

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific Name: *Rubus alceifolius* Poir.

Common name: giant bramble

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	“Forms impenetrable thickets” (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992). “Will encroach onto roadways” (DNRM, 2005). “Seeds germinated along forest paths” (Baret et al., 2003) and creekbanks (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992). People and/or vehicles access with difficulty.	MH	M
2. Reduce tourism?	Where this plant invades creekbanks and forms impenetrable thickets (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992), access to waterways for recreational use will be affected.	MH	MH
3. Injurious to people?	“Sparse, recurved prickles to 5mm” (Lingdi & Boufford, 2003) all year.	MH	H
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Scandent shrub to 5m with arching or climbing branches (Lingdi & Boufford, 2003) that can reach to the top of the canopy in forest (Baret et. al, 2003) and that forms impenetrable thickets (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992) will have a moderate visual effect at cultural sites.	ML	H
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Invades creekbanks (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992). Terrestrial species.	L	MH
6. Impact water quality?	Invades creekbanks (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992). Terrestrial species.	L	MH
7. Increase soil erosion?	The permanent root system formed by thickets of this plant (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992) is likely to decrease the risk of erosion.	L	MH
8. Reduce biomass?	As this plant forms dense thickets, where it invades rainforest (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992), it is likely to directly replace biomass but where it invades pasture and roadsides (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992) it will increase biomass.	L	MH
9. Change fire regime?	This species grows in rainforest in its natural range (Bean, 1997) and invades rainforest in Australia (Parsons & Cuthbertson), so is unlikely to change fire regime much.	L	MH
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	Climate modelling shows that this species is not likely to occur as an invasive plant in Victoria.	L	H
(b) medium value EVC	Climate modelling shows that this species is not likely to occur as an invasive plant in Victoria.	L	H
(c) low value EVC	Climate modelling shows that this species is not likely to occur as an invasive plant in Victoria.	L	H
11. Impact on structure?	Scandent shrub to 5m with arching or climbing branches (Lingdi & Boufford, 2003) that can reach to the top of the canopy in forest (Baret et. al, 2003) and cover other plants (NAPPO, 2006). Invading “disturbed rainforest areas, wet gullies, creekbanks, perimeter of rainforest areas” (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992). Likely to have a major effect on the shrub and groundcover layers and a minor effect on the tree layer.	MH	MH

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
12. Effect on threatened flora?	Climate modelling shows that this species is not likely to occur as an invasive plant in Victoria.	L	H
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	Climate modelling shows that this species is not likely to occur as an invasive plant in Victoria.	L	H
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Scandent shrub to 5m with arching or climbing branches (Lingdi & Boufford, 2003) that can reach to the top of the canopy in forest (Baret et. al, 2003) and cover other plants (NAPPO, 2006). Invading “disturbed rainforest areas, wet gullies, creekbanks, perimeter of rainforest areas” (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992). Likely to have a major effect on the shrub and groundcover layers and a minor effect on the tree layer. This may reduce the food and habitat available to fauna species, reducing their numbers.	MH	H
15. Benefits fauna?	Berries are eaten by birds and animals (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992).	MH	MH
16. Injurious to fauna?	“Sparse, recurved prickles to 5mm” (Lingdi & Boufford, 2003) all year.	MH	H
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Berries are eaten by birds and animals (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992).	ML	MH
18. Provides harbor?	Dense thickets (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992) are likely to provide permanent harbour to foxes and rabbits.	H	MH
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	“Occurring as a weed...in newly sown or run-down pastures...Forms impenetrable thickets which reduce pasture productivity and may limit access to water.” (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992). Large infestations may reduce the carrying capacity of land by more than 5%.	MH	MH
20. Impact quality?	No impact on quality recorded in Parsons & Cuthbertson (1992).	L	MH
21. Affect land value?	As this plant can be controlled by cultivation (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992), it is unlikely to affect land value.	L	MH
22. Change land use?	Following control by cultivation (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992) land can continue to be used for grazing.	L	MH
23. Increase harvest costs?	Cultivation to control this plant involves the use of bulldozing, ploughing and ripping, the sowing of an annual crop, followed by more cultivation and the establishment of pasture (Parsons & Cuthbertson, 1992). This two year process involving the use of expensive equipment for several days would cause a major increase in labour and machinery costs.	H	MH
24. Disease host/vector?	Not recorded as a disease host/vector in Parsons & Cuthbertson (1992).	L	MH

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Revisions

Date	Revised by	Revision
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