Impact Assessment Record

Scientific Name: *Koelreuteria elegans* ssp *formosana* Common name: Chinese rain tree

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	Grows to approximately 5 metres tall (up to 18 metres under ideal conditions). Has 'a dense rounded crown and may achieve a spread of 10-15m when mature (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). No record of the plant forming clusters. Would have minimal or negligible impact.	**L**	**M**
2. Reduce tourism?	'Abundant, colourful yellow flowers and pink, inflated fruit' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Grows up to 5 metres with dense crown. May have minor effect on aesthetics.	**ML**	**M**
3. Injurious to people?	Although species may cause 'vomiting, abdominal pain, and in some cases diarrhea, there is no evidence that it is consumed' (PIER 2005).	**L**	**MH**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	'Abundant, colourful yellow flowers and pink, inflated fruit' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Grows up to 15 metres with dense crown. Moderate visual effect.	**ML**	**M**
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species (PIER 2005).	**L**	**MH**
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species (PIER 2005).	**L**	**MH**
7. Increase soil erosion?	Deciduous tree. Would leave some of the ground exposed for a period of time. Can occur in gullies but unlikely to contribute to large-scale soil erosion.	**L**	**M**
8. Reduce biomass?	Because of 'its rapid growth habit and high seed viability.. may crowd out native plant populations (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Would depend on the area that the plant establishes but likely to be a direct replacement of biomass.	**ML**	**M**
9. Change fire regime?	Tree is of low flammability (PIER 2005). Small or negligible effect on fire risk.	**L**	**MH**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	Potential distribution of *Koelreutaria elegans* excludes Victoria. No impact on EVCs in Victoria.	**L**	**H**
(b) medium value EVC	Potential distribution of *Koelreutaria elegans* excludes Victoria. No impact on EVCs in Victoria.	**L**	**H**
(c) low value EVC	Potential distribution of *Koelreutaria elegans* excludes Victoria. No impact on EVCs in Victoria.	**L**	**H**
11. Impact on structure?	Because of 'its rapid growth habit and high seed viability.. may crowd out native plant populations (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Would have a major effect on less than 60% of the floral strata.	**MH**	**M**
12. Effect on threatened flora?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened flora.	**MH**	**L**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened flora.	**MH**	**L**
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Not documented as having an effect on non-threatened fauna.	**L**	**M**
15. Benefits fauna?	No evidence that the plant benefits fauna.	**H**	**M**
16. Injurious to fauna?	Plant not documented to be toxic or have burrs or spines (PIER 2005).	**L**	**MH**
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	No evidence that the plant provides a food source to pest species.	**L**	**M**
18. Provides harbor?	No evidence that the plant provides harbour for pest species.	**L**	**M**
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Not recorded as a weed of agriculture (PIER 2005).	**L**	**MH**
20. Impact quality?	Not a weed of cropping (PIER 2005).	**L**	**MH**
21. Affect land value?	No evidence that the weed would effect land value. Can be well controlled by herbicides (PIER 2005).	**L**	**MH**
22. Change land use?	No evidence that the weed would cause a change in priority of land use. Can be well controlled by herbicides (PIER 2005).	**L**	**MH**
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not a weed of agriculture (PIER 2005).	**L**	**MH**
24. Disease host/vector?	Not a known host or vector for disease of agriculture.	**L**	**M**

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References cited:

CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003, *Weed management guide: Chinese rain tree* (Koelreuteria elegans *ssp*. formosana), CRC for Australian Weed Management and Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage, viewed 10 Jan 2006, http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/wmg_chinese_rain_tree.pdf

Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk, 2005, Koelreuteria elegans *risk assessment*, Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk, Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk Project, viewed 10 Jan 2006, http://www.hear.org/pier/wra/pacific/koelreuteria_elegans_htmlwra.htm

Revisions

Date	Revised by	Revision