

Media Release

CLARKEFIELD TACKLES SERRATED TUSSOCK

12th September 2013

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) has provided a successful serrated tussock extension program to support landholders to the east of the Clarkefield township.

Starting in May 2013, the project has seen 146 properties offered an opportunity to attend an information session, educational advice, mapping of serrated tussock infestations, and personalised treatment advice for each property.

The outcomes from the project have seen landowners conduct treatment on approximately 70 hectares of serrated tussock across the target area and also improve their knowledge on how to identify the invasive plant amongst other native and pasture grasses.

VSTWP Extension Officer Ivan Carter said he “mostly found scattered serrated tussock infestations during the inspections in the Clarkefield area, which left untreated will rapidly decrease biodiversity in native grasslands and seriously reduce the agricultural capacity of properties”. Carter also noted that “there were also some areas of dense serrated tussock, which was both concerning and detrimental to the local agricultural and environmental assets of the region.”

Carter explained “Many new landholders to the region did not know how to identify and manage serrated tussock and this program has increased awareness and provided technical advice on a property by property basis.” Nearly 100 landowners received extension brochures on how to identify serrated tussock and information on the best management options for their property, with many landowners choosing to have their property mapped for serrated tussock infestations to strategically plan treatments.

Carter said “The serrated tussock message is about integrated weed management and sustainable land management and the landowners of Clarkefield have done a good job in treating their serrated tussock before it seeds in late Spring. Prevention and early detection of new infestations and replacement of existing infestations with desired species is critical in managing this invasive plant.”

The VSTWP will commence a similar extension project for serrated tussock south of Riddells Creek, starting in October 2013. This project, in partnership with Landcare, Local Government, and Caring for our Country, will work west of the Lancefield-Melbourne road and offer extension services to nearly 200 landowners.

For more information on serrated tussock please visit www.serratedtussock.com

(Photo: Serrated tussock invades grazing pastures and lowers stock capacity).