Impact Assessment Record

Scientific Name: *Carthamus glaucus* Common name: glaucous star thistle

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	Grows up to 80cm high (Walsh & Entwisle 1999). Weed is spine-tipped thistle. Weed would have a low nuisance value.	**ML**	**H**
2. Reduce tourism?	Flowers in spring and summer (Walsh & Entwisle 1999). Has a purple flower and grows up to 80 cm high with spine-tipped leaves. Weed may have a minor effect on both aesthetics and recreational uses.	**ML**	**H**
3. Injurious to people?	Lobes of weed are spine-tipped (Walsh & Entwisle 1999). Likely that weed would cause minor damage from spines at certain times of the year.	**ML**	**H**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Flowers in spring and summer (Walsh & Entwisle 1999). Has a purple flower and grows up to 80 cm high with spine-tipped leaves. Little or negligible effect on aesthetics.	**L**	**H**
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species.	**L**	**H**
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species.	**L**	**H**
7. Increase soil erosion?	Insufficient information to determine whether the weed would increase soil erosion. Score medium.	**M**	**L**
8. Reduce biomass?	Grows amongst crops (Solh & Pala 1990). In these situations there would be a direct replacement of biomass by invader.	**ML**	**H**
9. Change fire regime?	Insufficient information to determine whether weed would affect frequency or intensity of fire. Score medium.	**M**	**L**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Chenopod grassland (BCS =E); CMA=Mallee; Bioreg=Murray mallee; CLIMATE potential=VH. Grows amongst crops (Solh & Pala 1990). Very little displacement of any indigenous species.	**L**	**H**
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Riverine chenopod woodland(BCS =E); CMA=Wimmera; Bioreg=Murray mallee; CLIMATE potential=VH. Grows amongst crops (Solh & Pala 1990). Very little displacement of any indigenous species.	**L**	**H**
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Coastal tussock grassland (BCS =E); CMA=Port Phillip; Bioreg=Gippsland Plain; CLIMATE potential=L. Grows amongst crops (Solh & Pala 1990). Very little displacement of any indigenous species.	**L**	**H**
11. Impact on structure?	Grows amongst crops (Solh & Pala 1990). In these situations it would only effect one of the strata.	**L**	**H**
12. Effect on threatened flora?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened flora.	**MH**	**L**

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Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened fauna.	**MH**	**L**
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Not enough information to determine the effect the weed would have on non-threatened fauna species. Score as medium.	**M**	**L**
15. Benefits fauna?	Insufficient information to determine whether the weed provides benefits or facilitates the establishment of indigenous fauna. Score as medium.	**M**	**L**
16. Injurious to fauna?	Lobes of weed are spine-tipped (Walsh & Entwisle 1999). Insufficient documented evidence to determine the extent the weed affects indigenous fauna. Score as medium.	**M**	**H**
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Insufficient documented evidence to determine the extent the weed provides a food source to assist in success of pest animals. Score as medium.	**M**	**L**
18. Provides harbor?	Insufficient evidence to determine the extent the weed provides harbour for serious pests. Score as medium.	**M**	**L**
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	'The major weed species associated with chickpea in West Asia and North Africa include … *Carthamus syriacus*. …In winter sown chickpea weeds present a serious threat to the crop and yield losses up to 98% have been reported' (Solh & Pala 1990). Recorded as a common weed of Iran in Holm *et al* (1979). Has capacity to have a major impact on quantity of produce.	**MH**	**H**
20. Impact quality?	'The contamination of produce with weed seeds reduces the crop quality' (Solh & Pala 1990). Weed may have a minor impact on quality.	**ML**	**H**
21. Affect land value?	Not enough documented evidence to determine whether the weed affects land value. Score as medium.	**M**	**L**
22. Change land use?	Insufficient evidence to determine whether the weed would cause a change in priority of land use. Score as medium.	**M**	**L**
23. Increase harvest costs?	Insufficient evidence to determine the extent the presence of the weed increases the cost of harvest. Score as medium.	**M**	**L**
24. Disease host/vector?	Insufficient evidence to determine whether the weed acts as a host or vector for disease of agriculture. Score as medium.	**M**	**L**

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References cited:

Holm, L., Pancho, J. V., Herberger, J.P. & Plucknett, D.L. 1979, *A geographical atlas of world weeds*, John Wiley & Sons, New York.

Solh, M.B. & Pala, M. 1990, 'Weed control in chickpea', *Options Mediterraneennes, Serie Seminaires*, Vol. 9, pp. 93-99, viewed 20 Jan 2006, CIHEAM database.

Walsh, N.G. & Entwisle,T.J. (eds) 1999, *Flora of Victoria: dicotyledons, cornaceae to asteraceae*, vol. 4, Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Revisions

Date	Revised by	Revision