

**REVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS THE
SERRATED TUSSOCK STRATEGIC PLAN**

(2006 – 2007)

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Executive summary

This report outlines progress made in 2006/07 towards the National Serrated Tussock Strategic Plan.

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Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) is listed as one of Australia's 20 Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), due to its highly invasiveness nature, dispersal of seed over long distances and unpalatability for grazing animals. It is a potential threat to over 30 million hectares, in south-east Australia and could change values of Australia's native and productive grasslands.

NSW Department of Primary Industries, under guidance from the National Serrated Tussock Management Group, is responsible to ensure that the Weeds of National Significance Serrated Tussock Strategic Plan is effectively implemented.

The outcomes achieved to date are the result of a range of actions undertaken over many years and have only been made possible through substantial support from the Australian Government, state and territory governments, regional NRM bodies, local government, community groups, industry and research institutions and work of individual land-owners.

Best Management Practices

In recent years research has improved our understanding of aspects of serrated tussock control and management, including district management of isolated infestations, control amongst native grasslands and the need for longer-term integrated weed management. Education and extension programs are ongoing and the need for up-to-date and accessible information products continues. More coordinated programs have commenced to improve adoption, but considerable new programs and outputs are needed to ensure that best practices are applied in the field.

Current information is provided to land-holders and managers via a range of avenues, including field-days, forums, regularly reporting, newsletters and email subscription. Small landholders and 'lifestylers' are an increasing sector requiring targeted weed information.

Managing the impact

A range of strategies to manage the impact of serrated tussock are being used across south-east Australia. Most successful management has occurred where extension activities are undertaken in conjunction with normal compliance and enforcement functions.

The creation of weed resilient landscapes remains an ongoing challenge, especially for the management of tussock in intractable areas. Longer-term planning, the establishment of vegetation cover and follow-up maintenance are key aspects of successful serrated tussock management. Implementing these approaches across regional areas requires cooperation and coordination of all levels of government, relevant organisations and natural resource management authorities.

Community benefits and commitment

All infested regions have serrated tussock plans, or equivalent weed management plans. The resourcing and implementation of plans varies across States and regions. State working groups are now active in Victoria and New South Wales.

Most successful community programs are based on coordinated and collaborative partnerships with all relevant organisations and staff.

Introduction

Background

Serrated tussock is a perennial grass that has readily invaded temperate south east Australia, particularly the grasslands. Serrated tussock is not readily eaten by animals and is difficult to control.

The Weeds of National Significance Serrated Tussock Strategic Plan was agreed and published in September 2000.

The vision of the strategy is “*The impact of serrated tussock is reduced and its spread and establishment across Australia is prevented.*” The strategy includes three main goals.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) is responsible to ensure that the strategy is effectively managed. The assistance of Australian, state, and local governments, and of affected industries on the National Serrated Tussock Management Group (NSTMG) is greatly appreciated. Members of the NSTMG, as described in the strategy, are listed in Appendix 1.

This fifth progress report outlines activities which address the strategy for 2006-2007, performance indicators, and a prospectus to guide the future implementation of the strategy. It should be noted that the National Coordinator position was vacant from Feb to June 2007, with NSW DPI covering the basic functions of the position.

Review of Actions

For each action, information was collected on recent achievements, current activities, and plans. Information has been summarised to show highlights.

Indicators for reporting on serrated tussock targets

The Serrated Tussock Strategic Plan outlines performance indicators. The NSTMG reviewed these indicators and have agreed that not every indicator needs to be reported annually. Organisations can help by collecting and reporting on these indicators.

Future priorities

Priority activities have been identified by the NSTMG.

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GOAL 1 *Best management practices*

Desired Outcome: Best management practices to reduce serrated tussock are available and adopted

Across Australia regions with serrated tussock either have specific tussock strategies or general weed strategies that allow for high level programs for serrated tussock. Programs include extension, facilitation, and regulation. A representative example is the Sydney-wide Grasses Management Plan which commenced at the beginning of the year to address key grass weeds including serrated tussock.

All states and territories reported responding to funding opportunities, either specifically for serrated tussock or for weeds generally. Tasmania's Cradle Coast region, for example, provided funds to assist landholders to control isolated infestations of serrated tussock.

State and regional management plans for serrated tussock have been developed and are being implemented in all serrated tussock regions.

