Buddleja or smokebush
*Buddleja madagascariensis*

**Non Restricted Invasive Weed**

Buddleja can grow almost anywhere, but prefers nutrient-rich watercourses and creek lines, where it quickly dominates, shading out and replacing native plant species.

It has escaped from gardens and has naturalised into paddocks and some bushland areas. Its ability to form roots from the stems enables the plant to form dense thickets. It also means that mechanical removal is difficult, as small pieces of stem left on the site will regrow.

Buddleja is an invasive plant which can disrupt native flora communities and ecosystems.

**Description**

Buddleja grows as a sprawling shrub 1-5m high. Leaves are narrow, around 10-15cm long, being dark green on top and the underneath being densely covered in short whitish or yellowish hairs, giving them a velvety appearance.

Flowering occurs during spring and summer. It produces a long (25cm) flower spike made up of smaller yellowish coloured flowers which are sweetly scented. The flowers produce small blue-violet berries.

**Management**

Due to the stem-layering characteristic, mechanical removal should only be attempted if all the rooted stems can be removed, and the entire plant is destroyed (either by burning or removal from the site).