

## Media Release

# VSTWP commence new Serrated Tussock projects

July 2015

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) have launched three new extension projects in 2015 around the Inverleigh, Mt Egerton and Gisborne regions, covering over 16,000 hectares of land across Victoria. Extension Officers from the VSTWP will be offering free inspections and providing expert advice to all landowners over the next 6 to 12 months in these areas, and aim to build the capacity of landowners to identify and control this invasive noxious weed.

VSTWP Extension Officer Ivan Carter said “Many landholders to these regions may not know how to identify and manage serrated tussock and this program aims to increase awareness and provide technical advice on a property by property basis.” “The serrated tussock message is about integrated weed management and productive land management. 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 an introduced invasive plant from South America that has the potential to rapidly decrease the biodiversity of native grasslands and seriously reduce the agricultural capacity of properties. Chairman of the VSTWP Peter Lindeman said “over the past 12 months our extension officers have assessed over 15,000 hectares of land and have ensured that the majority of serrated tussock infestations have been voluntarily treated by landholders at the time, with free expert management guidance and advice provided by the extension officers”. “Each of the three current extension projects were launched 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 Lindeman.

The VSTWP have been assisting landowners and land managers with serrated tussock management since 1995 and is comprised of community members and stakeholder representatives. Program staff and extension officers work closely with landcare groups, land holders, local government, and other agencies to promote a holistic approach to land management and serrated tussock control.

Spatial modelling suggests that large parts of the state of Victoria are suitable for serrated tussock infestations and whilst it may not have reached this potential, there are known scattered infestations in the current VSTWP target areas. Management of these infestations will not only minimise the impact on the local landscape and community, but also help prevent serrated tussock from reaching the potential extent and impact across the rest of the state.

For more information on serrated tussock and the VSTWP please visit [www.serratedtussock.com](http://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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