Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Ligustrum vulgare* L. Common name: European (common or golden) privet

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	Reported to invade riparian habitats the species can form dense impenetrable thickets (Weber 2003). This species could therefore pose a major impediment to access to waterways and require significant works to provide access.	**H**	**MH**
2. Reduce tourism?	While the species has not been reported to impact on tourism or recreation, its ability to form dense thickets and its toxic nature however could mean it has the potential to do so.	**M**	**L**
3. Injurious to people?	The fruits and leaves of this species are toxic and in severe cases of the plant being eaten death has occurred (Everist 1974). Can cause allegies	**H**	**MH**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Unknown; a similar species can reportedly impact on the flow of water along drainage lines (Blood 2001, Muyt 2001).	**M**	**L**
6. Impact water quality?	Chemicals released from the leaves of the similar species *L.sinense* have been reported to impact on aquatic macro invertebrates (Llewellyn 2005). The species does occur in riparian areas, and could have some impact on water quality by changing light levels and nutrient imputes. There has been however no quantifiable reports of this species impacting upon water quality.	**M**	**L**
7. Increase soil erosion?	The species has been found to not to have a penetrating root system and while the species can have a large root system it is largely shallow (Jia-rong *et al* 2007). Therefore areas invaded by the species are viewed to have a moderate probability of large scale soil erosion.	**ML**	**H**
8. Reduce biomass?	The species is reported to form dense thickets and crowd out the existing species (Weber 2003). This is similar to other *Ligustrum* species which have been reported to cause a reduction in biomass of the lower strata when this occurs (Muyt 2001; Swarbrick, Timmins & Bullen 1999). Invasion by the species is therefore considered to result in a net increase in biomass due to the significant increase in the middle strata.	**L**	**MH**
9. Change fire regime?	The similar species *L.lucidum* is reported to reduce the biomass within the grass/herb layer which can limit a fire from spreading, instead in SE Queensland during dry winters the species can defoliate which allows a hot fire to be carried (Swarbrick, Timmins & Bullen 1999). As *L.vulgare* is also able form dense stands within the shrub layer it is thought to have the same potential of altering both fire intensity and timing.	**MH**	**MH**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Damp Forest (E); CMA= West Gippsland; Bioreg= Strzelecki Ranges; VH CLIMATE potential. The species is able to displace native species and form dense thickets within the understorey (Weber 2003). The species is therefore able to dominate a single layer and cause displacement of species.	**MH**	**MH**

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(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Wet Forest (D); CMA= West Gippsland; Bioreg= Strzelecki Ranges; VH CLIMATE potential. The species is able to displace native species and form dense thickets within the understorey (Weber 2003). The species is therefore able to dominate a single layer and cause displacement of species.	**MH**	**MH**
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Wet Forest (LC); CMA= West Gippsland; Bioreg= Wilsons Promontory; VH CLIMATE potential. The species is able to displace native species and form dense thickets within the understorey (Weber 2003). The species is therefore able to dominate a single layer and cause displacement of species.	**MH**	**MH**
11. Impact on structure?	The species is able to displace native species and form dense thickets within the understorey (Weber 2003). The species could therefore impact upon more than 605 of the flora strata, displacing species of the middle and lower strata and potentially preventing the regeneration of canopy species.	**MH**	**M**
12. Effect on threatened flora?	Unknown.	**MH**	**L**
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	The increased food privet species provide through the fruit load supports increased populations of aggressive bird species such as currowongs (Blood 2001; Swarbrick, Timmins & Bullen 1999). This then has the potential to impact on other bird species populations, it has not however been reported to specifically impact upon a threatened species.	**MH**	**L**
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	The increased food privet species provide through the fruit load supports increased populations of aggressive bird species such as currowongs (Blood 2001; Swarbrick, Timmins & Bullen 1999). This then has the potential to impact on other bird species populations, quantitative evidence of the impact on such species has not been reported however.	**M**	**L**
15. Benefits fauna?	Being a large fruit producing shrub the species is likely to provide some assistance in either food or shelter to desirable species (Webb, Sykes & Garnock-Jones 1988).	**MH**	**MH**
16. Injurious to fauna?	Reported toxic to horses, cattle, sheep and people and can result in death (Everist 1974). There has no evidence reported on if this species is toxic to native fauna and if so to what extent it impacts on them.	**M**	**L**
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Blackbirds and starlings are also reported to eat fruit of other *Ligustrum* species (Swarbrick, Timmins & Bullen 1999).	**ML**	**M**
18. Provides harbor?	The species is not reported to provide shelter for any one pest species, however it is reported to forms dense thickets (Weber 2003). Therefore there is the potential for the species to provide cover for pest species.	**M**	**L**
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	The species is reported to be toxic an potentially fatal to horses, cattle, and sheep (Everist 1974). It is unknown to what extent this species could impact on yield, it is suspected however to be minor.	**M**	**L**

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20. Impact quality?	Honey collected from privet species is reported to smell like fish (Swarbrick, Timmins & Bullen 1999). It is unknown to what extent this species could impact on product quality, it is suspected however to be minor.	**M**	**L**
21. Affect land value?	The species has been used widely as an ornamental (Blood 2001; Weber 2003). It is therefore unlikely to have any significant impact upon land values.	**L**	**M**
22. Change land use?	Unknown however as the species is considered to be largely and environmental weed this is unlikely.	**L**	**M**
23. Increase harvest costs?	Unknown however as the species is considered to be largely and environmental weed this is unlikely.	**L**	**M**
24. Disease host/vector?	The species can be a host of Plum pox virus (Polák 2006).	**M**	**H**