
Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party

Community Extension Program

Guidelines & Application Form

Version Date: 9 May 2019



The VSTWP Community Extension Program seeks to support communities to reduce the impact of serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) on agricultural, environmental and social values.

The program aims to tailor extension services to local attributes, level of community support and the density of the infestation.

VSTWP EXTENSION CATEGORIES

Surveillance and Extension

Supports communities that have relatively low levels of serrated tussock or are at risk of infestation. VSTWP to lead delivery of targeted community awareness and education program to increase the community's ability to identify and manage serrated tussock:

- Deliver one season of surveillance and extension on all properties in the project area.
- Liaise with Local Government, Crown Land Managers Linear reserve managers.
- All infestations identified are to be referred to Agriculture Victoria for ongoing surveillance.
- Media release in local papers.
- Provide with landowner signs for promotion.

Education Resources and Grants

Support communities that have medium to high levels of serrated tussock and lower agricultural, environmental or social values. VSTWP to facilitate community awareness and education programs which increase the community's ability to identify and manage serrated tussock including:

- A grant to deliver a best practice field day, along with educational material, promotion through the VSTWP and guidelines for running the event.
- Provide exemplary landowners with fence signs to promote best practice.

Extension Support

Support communities that have medium to high levels of serrated tussock as well as high agricultural, environmental or social values. VSTWP to lead delivery of targeted community awareness and education program to increase the community's ability to identify and manage serrated tussock:

- Ensure community commitment and support for the project.
- Delivery of at least two seasons of extension (up to three inspections) by a VSTWP Extension Officer.
- Properties will be referral to DEDJTR for compliance support when;
 - There is insufficient serrated tussock control, and;
 - The level of community support remains high, and;
 - VSTWP extension efforts were delivered as planned.
- Extension projects will be reassessed at the end of the first season to ensure that continued extension and compliance referral is still suitable for the area.
- On completion of VSTWP extension the project will be handed back to a local lead agency. This agency will be responsible for maintaining action and support for the project through annual monitoring and extension efforts. Where a new or existing landowner is found to fall behind in their obligation to manage serrated tussock, after exhausting all efforts, the local lead agency may request further VSTPW extension assistance for one or two properties within the area.

CRITERIA

The following criteria are used to determine the type of support the VSTWP will offer your group/agency:

- Level of agricultural and environmental values.
- Level of community support and action.
- Density of infestations in the area.

REQUIREMENTS

- The project must be within a defined area and ideally have clear boundaries such as roads, railway or reserves.
- Projects area is to be no greater than 15,000 Ha in size and contain no more than 200 properties.
- A representative for the local lead agency is to be nominated as a key contact. If the project is supported, the key contact is expected to make themselves available to meet and liaise with representatives of the VSTWP regarding all project matters.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

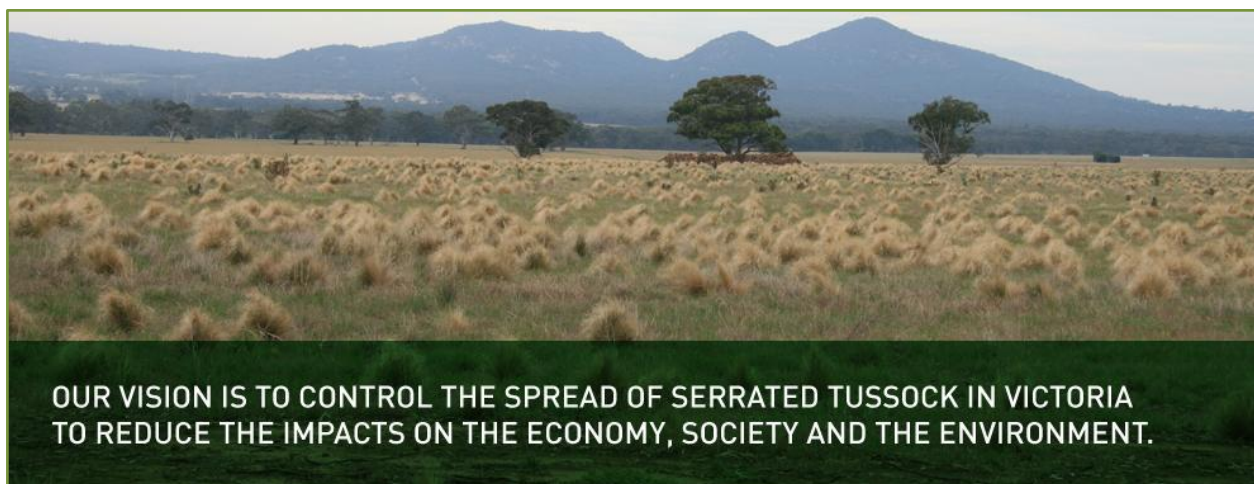
A VSTWP Advisory Committee will evaluate applications against the criteria, taking into consideration information provided by the applicant, VSTWP Extension Officers and Agriculture Victoria.

Eligibility for support via this program is at the discretion of the VSTWP Committee. As funding and resources are limited the VSTWP may not have the capacity to support all requests for assistance.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in being part of this program and working with the VSTWP to manage serrated tussock, please complete the attached application form and submit to the VSTWP for consideration. Applications will be tabled and assessed at the next scheduled VSTWP Advisory Committee meeting after which the applicant will be informed of the decision.

For further information please email the VSTWP at info@serratetussock.com





Community Extension Program: Application Form

Contact details of local lead agency representative E.g. Landcare, Local Government:

Local lead agency:.....

Contact Name:.....

Phone Number:.....

Email Address:.....

Postal Address:.....

Number of properties in the project area:

Collaboration and Partnerships: E.g. Landcare or community groups, Local Government, Parks Victoria

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Agricultural and environmental assets in the area:

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Level of community support and action: Details of the serrated tussock control works undertaken in the area, including length of time. Provide any supporting evidence demonstrating community-led action, such as surveys or field day attendance: (Attach additional pages or supporting documents if required)

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No of properties with infestations:

Average density of infestation (0-1% / 1-5% / 5-100%):

Average number of plants on infested properties (less than 100 / up to 1,000 / more than 1,000):

Number of problem properties impacting on groups control efforts:

Have attempts been made to contact these landholders? Y / N

Details:

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Has the group/organisation sort assistance from Agriculture Victoria / Local Government / other? Y / N

Details:

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Please provide any other evidence to support your application. (Attach additional pages or supporting documents if required)

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*** Please attach a map** detailing the project area. Location of properties actively managing serrated tussock. Location of properties requiring attention - include road names, waterways, etc.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Please send your completed form to: info@serratedtussock.com

or post to:

Executive Officer
Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party
219a Main Street
BACCHUS MARSH, Vic 3340