

Serrated Tussock Working Party for NSW and the ACT

2014 Progress Report



This report card summarises the progress against our goals for serrated tussock eradication and control for NSW & the ACT, highlighting significant achievements

The STWP seeks to generate sustained action by all interested parties, including land managers, local, State and Commonwealth governments to deliver policies and committed action to reduce the impact of serrated tussock (and other weeds) on the environment, economic activities and public amenity.

Significant achievements:

Serrated Tussock Coordinator

- Secured funding from NSW Government for 5 year Coordination project.
- 40,000 ha under active projects
- Training:
 - Weeds Officers on landscape management and farming systems
 - Integrated weed management planning workshops
 - Chemical User accreditation
- Successfully applied for funding through Caring for Our Country, and Catchment Management Authorities
- 6 Field Days with over 250 people attending
- Formation of:
 - Lewis Ponds and District Land Management Group
 - Turon-Macquarie Weeds Working Group

Commitment to action

- Representation to State Government:
 - Meetings with Minister for Agriculture's policy advisors
 - Local Land Services Review Panel
- Submissions:
 - Draft Biodiversity Strategy
 - Local Land Services Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Audit Office
 - IPART Review of Weed Management in NSW.
- Successfully lobbied NSW Farmers to adopt a tenure blind strategic approach to weed control
- Input into RIRDC research on 'Improving the regional adoption of weed control'
- Promotion of new technologies and approaches to serrated tussock control

Communications

- Website, designed and maintained.
- E-newsletter, monthly distribution to over 450 subscribers
- Media releases and interviews
- Communications Strategy produced and implemented
- Production of fact, information sheets and case studies.
- Presentations:
 - Australian Property Institute's Annual Country Conference
 - Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee
 - Various NSW Weeds Advisory Committee
 - Landcare Leadership Program
- Field Days, workshops, industry organisations

Productive collaborative action

- Development of STWP Action Plan
- Input into Goulburn Mulwaree Council Noxious Weeds Policy Review
- Input into Pest Plant Management Plan for Serrated Tussock Control in the ACT
- Facilitated district wide mapping in Lewis Ponds as a collaboration between adjoining Local Control Authorities
- Developed working relationship with agribusiness and industry organisations

The STWP's vision for serrated tussock is:

The continuous suppression and destruction of serrated tussock on arable land, the identification and destruction of serrated tussock where dealing with it is beyond the capacity of the landholder, the stopping of the expansion of the weed's range and the stopping of seed rain everywhere.

STWP membership

Peter Stark, President
Stewart Thompson, Vice-president
Nelson Quinn, Secretary
Bill Kemp, Treasurer
James Browning, member
Mitchell Clapham, member
Alan Heath, member
Ann Herbert, member
Terry Hayes, member
Steve Taylor, member
Peter Wykes, member

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The *Serrated Tussock Working Party for NSW and the ACT* (STWP) is a landholder based group formed in 2006 in response to public concern at the potential for increasing the adverse effects of serrated tussock for the environment and agricultural production in NSW and the ACT.

Ongoing work:

The STWP recognizes there is still significant work to do if land managers are to be encouraged, enabled and empowered to comply with good practice and the law. For example:

- Rationalization of administrative arrangements for weed management in NSW, and integration with biosecurity and land management generally.
- Better understanding of progress, eg, by improving auditing and monitoring.
- Separation of weed extension and inspection functions from legal compliance action.
- Accurate and verifiable mapping of serrated tussock and other significant weeds for more targeted management and baseline data for management and control programs.
- Increased funding over the long term for all aspects of weed control including problem areas beyond the capacity of landholders to deal with successfully.
- Review of environmental offset arrangements to allow benefits to be directed to areas of environmental need for community gain.
- Ensure land dealings disclose any outstanding weed management issues eg, by vendor provided environmental reports or audited management schemes.
- Establishment of a permanent research facility for dealing with weed problems, including the relationship between weeds and environmental and farming system issues.