energy. All endorsed material is recorded through the application for consent to export form submitted to the Senior Ranger on Kangaroo Island.