

Excerpt from Section Three - Results

### Willow management prioritisation matrix – an explanation

The *colours of the cells* in the prioritisation matrix represent the importance of managing each willow taxon in the region. A summary of the colours, their relative priority and a rationale for prioritisation is in Figure 12.

The prioritisation matrix that resulted from using data on a national scale is in Figures 13 a & b. By reading across the columns from left to right, you can see at a glance which willows have the worst potential for invasiveness and impacts, which have a moderate potential, and which are a low risk. Similarly, down the rows, from top to bottom you can see which willows have the highest potential distribution, and which have the lowest.

Those with the highest potential distribution (in the first row) are considered suited to the climate of the region and able to establish, but also able to be eradicated. Those in the second row may be beyond eradication, but, by comparison with the last row, still have a long way to spread and would be worth investing in management to prevent their spread.

The bottom row contains willows that have either spread to occupy a large part of their potential range, or are unlikely to establish in the region due to unsuitable climate. In both cases the willow taxon will be a low priority for management; because it poses a low risk to the region, because it is unlikely to establish, or because it has spread so far that it would take a large amount of resources to manage it. In the latter case, management of these willows may occur as part of a site-led approach to protect valuable assets in the region.

| Distribution score | Invasiveness and Impact score   |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|---|
|                    | H   | M   | L   |
| H                  | <p><b>VERY HIGH PRIORITY</b><br/>High invasiveness and impact risk. Either not yet naturalised in the region, <b>OR</b> likely to be able to be eradicated.</p>   | <p><b>MODERATE PRIORITY</b><br/>Medium invasiveness and impact risk. Either a high potential for spread in the region, <b>OR</b> able to be eradicated.</p> | <p><b>LOW PRIORITY</b><br/>Considered a low priority for management because they have a low potential for invasiveness and impacts, and either have already spread across a large part of their potential range, <b>OR</b> are unlikely to establish in the region due to unsuitable climate.</p> |
| M                  | <p><b>HIGH PRIORITY</b><br/>High invasiveness and impact risk. High potential for spread in the region.</p>   |   |   |
| L                  | <p><b>LOW PRIORITY</b><br/>Considered a low priority for management because they have already spread across a large part of their potential range, <b>OR</b> unlikely to establish in the region due to unsuitable climate.</p> |   |   |

This document is an excerpt from Steel, J. Holland Clift, S. & Snell, K. (2008). *Developing willow management priorities from the local to the national level*. Department of Primary Industries, Victoria.

Further information and management options for each of the prioritisation categories can be found in this resource.