## Impact Assessment Record

**Scientific name:** *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (Vell.) Verdc  
**Common name:** Parrot’s Feather

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Restrict human access?</td>
<td>Can interfere with boats effecting navigation and recreation, and can cause people to drown (Henderson &amp; Cilliers 2002; Sheppard, Shaw &amp; Sforza 2006). Therefore high nuisance factor.</td>
<td>MH</td>
<td>MH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Reduce tourism?</td>
<td>Can limit recreational water activities even make areas unusable (Bossard, Randell &amp; Hoshovsky 2000).</td>
<td>H</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Injurious to people?</td>
<td>Can cause drowning (Henderson &amp; Cilliers 2002). This would be largely restricted to warmer months.</td>
<td>MH</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Damage to cultural sites?</td>
<td>Can interfere with infrastructure, including, irrigation works, hydro-electric outputs and water supplies (Parsons &amp; Cuthbertson 2001).</td>
<td>MH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Abiotic</strong></td>
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<td>5. Impact flow?</td>
<td>The plant can form free floating mats, be attached and submerged or emergent and is reported to severely impeded water flow (Parsons &amp; Cuthbertson 2001).</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>MH</td>
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<td>7. Increase soil erosion?</td>
<td>Can cause flooding (Parsons &amp; Cuthbertson 2001). Therefore creating the potential for erosion to occur in the floodplain.</td>
<td>MH</td>
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<td>8. Reduce biomass?</td>
<td>Can block smaller streams with a tangled mass of vegetation (Bossard, Randell &amp; 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 &amp; Hoshovsky 2000).</td>
<td>ML</td>
<td>MH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Change fire regime?</td>
<td>Aquatic species; therefore would have not significant impact of fire.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community Habitat</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Impact on composition</td>
<td>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 &amp; Hoshovsky 2000; Weber 2003).</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>MH</td>
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<tr>
<td>(a) high value EVC</td>
<td>Can for dense stands to the exclusion of native aquatics and even shade out algae (Bossard, Randell &amp; Hoshovsky 2000; Weber 2003).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) medium value EVC</td>
<td>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 &amp; Hoshovsky 2000). Unknown to what extent the species impacts on vegetation in these areas, presumed some minor displacement.</td>
<td>ML</td>
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<td>(c) low value EVC</td>
<td>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 &amp; Hoshovsky 2000). Unknown to what extent the species impacts on vegetation in these areas, presumed some minor displacement.</td>
<td>ML</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Impact on structure?</td>
<td>Can for dense stands to the exclusion of native aquatics and even shade out algae (Bossard, Randell &amp; Hoshovsky 2000; Weber 2003).</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>MH</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Effect on threatened flora?</td>
<td>No specific evidence report, presumed from major displacement of all native species reported in Weber (2003), there would be displacement of threatened species.</td>
<td>MH</td>
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</tr>
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### 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 *M. aquaticum* can alter ecosystem dynamics by altering the base of the food web (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky 2000). | 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

| 20. Impact quality? | No evidence of this | L | M |
| 21. Affect land value? | No evidence of this | L | M |
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<td>22. Change land use?</td>
<td>May result in some change in management practises.</td>
<td>ML</td>
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<td>23. Increase harvest costs?</td>
<td>Can foul pumps and irrigation equipment therefore increasing maintenance time (Parsons &amp; Cuthbertson 2001).</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td>24. Disease host/vector?</td>
<td>Can be infected by powdery mildew (<em>Micropshaera alphioidies</em>) (Boesewinkel 1986). It is unknown however to what impact this could have on any commercial crops.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L</td>
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