Individual researchers and their organisations maintained a close network and participated in programs of the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management. They also reported to the Serrated Tussock Working Party for NSW and ACT (STWP NSWACT) and the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP). A specific national serrated tussock review of research and extension needs commenced at the end of the year.

Internationally collaborative projects investigating biological control of serrated tussock have not yet discovered pathogens that can be inoculated, are virulent, and are host specific – the prospects are not very promising.

Television Advertisement Campaign

A serrated tussock television advertisement campaign, based on a public service announcement developed by NSW DPI and Orange City Council, was run in northern NSW, south-east NSW and ACT in October and November 2006 and January 2007. The television regions covered were Tamworth, Wagga and Canberra which essentially covered the main areas of infestation in NSW (Central region ran their own campaign). The aim of the program was to raise local and regional awareness of serrated tussock with the timing deliberately chosen to coincide with seeding. The advertisement conveyed the message to contact local weeds officers for further information. A total of 684 advertisements were run over the three months with funding coming from the national program combined with contributions from 23 local councils and 7 Catchment Management Authorities.

Roadside Signage Project

A serrated tussock roadside signage project, based on the successful program conceived by the New England Weeds Authority (NSW), was developed to assist land-holders to identify serrated tussock. The project was developed in partnership with six local NSW councils, VSTWG, and Tasmanian Department Primary Industries and Water (DPIW). The project targeted outlying areas of infestation in order to increase identification skills and raise awareness in communities. The Coordinator organised the design, production and supply of the serrated tussock signage to project partners. Partners agreed to erect the signs in

infestations on roadsides in high traffic areas and maintain the areas to enhance visibility from the travelling public.

Updating Information

The NSW DPI Primefact 44 '*Serrated Tussock Identification and Control*' was rewritten. Relevant information in other states and territories has been maintained and is available.

ACT Region

In the ACT there was a comprehensive follow-up spraying program at all known serrated tussock locations in nature conservation areas. Rangers from ACT Parks, Conservation & Lands have also put considerable effort in searching for and spraying new infestations that have emerged as a result of the prolonged drought. In 2006-07, serrated tussock control accounted for 12 per cent of weed management expenditure on public land. Rural landholders with properties adjoining nature conservation areas have also been assisted with their control of serrated tussock. This was achieved by providing financial incentives and advice on maintaining a healthy pasture cover to suppress germinating serrated tussock.

Best Practice Guidelines in Victoria

In Victoria the VSTWP provided \$50,000 in funding to identify and develop "best management practice" guidelines for managing serrated tussock by using the pooled knowledge derived from farmer workshops undertaken across Victoria. This project will also provide best management practice serrated tussock management case studies and will help in providing ideas for future serrated tussock research projects.

The National Coordinator position funded a specific serrated tussock project at Oaklands Junction, Victoria looking at '*Best Practice Pasture Rehabilitation 06/07*'. Unfortunately the results and findings of this project have been hampered by the drought.

Integrated Land Management & Serrated Tussock in Victoria

The Grow West project in Victoria covers an area of 50,000 ha of land between Bacchus Marsh and Ballan, straddling the Western Highway 60km west of Melbourne. This significant project was born from the desire of the local community, government and industries to improve the degraded landscape and address major land management issues, including the control of serrated tussock through integrated land management.

Grow West has been working to achieve major landscape change through projects involving large scale revegetation, pest plant and animal control, waterway rehabilitation, erosion and salinity management and community capacity building.

Projects to date have been completed on both public and private land and range in size from 1ha to 170ha. Some of the recent achievements include, the Establishment 240ha of Farm Forestry plantations to help combat serrated tussock infestations, manage soil erosion, increase land productivity and achieve sustainable land management outcomes and the delivery of several workshops and field days. These promoted sustainable land management and included topics such as weed control, whole farm planning, native seed collection, farm forestry, pasture management and waterway management.

The establishment of a long-term partnership with Medibank Private helps fund local revegetation and sustainable land management initiatives such as the planting of 9,000 locally indigenous trees and shrubs to help combat weed infestations, address soil erosion and enhance biodiversity.

Biodiversity, Water Quality and Management of Serrated Tussock

Serrated tussock is a huge problem on the non-arable gorge country in Victoria and replacing it with native vegetation is the best management solution. The Moorabool Gorge Recovery Program in Victoria is a community driven catchment restoration project aiming to protect and improve the water quality and biodiversity values of the Moorabool River. The project is an important partnership between the Victorian DPI, Moorabool Shire, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Barwon Water and the East Moorabool Landcare Group. The main goal of the program is to transform the river valley into a diverse and robust wildlife corridor. This will not only protect the existing endangered vegetation along the river but also improve water quality and address weed and pest issues on the escapements.

