

Media Release

VSTWP renew Serrated Tussock extension projects

July 2016

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) have commenced three new extension projects for 2016 around the Inverleigh, Ballan and Gisborne South regions, covering nearly 15,000 hectares of land across Victoria. Extension Officers from the VSTWP will be offering free inspections and providing expert advice to over 500 landowners over the next 6 to 12 months in these areas, which aim to build the capacity of landowners to identify and control this invasive noxious weed. The VSTWP have contracted a third extension officer, Tim Johnston, to cover the new extension area around north of Inverleigh and ensure landowners have the opportunity to get tailored advice to best manage any infestations.

VSTWP Extension Officer Ivan Carter said “these projects are all about raising the awareness of this noxious weed and the program aims to provide technical advice on a property by property basis.” “Prevention and early detection of new infestations and replacement of existing infestations with desired species is critical in managing this invasive plant.” stated Mr. Carter.

Serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) is a declared noxious weed in Victoria and has the potential to seriously reduce the agricultural capacity of properties. Chairman of the VSTWP John Burgess said “over the past 12 months our extension officers have assessed over 16,000 hectares of land and have ensured that the majority of serrated tussock infestations have been voluntarily treated by landholders at the time”. “We launch each project with an information session or field day, with all landholders in the target area invited to discuss the project and learn about the biology, identification and services available to landholders affected by serrated tussock” noted Mr Burgess.

The VSTWP was formed in 1995 to assist landowners and land managers with serrated tussock management and is comprised of community and stakeholder representatives. Since 1995, the VSTWP have completed 15 extension projects, covering over 100,000 hectares of land and have assisted thousands of landowners. Program staff and community representatives have produced extension material, case studies and online videos to assist landowners in having access to the best practice management principles for serrated tussock.

For more information, including extension material, case studies, progress reports, newsletters and research material, please visit www.serratedtussock.com.



Victorian
Serrated Tussock
Working Party



Photos: Serrated tussock invading farmland and reducing productivity. Source: VSTWP



Photo: A serrated tussock in early summer. Source: VSTWP

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