

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Cortaderia jubata* (Lemoine ex Carriere) Stapf.

Common name: Pink Pampas Grass

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	Large clumps can block vehicle access especially in fire situations, and sharp leaf margins could restrict access by individuals (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky, 2000). A dense infestation would require significant works before reasonable access could be provided through.	H	MH
2. Reduce tourism?	Ornamental species can reduce the aesthetic and recreational values of areas (Duckett 1989; Harradine 1991).	MH	H
3. Injurious to people?	The margins of the leaf blades are sharp and can cause injury (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky, 2000).	MH	MH
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Ornamental species reported to impact on the aesthetics of natural areas (Duckett 1989; Harradine 1991). Therefore could impact on the aesthetics of cultural sites.	ML	M
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Able to germinate in disturbed seasonal wetlands (Lambrinos 2002). The species is not however reported in flowing water.	L	M
6. Impact water quality?	No reported evidence of this.	L	M
7. Increase soil erosion?	Historically has been used for erosion control (West & Dean 1989). Therefore would have a low probability of large scale soil movement or reduce the probability.	L	MH
8. Reduce biomass?	A large tussock grass reported to be able to alter a shrubland to perennial grasslands (Lambrinos 2000). Can prevent re-establishment in forests, after fire or logging (Weber 2003). In which case biomass would decrease.	MH	MH
9. Change fire regime?	Has been shown to increase fire frequency (Lambrinos 2000). May have higher fuel loads than native grasslands.	M	MH
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Coastal Headland Scrub (V); CMA= West Gippsland; Bioreg= Wilsons Promontory; VH CLIMATE potential. In California invasion by <i>C. jubata</i> has converted shrubland to grassland significantly altering floral composition (Lambinos 2000). If shrubland has been converted to grassland the shrub layer must have been displaced.	H	H
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Sand Heathland (R); CMA= West Gippsland; Bioreg= Wilsons Promontory; VH CLIMATE potential. In California invasion by <i>C. jubata</i> has converted shrubland to grassland significantly altering floral composition (Lambinos 2000). If shrubland has been converted to grassland the shrub layer must have been displaced.	H	H

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(c) low value EVC	EVC= Wet Heathland (LC); CMA= West Gippsland; Bioreg= Wilsons Promontory; VH CLIMATE potential. In California invasion by <i>C. jubata</i> has converted shrubland to grassland significantly altering floral composition (Lambinos 2000). If shrubland has been converted to grassland the shrub layer must have been displaced.	H	H
11. Impact on structure?	In California invasion by <i>C. jubata</i> has converted shrubland to grassland significantly altering floral composition (Lambinos 2000). Therefore having a major effect on all layers as the shrub layer would be removed and species composition of the grass/herb layer altered.	H	H
12. Effect on threatened flora?	Threatens an endangered community in California (Lambinos 2000). However no data available on its impact on threatened species in Australia.	MH	M
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	No specific evidence of this in Australia. In California however its invasion into a threatened heathland community, impacted upon the composition of arthropod, hymenoptera and small mammal communities (Lambinos 2000).	MH	M
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Simplified structure in heathland, resulted in a change in species composition and a decrease in diversity in Californian chaparral (Lambinos 2000).	H	H
15. Benefits fauna?	May provide some food resources to grazing species and cover, however this is may be a decrease in available resources from the invaded vegetation (Lambinos 2000).	MH	H
16. Injurious to fauna?	Leaves do have sharp margins (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky, 2000). However there are no reports of injuries to wildlife.	M	L
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Eaten by rabbits (Lambinos 2000).	MH	H
18. Provides harbor?	Provide shelter for rabbits, comparable to heathland (Lambinos 2000).	H	H
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Competition with pampas grass can have a negative effect on forestry tree growth (Gadgil <i>et al</i> 1990). From the efforts taken to control pampas in forestry it is presumed to have a significant impact on yield (West & Dean 1989).	H	MH
20. Impact quality?	Not reported.	M	L
21. Affect land value?	No evidence of this, potentially in areas of forestry.	M	L

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22. Change land use?	Management may need to be altered.	M	L
23. Increase harvest costs?	Impedes access and can cause problems to management in terms of fire (Bossard, Randell & Hoshovsky, 2000).	M	MH
24. Disease host/vector?	No evidence of this.	L	M