Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Fraxinus angustifolia* Vahl

Common name: Desert Ash, Narrow-leaved Ash

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	The species is very fast growing, invades riparian vegetation and is reported to be able to form dense stands (Blood 2001; Carus & Çiçek 2007). As the species is reported by Fustec *et al* (2001) to be able to re-shoot from the stump when cut down, to create and maintain access to an invaded waterway significant works may be required as the species would need to be controlled to prevent reinvasion.	**H**	**MH**
2. Reduce tourism?	Ornamental deciduous tree species would be obvious and may have some aesthetic impact.	**ML**	**L**
3. Injurious to people?	There is no evidence of this.	**L**	**M**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Ornamental deciduous tree species would be obvious and may have some aesthetic impact.	**ML**	**L**
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	The species is reported to tolerate periodic inundation and is invading riparian vegetation (Muyt 2001, Richardson, Richardson & Shepherd 2006). The species is not reported to impact water flow however little information is available on this species impact on water in areas where it is an invading species.	**M**	**L**
6. Impact water quality?	Occurring in riparian vegetation the species is deciduous and in addition to this it's litter has a fast decomposition rate (Pérez-Corona, Pérez Hernández & de Castro 2006). Therefore the species may have similar impacts upon water quality as Salix species altering shading patterns and therefore temperature and changing the time, quantity and possibly the quality of litter inputs which could then impact upon dissolved oxygen. The extent this species can have on water quality has not however been reported on.	**M**	**L**
7. Increase soil erosion?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**
8. Reduce biomass?	There is conflicting evidence on this; the species is a fast growing tree with recorded biomass increases of $15m^3ha^{-1}$ per annum (Carus & Çiçek 2007). The species however can form monocultures shading out other tree and shrub species (Muyt 2001). Therefore the only biomass accumulation would be by this species and if the shrub layer is removed this could result in a net decrease however this is not known.	**M**	**L**
9. Change fire regime?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Creekline Herb-rich Woodland (V); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Central Victorian Uplands; VH CLIMATE potential.	**H**	**MH**

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	The species is reported to be able to form monocultures and prevent the regeneration of other species over time (Muyt 2001).		
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Sedgy Riparian Woodland (D); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Otway Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. The species is reported to be able to form monocultures and prevent the regeneration of other species over time (Muyt 2001).	**H**	**MH**
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Riparian Forest (LC); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Otway Ranges; VH CLIMATE potential. The species is reported to be able to form monocultures and prevent the regeneration of other species over time (Muyt 2001).	**H**	**MH**
11. Impact on structure?	The species is reported to be able to form monocultures and prevent the regeneration of other species over time (Muyt 2001). This would be a have a major impact on all layers.	**H**	**MH**
12. Effect on threatened flora?	Unknown	**MH**	**L**
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	Unknown	**MH**	**L**
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	The species is reported to be able to form monocultures and prevent the regeneration of other species over time (Muyt 2001). This level of change to vegetation is likely to impact upon species in terms of food sources and availability of appropriate shelter. The species impact upon native fauna however has not been reported.	**M**	**L**
15. Benefits fauna?	Is used a nesting sites by birds in Europe (Polo & Veiga 2006; Suárez, Balbontin & Ferrer 2000). Therefore the species may provide some support in terms of shelter.	**MH**	**H**
16. Injurious to fauna?	There is no evidence of this.	**L**	**M**
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Possible but not thought to be significant.	**L**	**M**
18. Provides harbor?	Is used a nesting sites by birds in Europe including starling species (Polo & Veiga 2006). Therefore the species may provide some shelter to low priority best species.	**ML**	**MH**
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	The species can be used as plantation timber (Carus & Çiçek 2007). It is considered an environmental weed and is only recorded to significantly invade orchards that have been abandoned (Debussche, Lepart & Devieux 1999).	**L**	**M**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
20. Impact quality?	Considered an environmental weed.	**L**	**M**
21. Affect land value?	Considered an environmental weed.	**L**	**M**
22. Change land use?	Considered an environmental weed.	**L**	**M**
23. Increase harvest costs?	Considered an environmental weed.	**L**	**M**
24. Disease host/vector?	There is no evidence of this.	**L**	**M**