

Media Release

SERRATED TUSSOCK TACKLED ACROSS VICTORIA

1st October 2014

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) has strengthened its community education programs in strategic locations across Victoria over the past 12 months, supporting 368 landholders in the Clarkefield, Riddells Creek, Buckley, Lake Modewarre and Mt Doran regions. Three extension officers were contracted to implement the targeted extension projects, which aimed to increase awareness of serrated tussock and provide landholders with the knowledge and resources to manage infestations.

Serrated tussock 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 Jim Seager said “over the past 12 months our extension officers have assessed over 20,000 hectares of land and observed a total of 487 hectares infested with serrated tussock, 425 hectares of which were voluntarily treated by Landholders at the time, with the expert management guidance and advice provided by the extension officers” said Mr Seager.

All landholders in the five target areas were offered a free property visit, an information package detailing serrated tussock identification and management options, technical advice on serrated tussock control and a property map noting any serrated tussock infestations located. Chairman Jim Seager said “each of the 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”.

VSTWP Extension Officer, Ivan Carter said “Many landholders new to a region do not know how to identify and manage serrated tussock, and the VSTWP extension 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 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.” said Mr Carter.

The extension program encourages community-led action by providing concerned communities the skills and knowledge to take real steps towards achieving effective long-term management, thereby reducing their reliance on Government legislative enforcement.

For further information, please contact Ivan Carter, Community Engagement Officer, Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party on 0422605953. For more information on serrated tussock please visit www.serratedtussock.com