Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Lotus creticus* L. Common name: Cretan Trefoil

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	The species is described as a prostrate herbaceous plant (Vignolio *et al* 2002). It is therefore presumed not to have minimal potential of restricting access.	**L**	**H**
2. Reduce tourism?	The species is described as a prostrate herbaceous plant and occurs on beaches and dunes systems (Vignolio *et al* 2002; Willmer 1986). The species is therefore unlikely to inhibit any recreational activities; however it may have some aesthetic impact.	**ML**	**M**
3. Injurious to people?	There is no evidence of this occurring.	**L**	**M**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	The species is largely a coastal species and is not reported in riparian areas and is therefore unlikely to impact on water flow.	**L**	**M**
6. Impact water quality?	The species is largely a coastal species and is not reported in riparian areas and is therefore unlikely to impact on water quality.	**L**	**M**
7. Increase soil erosion?	Recommended for use as a vegetation cover in soil restoration projects to prevent wind and water erosion (Vignolio *et al* 2005). Used for sand dune stabilisation in Israel (Tsuriell 1974). Therefore the species is considered to decrease the probability of soil erosion.	**L**	**H**
8. Reduce biomass?	The species is a prostrate herb, which occurs in beach and dune systems (Vignolio *et al* 2002; Willmer 1986). Invading bare sand the species would therefore increase biomass; however it is unlikely to act as a significant carbon sink.	**ML**	**MH**
9. Change fire regime?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Spray-zone Coastal Shrubland (E); CMA= Glenelg Hopkins; Bioreg= Glenelg Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. The species is reported to dominate the vegetation of the beach and fore-dunes in its native Israel (Willmer 1986). The species therefore has potential to cause major displacement of species if it is able to dominate the vegetation of the lower strata of invaded beach and fore-dunes.	**MH**	**MH**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Spray-zone Coastal Shrubland (R); CMA= Glenelg Hopkins; Bioreg= Bridgewater; VH CLIMATE potential. The species is reported to dominate the vegetation of the beach and fore-dunes in its native Israel (Willmer 1986). The species therefore has potential to cause major displacement of species if it is able to dominate the vegetation of the lower strata of invaded beach and fore-dunes.	**MH**	**MH**
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Coastal Dune Scrub (LC); CMA= Glenelg Hopkins; Bioreg= Bridgewater; VH CLIMATE potential. The species reportedly becomes less common within a few hundred meters inland from the coast (Willmer 1986). Therefore the species may be present in this vegetation but is unlikely to cause any significant displacement.	**L**	**H**
11. Impact on structure?	The species is reported to dominate the vegetation of the beach and fore-dunes in its native Israel (Willmer 1986). The beach and fore-dune vegetation is often only comprised of the lower strata. Therefore if the species is capable of dominating the vegetation as it does in its native range, it could have a minor effect on more than 60% of the flora.	**MH**	**MH**
12. Effect on threatened flora?	Unknown.	**MH**	**L**
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	Unknown.	**MH**	**L**
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**
15. Benefits fauna?	It is reported to be grazed by sheep and pollinated by insects (Snowball 2002; Tsuriell 1977; Willmer 1986). It may therefore provide some assistance in way of food to desirable species.	**MH**	**H**
16. Injurious to fauna?	There is no evidence of this reported.	**L**	**M**
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	It is reported to be grazed by sheep and pollinated by insects (Snowball 2002; Tsuriell 1977; Willmer 1986). It may therefore provide some food to pest species such as feral bees and goats.	**ML**	**MH**
18. Provides harbor?	The species is a prostrate herb (Vignolio *et al* 2002). It is unlikely therefore to provide any significant cover.	**L**	**MH**
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
20. Impact quality?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**
21. Affect land value?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**
22. Change land use?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**
24. Disease host/vector?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**