

## Media Release

### **Mt Egerton, Bungal and Mt Doran to be targeted for Serrated Tussock extension**

**April 2015**

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) is strengthening its extension program by supporting landholders in the Mt Egerton, Bungal and Mt Doran townships. The project continues on from a recent extension project undertaken south of Mt Doran, and will be active between the three townships and the arms of the Moorabool River.

VSTWP Extension Officer Roger MacRaild will offer landholders and managers in the area a free property visit and property map noting any serrated tussock infestations located. The program will also offer technical advice on serrated tussock control and management for each situation and information packages detailing serrated tussock identification and management options.

“Signs telling us to ‘Control Serrated Tussock Now’ have been on the roadsides for as long as some people can remember, but is serrated tussock really an issue locally?” asked Roger MacRaild. “To some, serrated tussock may look fairly innocuous and doesn’t appear to have spread very far in this region, but without intervention this plant is capable of spreading quickly across the landscape. This region is prime land for serrated tussock and the earlier landowners are equipped with the knowledge and skills to manage this plant the better” said MacRaild.

CSIRO modelling suggests that most of the state of Victoria is suitable for serrated tussock infestations and whilst it may not have reached this potential, all this Weed of National Significance needs is the opportunity. In the Rowsley Valley, 20km to the east of this target area, that opportunity was the 1982-83 drought. The drought caught many landowners off-guard and led to over-grazing. This left some areas reduced to dust, providing a blank canvas for serrated tussock to colonise the bare soils. The picture it drew on that landscape is infamous in its devastating reduction in grazing capacity, and the road to recovery has been long, slow and costly.

“For the Mt Egerton to Mt Doran part of the world, prevention and containment works are a necessary investment. There are local pockets of infestations right through to Lal Lal, but not much further. Management of these infestations will not only minimise the impact on the local landscape and community, but also help prevent serrated tussock from reaching its’ potential extent and impact across the rest of the state” notes MacRaild.

The VSTWP will be sending its Extension Officer Roger MacRaild to visit everyone from Mt Doran to Mt Egerton to help identify infestations and assist landowners develop control strategies they can implement. This program will get underway with a field day at the Mt Egerton Recreation Reserve on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> April 8am until 11am, to provide the basics of identification and management over a complimentary egg and bacon sandwich.

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