

**MO (Moderate)** *Cygnus atratus*

<b>Date assessed</b>	2021-10-04
<b>Year published</b>	2022
<b>Eicat category</b>	MO (Moderate)
<b>Justification for EICAT assessment</b>	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).
<b>Confidence rating</b>	High
<b>Mechanism(s) of maximum impact</b>	Grazing/herbivory/browsing
<b>Countries of most severe impact</b>	New Zealand
<b>Description of impact</b>	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.
<b>Assessor</b>	Thomas Evans; Tom Allmert
<b>Contributors</b>	
<b>Reviewers</b>	EICAT authority
<b>Recommended citation</b>	Thomas Evans; Tom Allmert. (2026). <i>Cygnus atratus</i> . <a href="#">IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT)</a> .