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Future priorities:

1. There is a need to continually revise best practice guidelines in the light of new research findings. A decision making guide to help landholders identify the appropriate control method to suit a given level of infestation and land capability is also required.
2. Some land managers remain concerned about the long-term damage to pastures by flupropanate. While there are some management practices that will minimise damage from flupropanate, specific research and extension materials need to be developed and promoted to address this issue.
3. The National Serrated Tussock Management Group has identified a need to collate a register of current serrated tussock research and activities. There has been no formal examination of serrated tussock research since the Tussock Terminators forum in November 2005.
4. While communities are encouraged to develop their own strategies it is important that Government be responsive to community groups and community programs by assisting groups with planning and agreed support.

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GOAL 2 Managing the impact

Desired Outcome: The impact of serrated tussock is minimised

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Natural resource management strategies recognise that dense perennial vegetation brings broad natural resource benefits, including better serrated tussock control.

Natural resource management organisations continue to provide either specific support for serrated tussock, or support for general outcomes including serrated tussock, to change to better landuses. The Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority, for example, has supported projects to the value of \$320,000 to revegetate degraded areas and to establish windbreaks to reduce serrated tussock spread. Snowy Monaro Biodiversity Conservation Strategy continues to provide opportunity to alter land management practices and landuse to make landscapes more resilient to serrated tussock and other weeds. The NSW Rural Assistance Authority continues to provide loans to assist with better land management for serrated tussock control.

Research Projects & Other Studies

To aid strategic planning through the years, serrated tussock has been extensively recorded, economic analyses have been made, and maps of varying scales have been produced. During 2006/07 preliminary findings from a social and biophysical study led by Marja Simpson of Charles Sturt University suggest that key management decisions for successful control are: limiting disturbance, particularly overgrazing; and spot spraying herbicide instead of boom spraying.

Projects lead by Aaron Simmons of Charles Sturt University, and funded by the Australian Government Defeating the Weeds Menace program, are helping to quantify the effect of vegetation and grazing management on serrated tussock. Recommendations are being prepared.

The National Coordinator also assisted research staff from University of Wollongong and Colgate University (USA) to study attitudes and behaviours of 'lifestylers' landholdings to serrated tussock management. The results will help guide strategy for increasing support for serrated tussock programs.

'Intensifying the Attack on Isolated Serrated Tussock Populations'

The VSTWP and the Victorian DPI were successful in gaining funds under the Defeating the Weed Menace Program for a new project - '*Intensifying the attack on serrated tussock: targeting isolated infestations for eradication*'. The Australian Government is providing funds until 2009 for the employment of a project officer to coordinate the project and incentives to landholders and community groups to control isolated infestations of serrated tussock. The aim of the project is to achieve long term control of isolated serrated tussock infestations in Victoria through rapid control and replacement with appropriate vegetation. The grant will provide community groups, such as Landcare, and private landholders in catchments the opportunity to access funds to support long-term control programs to prevent further spread.

In 2006/07 the project officer contacted all landholders in the 7 catchments outside the core infestations of Corangamite and Port Phillip and informed them of the program and encouraged them to apply. In the catchments of Corangamite and Port Phillip 5 isolated infestation focus areas were also established. Landholders took up grants totalling \$85,000.

ACT Region – Reducing Grazing Pressure

In the ACT the prolonged drought has seen new infestations of serrated tussock emerge, as pasture and native grasslands lost their vigour, and gaps in the grass cover allowed successful germination of the weed. In grazing areas this was alleviated by de-stocking, where possible. This was easier to achieve on agistment land that is managed by ACT Parks, Conservation & Lands, as the government does not have the same financial pressure as private landholders to continue grazing through a drought. Management of over-grazing by Eastern Grey Kangaroos has been more problematic due to some community opposition to culling programs. This problem is being addressed through education of the community.

