MR (Major) Acacia longifolia

Date assessed	2020-09-27
Year published	2022
Eicat category	MR (Major)
Justification for EICAT assessment	Acacia longifolia caused native plant species diversity decrease (Marchante et al., 2003; Marchante et al., 2015; Carvalho et al., 2018; Marchante et al., 2011; López-Núñez et al., 2017; Rascher et al., 2011) and altered soil properties (Alberio & Comparatore, 2014; Hellmann et al. 2011). Native plant species richness was lower in both, recently and long-invaded A. longifolia sites compared to uninvaded areas (Marchante, 2011). A. longifolia also reduced arthropod abundance and species richness at medium and highly invaded areas (Rodriguez et al., 2020). A. longifolia reduced bacterial community diversity (Slabbert et al., 2014; Le Roux et al., 2018) and led to lower invertebrate species richness and diversity (Samways et al., 1996).
Confidence rating	High
Mechanism(s) of maximum impact	Competition; Structural Impact on ecosystem; Indirect impacts through interactions with other species; Chemical impact on ecosystems
Countries of most severe impact	Portugal; Argentina; South Africa; Uruguay; NW Iberian Peninsula
Description of impact	Impact categories ranged from minimal concern to major. Acacia longifolia often had structural and physical impact through changing the natural ecosystem structure and changing native community composition. A. longifolia also often had chemical impacts by changing soil properties of the natural environment. A. longifolia is able to reduce seed germination and seedling growth through poisoning/toxic effects. A. longifolia outcompeted native species and homogenised natural areas. A. longifolia has indirect impacts on natives by decreasing seed dispersal of native plants.
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Reviewers	EICAT authority
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Impact categories