

## Media Release

# VSTWP TO CONTINUE ATTACKING SERRATED TUSSOCK IN RIDDELLS CREEK

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) is continuing to strengthen its extension program by supporting landholders to the west of the Riddells Creek township. This project continues on from the recent Riddells Creek Stage 1 extension project, and will work west of the Riddells Road towards the township of Gisborne.

Scattered serrated tussock infestations have been found in the Riddells Creek area and if left untreated will rapidly decrease biodiversity in native grasslands and seriously reduce the agricultural capacity of properties.

Landholders in the target area will be offered 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.
- A landholder information package detailing serrated tussock identification and management options.
- The opportunity to attend serrated tussock information sessions.
- An opportunity to participate in the incentives program, with possible financial assistance for contractor and treatment costs, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.

VSTWP Extension Officer, Ivan Carter said "Many new landholders to the region may not know how to identify and manage serrated tussock, this program aims to increase awareness and provide technical advice on a property by property basis."

The program will provide economic, environmental and social benefits to the Riddells Creek community. Ivan Carter said "The serrated tussock message is about integrated weed management and sustainable land management. Prevention and early detection of new infestations and replacement of existing infestations with desired species is critical in managing this invasive plant."

The VSTWP, in partnership with stakeholders including Landcare, Local Government, the Federal Government Caring for Our Country Program, and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, aims to offer continued support in the Riddells Creek area to raise awareness of serrated tussock, promote best practice management techniques, and encourage communities to voluntarily manage this invasive species.

For further information, please contact Ivan Carter, Extension Officer, Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party on 0422605953.

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



Victorian  
Serrated Tussock  
Working Party



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