

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (Vell.) Verdc

Common name: Parrot's Feather

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	Can interfere with boats effecting navigation and recreation, and can cause people to drown (Henderson & Cilliers 2002; Sheppard, Shaw & Sforza 2006). Therefore high nuisance factor.	MH	MH
2. Reduce tourism?	Can limit recreational water activities even make areas unusable (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky 2000).	H	MH
3. Injurious to people?	Can cause drowning (Henderson & Cilliers 2002). This would be largely restricted to warmer months.	MH	M
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Can interfere with infrastructure, including, irrigation works, hydro-electric outputs and water supplies (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001).	MH	MH
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	The plant can form free floating mats, be attached and submerged or emergent and is reported to severely impeded water flow (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001).	H	MH
6. Impact water quality?	Reduces light and water flow (Weber 2003). Therefore has the potential to alter temperature and dissolved oxygen. Unknown to what extent.	M	M
7. Increase soil erosion?	Can cause flooding (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001). Therefore creating the potential for erosion to occur in the floodplain.	MH	MH
8. Reduce biomass?	Can block smaller streams with a tangled mass of vegetation (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky 2000). Therefore can increase biomass, however as the plant die back during winter in colder climates therefore the biomass levels may fluctuate and not be a permanent carbon sink (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky 2000).	ML	MH
9. Change fire regime?	Aquatic species; therefore would have not significant impact of fire.	L	H
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Lignum Wetland (V); CMA= North Central; Bioreg= Victorian Riverina; VH CLIMATE potential. Can for dense stands to the exclusion of native aquatics and even shade out algae (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky 2000; Weber 2003).	H	MH
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Swampy Riparian Woodland (D); CMA= East Gippsland; Bioreg= Highlands-Southern Fall; VH CLIMATE potential. Can be move into marshy areas adjacent to aquatic populations (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky 2000). Unknown to what extent the species impacts on vegetation in these areas, presumed some minor displacement.	ML	M

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(c) low value EVC	EVC= Riverine Swamp Forest (LC); CMA= North Central; Bioreg= Victorian Riverina; VH CLIMATE potential. Can be move into marshy areas adjacent to aquatic populations (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky 2000). Unknown to what extent the species impacts on vegetation in these areas, presumed some minor displacement.	ML	M
11. Impact on structure?	Can for dense stands to the exclusion of native aquatics and even shade out algae (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky 2000; Weber 2003).	H	MH
12. Effect on threatened flora?	No specific evidence report, presumed from major displacement of all native species reported in Weber (2003), there would be displacement of threatened species.	MH	MH
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	No specific evidence reported.	MH	L
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Through exclusion of other aquatic plants and algae, invasion by <i>M.aquaticm</i> can alter ecosystem dynamics by altering the base of the food web (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky 2000).	H	MH
15. Benefits fauna?	Can provide shelter for crayfish (Peterson, Fitzpatrick & VanderKooy 1996).	MH	MH
16. Injurious to fauna?	Can cause animals to drown (Henderson & Cilliers 2002).	H	MH
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	No species in Australia are reported to eat significant amounts of it.	L	M
18. Provides harbour?	Provides habitat for mosquitos (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky 2000).	ML	MH
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Can invade rice fields and impact yield (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001). Unknown to what extent yield is affected. Can result in the drowning of livestock (Hill 2003).	M	MH
20. Impact quality?	No evidence of this	L	M
21. Affect land value?	No evidence of this	L	M

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22. Change land use?	May result in some change in management practises.	ML	M
23. Increase harvest costs?	Can foul pumps and irrigation equipment therefore increasing maintenance time (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001).	M	MH
24. Disease host/vector?	Can be infected by powdery mildew (<i>Micropshaera alphitoidies</i>) (Boesewinkel 1986). It is unknown however to what impact this could have on any commercial crops.	M	L