Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Acacia longifolia* (Andr.) Willd. Common name: Sallow wattle

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	*A. longifolia* produces dense thickets to 8m (Weber 2003) which may impede individual access and cause difficulty for vehicle access.	**MH**	**MH**
2. Reduce tourism?	*A. longifolia* is an upright spreading bushy shrubs to small trees; 1-8m, which may produce dense thickets. Also produces bright yellow flowers to 5cm in length (Weber 2003). May cause minor effect to aesthetics.	**ML**	**MH**
3. Injurious to people?	Reported by PIER (2007), as not being toxic to humans and not to cause allergies. No other reviewed documentation suggests the plant is injurious to people.	**L**	**M**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	No reviewed documentation suggests the plant causes damage to indigenous, european heritage sites or infrastructure. Little or negligible effect on aesthetics or structure of site.	**L**	**M**
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Unknown: No reviewed documentation suggests that *A. longifolia* impacts upon water flows within watercourses or waterbodies.	**M**	**L**
6. Impact water quality?	Unknown: No reviewed documentation suggests that *A. longifolia* impacts on water quality.	**M**	**L**
7. Increase soil erosion?	*A. longifolia* was introduced into South Africa as a dune binder and stabiliser to reduce erosion (Hagemann and Rose 1988: Pieterse and Cairns 1988). May decrease the probability of soil erosion.	**L**	**H**
8. Reduce biomass?	Dense stands will shade out many ground-flora species, crowd out shrubs and severely impede overstorey regeneration (Muyt 2001). The plant produces large amounts of litter increasing nitrogen and phosphorus content in the soil (Weber 2003). This may mean *A. longifolia* directly replaces biomass.	**ML**	**MH**
9. Change fire regime?	Dense stands of *A. longifolia* can burn at high intensities (Pieterse and Cairns 1988). Mass germination of seeds occurs when stimulated fire, so fire increased frequency would benefit the species (Pieterse and Cairns 1986). *A. longifolia* may cause moderate change to the intensity of fire risk.	**MH**	**MH**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Coastal Headland Scrub (V); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Otway Plain; CLIMATE potential=VH. Where invasive, dense thickets may reduce native plant species richness (Weber 2003). *A. longifolia* encroaches into coastal interiors replacing indigenous flora and valuable natural grassland (Hagemann and Rose 1988). Dense stands will shade out many ground-flora species, crowd out shrubs and severely impede overstorey regeneration (Muyt 2001). *A. longifolia* is described as forming dense monocultures (Pieterse and Cairns 1988).	**H**	**H**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic (D); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Otway Plain; CLIMATE potential=VH. Where invasive, dense thickets may reduce native plant species richness (Weber 2003). *A. longifolia* encroaches into coastal interiors replacing indigenous flora and valuable natural grassland (Hagemann and Rose 1988). Dense stands will shade out many ground-flora species, crowd out shrubs and severely impede overstorey regeneration (Muyt 2001). *A. longifolia* is described as forming dense monocultures (Pieterse and Cairns 1988).	**H**	**H**
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Dunefield Heathland (LC); CMA= Mallee; Bioreg= Lowan Mallee; CLIMATE potential=VH. Where invasive, dense thickets may reduce native plant species richness (Weber 2003). *A. longifolia* encroaches into coastal interiors replacing indigenous flora and valuable natural grassland (Hagemann and Rose 1988). Dense stands will shade out many ground-flora species, crowd out shrubs and severely impede overstorey regeneration (Muyt 2001). *A. longifolia* is described as forming dense monocultures (Pieterse and Cairns 1988).	**H**	**H**
11. Impact on structure?	Dense stands will shade out many ground-flora species, crowd out shrubs and severely impede overstorey regeneration (Muyt 2001). *A. longifolia* has encroached into the coastal interior replacing indigenous flora and valuable natural grassland (Hagemann and Rose 1988). Plant communities in dunes, naturally characterised by open structure and low cover can be transformed into *Acacia* woodlands, with arboreal structure, higher cover and low species number, decreasing species richness (Marchante et al. 2003). Pieterse and Cairns (1988) describe *A. longifolia* forming dense monocultures.	**H**	**H**
12. Effect on threatened flora?	Dense thickets may reduce native plant species richness (Weber 2003). *A. longifolia* may replace indigenous flora and valuable natural grassland (Hagemann and Rose 1988). A Portuguese study found *A. longifolia* prevents the germination of therophytes and hemicryptophytes (Marchante et al. 2003). Although no specific information is documented on the effect of *A. longifolia* on VROT species.	**MH**	**L**
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	No specific information was found to document the effect of *A. longifolia* on threatened fauna species.	**MH**	**L**
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Where *A. longifolia* is invasive, dense thickets may reduce native invertebrate species richness (Weber 2003), reducing habitat and displacing individuals but not causing local extinction.	**MH**	**M**
15. Benefits fauna?	May provide as a food source for native invertebrates (Muyt 2001). Although no other specific information is documented on the benefits of *A. longifolia* for indigenous fauna.	**MH**	**MH**
16. Injurious to fauna?	Everist (1981) recorded stock poisoning by *A. longifolia* believing the toxic substance to be cyanides in the leaves. Although, no specific information was found to document that *A. longifolia* is injurious to indigenous fauna species.	**ML**	**M**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	No specific information was found to document that *A. longifolia* provides a food source to assist in success of pest animals.	**M**	**L**
18. Provides harbour?	No specific information was found to document that *A. longifolia* provides as important habitat or harbour for serious pests. Although *A. longifolia* produces dense thickets to 8m (Weber 2003) which may provide harbour for serious pest species.	**M**	**M**
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Everist (1981) recorded stock poisoning by *A. longifolia* believing the toxic substance to be cyanides in the leaves.	**ML**	**MH**
20. Impact quality?	Not described as a weed of agriculture. No literature suggests that *A. longifolia* impacts on the quality of agriculture.	**L**	**M**
21. Affect land value?	Not described as a weed of agriculture. No literature suggests that *A. longifolia* affects land value.	**L**	**M**
22. Change land use?	Not described as a weed of agriculture. No literature suggests that *A. longifolia* causes a change in priority of land use.	**L**	**M**
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not described as a weed of agriculture. No literature suggests that the presence *A. longifolia* increases the cost of production.	**L**	**M**
24. Disease host/vector?	A fungal disease of *A. longifolia* has been documented in South Africa. The disease starts as a leaf spot on small seedlings and proceeds to a lethal infection. The cause of the disease of *A. longifolia* was noted as *Clindrocladium scoparium* which is known as a widespread pathogen (Hagemann and Rose 1988) in agricultural systems including conifer and hardwood seedling (Forest Pests 2006). *A. longifolia* may provide host to a minor disease of agriculture.	**M**	**MH**