Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Euphorbia paralias* L. Common name: Sea Spurge

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	Can grow to 1m and form dense stands (Blood 2001; Weber 2003). As the sap is described as "dangerously poisonous" causing skin and eye irritation a dense stand would make access by people difficult (Blood 2001).	**MH**	**MH**
2. Reduce tourism?	Unknown; There is no evidence reported of the species impacting on tourism. However it is toxic and can form dense stands on beaches which are popular places for recreational activities.	**M**	**L**
3. Injurious to people?	Described as "dangerously poisonous" the plants sap is toxic, capable of causing skin irritation and harm to eyes and requires methylated spirits to be removed (Blood 2001).	**H**	**MH**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Unknown; There is no specific evidence reported of the species damaging sites. However it is reported to alter the formation of sand dunes making them steeper and more likely to be undercut (Blood 2001). This may have some impact on middens.	**M**	**L**
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Reported to alter sand dune formation (Blood 2001). This may result in changes to the path of flow but shouldn't restrict it rate.	**L**	**M**
6. Impact water quality?	There is no evidence of this occurring.	**L**	**M**
7. Increase soil erosion?	The species is a pioneer species of coastal dunes which are by nature prone to erosion. The species has previously been planted with the intent of dune stabilisation (Blood 2001). The resulting dunes however were found to be steeper and more likely to be undercut by wave action (Blood 2001). Heylinger (2002) reports of plants where the sand has been eroded away from leaving there roots exposed for observation. Therefore there is a high probability of large scale erosion, it is unknown however if there are any off-site implications.	**M**	**MH**
8. Reduce biomass?	The plant is largely a pioneer species (Heylinger 2002). Which would obviously result in an increase in biomass as something is always more than nothing. The species is also however reported to eliminate native vegetation with dense stands (Weber 2003). Therefore there is some loss of biomass, however as the plant forms dense stands overall there is likely to be an increase in biomass.	**L**	**MH**
9. Change fire regime?	Unknown.	**M**	**L**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Coastal Dune Grassland (E); CMA= West Gippsland ; Bioreg= Gippsland Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. Can form dense stands which then can eliminate native vegetation and prevent establishment of other natives	**MH**	**MH**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
	(Weber 2003). Therefore resulting in the major displacement of species.		
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Spray-zone Coastal Shrubland (R); CMA= West Gippsland ; Bioreg= Wilsons Promontory; VH CLIMATE potential. Can form dense stands which then can eliminate native vegetation and prevent establishment of other natives (Weber 2003). Therefore resulting in the major displacement of species.	**MH**	**MH**
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Coastal Tussock Grassland (LC); CMA= West Gippsland ; Bioreg= Gippsland Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. Can form dense stands which then can eliminate native vegetation and prevent establishment of other natives (Weber 2003). Therefore resulting in the major displacement of species.	**MH**	**MH**
11. Impact on structure?	Can form dense stands which then can eliminate native vegetation and prevent establishment of other natives (Weber 2003). As the plant is a pioneer species and where it invades it predominantly forms part of the only layer this would have major effect on effectively all layers (Blood 2001; Heylinger 2002).	**H**	**MH**
12. Effect on threatened flora?	Unknown.	**MH**	**L**
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	Unknown.	**MH**	**L**
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	The species can alter dune formation and vegetation composition (Blood 2001; Weber 2003). This could result in impacts to the available shelter and food supply of fauna. Specific evidence is not reported however.	**M**	**L**
15. Benefits fauna?	Not reported to be eaten by anything in Australia, and has toxic sap so would have little potential to provide shelter for species (Blood 2001). Therefore thought to provide little support for desirable species.	**H**	**M**
16. Injurious to fauna?	Has toxic sap which can cause irritation (Blood 2001; Sayed *et al* 1980).	**H**	**H**
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Not reported to be eaten by anything in Australia.	**L**	**M**
18. Provides harbour?	Has toxic sap so would have little potential to provide shelter for species (Blood 2001).	**L**	**M**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**
20. Impact quality?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**
21. Affect land value?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**
22. Change land use?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**
24. Disease host/vector?	Not reported as a weed of agriculture.	**L**	**M**