

MO (Moderate) *Cygnus atratus*

Date assessed	2021-10-04
Year published	2022
Eicat category	MO (Moderate)
Justification for EICAT assessment	In New Zealand the Black Swan is the only large grazer of intertidal seagrass. At sites of intense grazing (annual removal of 19-20% of the average seagrass biomass), substantial decline (43-69%) in plant biomass in the subsequent growing season was observed (<i>Zostera muelleri</i>) (Dos Santos et al. 2012).
Confidence rating	High
Mechanism(s) of maximum impact	Grazing/herbivory/browsing
Countries of most severe impact	New Zealand
Description of impact	The Black Swan feeds on native plant species, causing the decline of a native seagrass in New Zealand. It also hybridizes with native swan species.
Assessor	Thomas Evans; Tom Allmert
Contributors	
Reviewers	EICAT authority
Recommended citation	Thomas Evans; Tom Allmert. (2026). <i>Cygnus atratus</i> . IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT) .