Control and Eradication of Isolated Infestations of WoNS Grasses (Tasmania)

The *‘Inter-regional control and eradication of isolated and outlier infestations of WoNS grasses’* project in Tasmania began in June 2007. This project is funded through the Australian Government’s Defeating the Weed Menace program and delivered by NRM South (Tasmania) and the Department of Primary Industries and Water. The project will result in the detailed surveying and subsequent control of all non-core infestations of serrated tussock in Tasmania. The investment of more than \$100,000 will also stimulate serrated tussock awareness-raising and community control efforts across the state.

Government as ‘Good Neighbour’ Program

The Good Neighbour Program (GNP) is a Victorian statewide program promoting the Government as a ‘Good Neighbour’ and catalyst for pest and weed management on public land. The GNP devoted \$240,000 to control serrated tussock on a number of land tenures such as roadsides, crown land reserves and parklands

The GNP also supports community based programs occurring on adjoining private land such as those focused on serrated tussock.

Compliance Program in Victoria

The Compliance Program is a Victorian State Government funded project which employs Pest Management officers to enforce the provisions of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The Victorian DPI currently delivers this program on behalf of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, with direction taken from the VSTWP.

The Compliance Program focuses on providing comprehensive extension and advisory services, individual property inspections and infestation mapping designed to encourage land managers to implement long-term control practices. A compliance component is implemented following extension works to ensure all landowners meet their legislative requirements. In 2006/2007 officers across the state inspected 1253 properties, totalling 53,831.9 ha. – achieving a compliance rate of 98%.

Serrated Tussock Mobile Compliance Task Force, Victoria

A Mobile Task Force (MTF), funded under the government’s Tackling Weeds on Private Land initiative, developed and implemented a compliance project targeting serrated tussock in the Wyndham area of the Port Phillip and Corangamite catchments. The MTF supports the enforcement activities of regional staff through targeted mobile compliance projects, which focus on land managers or businesses whose ongoing refusal to tackle weeds, threatens the efforts and investment of the community and impacts on agriculture or the natural environment. This project was undertaken to support the partnership developed between Victoria DPI’s serrated tussock program, the VSTWP and the Wyndham City Council.

A total of 51 properties covering approximately 4,800ha were inspected. Ten landowners were prosecuted for failing to control serrated tussock within designated time frames and were subsequently fined a total of \$1,900 and ordered to pay over \$19,500 in costs. These included court costs and two forced entries undertaken by MTF and local Victorian DPI staff to issue Land Management Notices where landowners failed to undertake control works and seeding threatened neighbouring properties. Ten landowners were also issued warning letters for lesser breaches.

Roadside Weed Control Program, Victoria.

An Interim Roadside Weed Control Program was initiated in October 2004 due to number of significant issues being raised regarding responsibility for the control of regionally controlled weeds and established pest animals, on undeclared roadsides. In 2006/ 07 \$314,890 was again allocated for the treatment of these weeds as well as declared pest animals, to support the community-led approach and previous investment made by both government and the community. Of the \$314,890, \$56,700 was devoted to the control of serrated tussock. This work occurred on roadsides in the local government areas of Moorabool, Geelong, Melton, Hume and Wyndham. Over 700km of serrated tussock infested roadsides has been treated during 2006/07.

In addition to this funding, several municipalities contributed significant funding to compliment Department of Sustainability and Environment's. For example, Melton Shire Council contributed a further \$18,000 to treat serrated tussock on roadsides in 2005/06.

Future priorities:

1. One of the keys to serrated tussock control is face-to-face extension activities. Greatest success in serrated tussock management occurs where regions or States have been able to implement extension programs in conjunction with their usual regulatory functions. This approach needs to be promoted and supported wherever possible and will require support from all levels of government.
2. Creating resilient landscapes resistant to serrated tussock (and other weeds) remains an ongoing challenge, especially the management of tussock in intractable areas. Weed and land management organisations have used funding from the National Weeds Program and the National Landcare Program to provide incentives to knock down the adult tussocks and in the longer term make landscapes resilient to reinvasion. They noted, however, that the scale of the problem exceeds support available. Re-afforestation of intractable land requires some form of industry joint venture investment, access to processing and markets, plus some method of providing an annual return.
3. Integrated weed practises are placing greater emphasis on long-term planning and the establishment of vegetation cover, rather than simply the annual spraying of adult plants. These practises all serve to increase weed resilience of landscapes, including for serrated tussock, and require the cooperation of all relevant organisations and governments to successfully develop and implement. Maintaining collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with Catchment Management Authorities and other Natural Resource Management organisations is critical to the long term management of weeds, including serrated tussock.

