

# WHY DO RED HILL REGENERATORS CUT WATTLE TREES?

There are 2 main species of wattle growing on Red Hill – Cootamundra wattle (*Acacia baileyana*) and Silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*).

Regenerators **ONLY CUT COOTAMUNDRA WATTLE** as it is not local to this region and is a Class 4 Pest in the ACT.

## Why is Cootamundra wattle a pest?

- Fast growing
- Seed has a high survival rate (soil stored seed remains viable for many decades and germinates prolifically after fire)
- Excludes light and forms a dense layer of leaf and pod remains on the soil surface. This eliminates many indigenous species, but allows many exotic grasses to flourish.
- Hybridises with a number of other Acacia species, including silver wattle and black wattle.
- Continued financial and labour cost to the community in those areas where it has to be (or is desirably) removed.

## How to tell identify Cootamundra and Silver wattle

Both wattles have blueish-grey-green leaves and flower early in spring.

They can be distinguished readily by their leaves.

**Cootamundra wattle**



- 5-7 pairs of branchlets attached to the stem
- lowest pair is shorter, swept back & embraces the stem to which the leaf is attached.

**Silver wattle**



- 8-20 pairs of branchlets attached to the stem
- the lowest pair is not swept back.