

GIANT REED, *ARUNDO DONAX* L., - A NUISANCE WEED IN CERTAIN
RAIL SITUATIONS

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Abstract. *Arundo donax* L., giant reed or green bamboo reed, is an introduced perennial naturalised in the mainland states of Australia. It is an erect, densely growing perennial with large leaves and thick, vigorous rhizomes. It has tall culms 2 to 5 m high which rapidly colonise water ways and drainage and soak areas. *Arundo donax* is considered a nuisance weed, as distinct from one which causes significant economic losses. It infests wasteland and urban bushland reserves, particularly in the rail corridors of Sydney's North Shore, the Hunter Valley and ecologically suitable areas of the North Coast.

A number of management issues need to be addressed in relation to control of *Arundo donax*:

- does the infestation require treatment?
- can mechanical and cultural control be achieved?
- which herbicides are effective?
- are their environmental hazards associated with herbicidal control?

Mechanical and cultural control is generally impracticable in a rail reserve due to restricted access and operating space, and the variable topography. The effect on the environment must be a major consideration of any control strategy. There is little published information on herbicidal control of *Arundo donax*. This paper reports the preliminary results of herbicide efficacy experiments.