GOAL 3 Community benefits and commitment

Desired Outcome: Communities will embrace their own integrated serrated tussock management plans

Regional management plans for serrated tussock in particular, or general weed plans including serrated tussock, have previously been developed and continue in infested regions. Key actions include planning for setting priority areas and tasks, general extension, and property visits for personal extension and regulation. Where funds are available, enhanced programs include assistance for direct control and to help develop weed resilient landscapes.

Where control requirements cannot be met in the short term, most jurisdictions allow for staged property weed plans. In eastern Tasmania, for example, five property plans have been agreed for infestations totalling 250 ha.

Most jurisdictions report some mechanisms to monitor implementation of their weed plans. The VSTWP, for example meets quarterly to discuss serrated tussock specifically, while the Southern Tablelands and South Coast Noxious Plants Committee meets three times a year to discuss their general weed programs, including serrated tussock.

Shortage of funds for weed plans, particularly on-ground work on public land, is a recurring problem. In NSW five Regional Weeds plans received project funds of \$45,000 to carry out control on roadsides and reserves. The NSW Government provided \$7,895,000 to fund council weeds officers and other programs which includes \$2,209,000 for control of serious weeds. ACT Parks, Conservation and Lands is a contributor in regional and catchment serrated tussock programs, including local, district and Landcare programs.

All regions reported that information was published to increase general awareness of serrated tussock. In NSW, for example, a partnership between NSW DPI, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority, and the Natural Heritage Trust published 6000 copies of a serrated tussock identification brochure. The VSTWP annually publishes and widely distributes a progress report. In other areas, either internal reports are prepared, or reporting on outcomes and tactical planning occurs at meetings.

ACT Region

In the ACT, management information for serrated tussock is presented through rural landholders forums and meetings to advise on best practice. There are also management practices set out in the land management agreements for every rural lessee in the ACT. Liaison between ACT Parks Conservation & Lands staff and neighbouring landholders allows for a district or catchment approach to control measures.

Serrated Tussock Working Party for NSW and ACT Inc.

Following the successful community meeting held in Goulburn NSW in May 2006, the STWP NSWACT was established and met on six occasions in 2006/07. Membership of the working party is mostly rural land-holders across NSW affected by serrated tussock with representation from NSW DPI and ACT Parks, Conservation and Lands. The purpose of the working group is to build partnership between land-holders, communities, governments and other stakeholders to raise the profile of serrated tussock, influence policy development

and contribute to the development of management strategies and on-ground works across NSW and ACT. Secretarial support to the working party was supplied by NSW DPI with the National Coordinator providing technical and project advice. During 2006/07 the working group sought funding, assisted by the Coordinator, from a number of funding bodies to cover a project officer position to support their work. To date funding applications have not been successful and the Working Group continues to seek financial support and partners.

Tasmania Management Group

In Tasmania the Serrated Tussock Management Group consists of local government, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) and landholder representatives. It has been inactive.

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Group

The VSTWG includes 12 representatives. The group, supported by their executive officer, manage serrated tussock projects that are sponsored by the Victorian government and other partners.

Raising the Profile of Serrated Tussock

To help raise the profile of the newly established STWP NSWACT the National Coordinator facilitated a regional television news story, featuring the Chairman of the Working Party. This short news feature was broadcast on television in central NSW in autumn 2007.

The National Coordinator also supported an identification and awareness raising field-day in south-east Tasmania, designed to raise awareness of serrated tussock specifically with new and small area land-holders in the region. The event was planned to follow up on tussock work done under previous WONS funding and was a collaboration between local councils and Tasmanian DPIW. A mail-out of serrated tussock pamphlets to rate-payers coincide with the field-day.

Victorian Farm Tree & Landcare Association

The VSTWP is incorporated under the Victorian Farmers Federation's Farm Tree & Landcare Association. This provides the opportunity to increase the group's financial independence and ability to drive change through the development and implementation of a new serrated tussock strategy and associated initiatives.

Victorian Serrated Tussock Strategy

The VSTWP worked in partnership with government and the community to develop the Victorian Serrated Tussock Strategy "*Intensifying the attack on serrated tussock*" 2005 - 2010. This strategy has been prepared in recognition of a statewide framework to allow strategic serrated tussock management within Victoria and nationally. The strategy primarily aims to increase involvement in serrated tussock management, provide further opportunities for integration, whilst reducing areas affected by serrated tussock. The VSTWP ran strategy workshops in May 2007 with key stakeholders involved in delivery of the goals contained within the strategy to access what is currently being delivered and expose any gaps. This work is continuing with the current development of an evaluation plan to identify key information which can be collected to evaluate the strategy.

