Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Ligustrum ovalifolium* Hassk. Common name: Japanese privet (Hedge privet)

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	The species is used for hedging and can grow to 5m (Webb, Sykes & Garnock-Jones 1988). Therefore the species could form a barrier that would be of nuisance, it is unknown however if this occurs in the wild.	**M**	**L**
2. Reduce tourism?	Unknown; the species is a large ornamental shrub, that has some toxic properties and may restrict access (Shepherd 2004; Webb, Sykes & Garnock-Jones 1988). The species has not however been reported to impact on recreation.	**M**	**L**
3. Injurious to people?	Suspected to cause allergy (D'Amato & Liccardi 2002) The fruit and leaves of Ligustrum species are reported to be potentially fatal (Shepherd 2004).	**H**	**M**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	The species is a large ornamental shrub (Webb, Sykes & Garnock-Jones 1988). The species may therefore have some impact upon aesthetics, this has not however been reported. .	**ML**	**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?	This is not specifically known, however as Webb *et al* (1988) describes the plant as a large shrub it is thought to pose some resistance to erosion.	**ML**	**M**
8. Reduce biomass?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**
9. Change fire regime?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Damp Forest (E); CMA= West Gippsland; Bioreg= Strzelecki Ranges; VH CLIMATE potential. The impact this species could potentially have on a specific strata is not known. The species has been reported to invade similar habitats to *L.sinense,* the impact of this has not been reported however (Roy *et al* 2004).	**M**	**L**
(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Wet Forest (D); CMA= West Gippsland; Bioreg= Strzelecki Ranges; VH CLIMATE potential. The impact this species could potentially have on a specific strata is not known. The species has been reported to invade similar habitats to *L.sinense,* the impact of this has not been reported however (Roy *et al* 2004).	**M**	**L**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Wet Forest (LC); CMA= West Gippsland; Bioreg= Wilsons Promontory; VH CLIMATE potential. The impact this species could potentially have on a specific strata is not known. The species has been reported to invade similar habitats to *L.sinense,* the impact of this has not been reported however (Roy *et al* 2004).	**M**	**L**
11. Impact on structure?	The impact this species could potentially have on a the vegetation structure is not known. The species has been reported to invade similar habitats to *L.sinense,* the impact of this has not been reported however (Roy *et al* 2004).	**M**	**L**
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?	The leaves and fruit of *Ligustrum* sp. are considered toxic (Shepherd 2004). 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?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Not reported as an agricultural weed. The species however is considered toxic and the similar species *L.vulgare* has been linked to cases of stock death (Everist 1974; Connor 1977; Shepherd 2004).	**M**	**L**
20. Impact quality?	Honey collected from privet species is reported to smell like fish (Swarbrick, Timmins & Bullen 1999).	**M**	**L**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
21. Affect land value?	The species has been used as an ornamental (Webb, Sykes & Garnock-Jones 1988). It is therefore unlikely to have any significant impact upon land values.	**L**	**MH**
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?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**