Identification Workshop and Stakeholder Threat Assessment

The catchments of Corangamite and Port Phillip are the core tussock infestations within Victoria. Because they contain more infestations than can be serviced by the Victorian DPI extension and compliance program a priority setting process needed to be developed. In March 2007 the VSTWP, in co-operation with the Victorian DPI, presented a workshop to identify serrated tussock focus areas within the catchments of Corangamite and Port Phillip and allocate available extension and compliance resources. The workshop continued on from the priority setting process conducted in 2006, and fosters a collaborative approach and an opportunity for key stakeholders to participate in setting the serrated tussock focus areas. A wide range of stakeholders participated and worked through a priority setting matrix process looking at assets and the threat that serrated tussock poses. This approach also establishes networks and the exchange of information with other stakeholders within the catchments of Corangamite and Port Phillip involved in serrated tussock management.

The VSTWP completed its serrated tussock roadside signage project June 2007, with 19 large signs erected on the major roads in the 9 catchments which contain serrated tussock. The overall project cost was \$22,980 and involved extended negotiations with VicRoads senior management, to reach agreement on design and content, and with regional staff on sites within catchments.

New Serrated Tussock Partnerships Officer Position, Victoria DPI

The VSTWP has created a new Partnerships Officer position which sits within the DPI structure. This position is to develop or reconnect networks with the major stakeholders involved with tussock within the Port Phillip and Corangamite catchment regions. The Partnerships Officer facilitates regular local government meetings for environment officers in both catchments. These meetings have provided local council's with the opportunity to discuss regional tussock management issues, projects that are occurring within their shire and to give the Victorian DPI and VSTWP the opportunity to keep council members informed of project plans and new information.

The Partnerships Officer has completed evaluation of the meetings, and all council members agreed that the meetings are a positive tool and a good chance to collaborate and share information. Meetings will continue quarterly in 2007/08.

The Partnerships Officer has also attended Landcare meetings of several groups within both catchments. These meetings have provided a forum for the officer to discuss ways to increase local awareness as well as providing information that may benefit groups to continue their tussock management programs, such as grant information, media articles, Victorian DPI training, new extension material and information from the working party. Involvement with Landcare groups will develop with forums and field days.

New Promotional Material

An increased focus on media and promotional material has also occurred with the new Victorian position. The production of a regular newsletter, the "Tussock Times", has commenced and will be an excellent tool to communicate with stakeholders across both Port Phillip and Corangamite catchments. The newsletter includes information and updates from the Victorian DPI and VSTWP, local government, Landcare events and programs, grants, success stories, research and other information of value to landowners.

News articles promoting Victorian DPI's programs have been sent to local government for inclusion within council newsletters as an aid to increase landowner's awareness of the work being undertaken within their shire. Articles have also been distributed to several Landcare

groups, to coincide with the season, for inclusion within their local Landcare newsletter or community notice boards.

The VSTWG website has also been updated and includes recent media articles, copies of the newsletter, research articles, facts sheets, program information and what's new. Extension material has also been updated with the development of a serrated tussock and native grass identification brochure catchment.

Future priorities:-

1. Regional serrated tussock plans should ensure that management guidelines and practises are integrated with other weed and natural resource management programs.
2. Small landholder and 'lifestylers' are an increasing sector of landholders, with many being new land managers. Targeted communication messages and delivery mechanisms need to be developed for this group to raise awareness of weeds and the importance of their management.
3. Regional weeds advisory committees in NSW need considerably more support from all levels of government to successfully implement their weed plans.
4. An integrated farm business plan, which includes weed and serrated tussock management (where necessary), will lead to better management of all aspects of the farm, including weeds. A Property Management Planning program specifically targeting serrated tussock managers must be considered.
5. A key challenge is to develop partnerships between local weeds officers, natural resource management authorities, Landcare groups and State agencies to increase coordination and reduce duplication; thereby increasing services to landholders. These relationships can be further developed during 2007/08.
6. The newly established Serrated Tussock Working Party for NSW and ACT is currently restricted to lobbying and planning assistance. It will require assistance, guidance and support from both State and Commonwealth governments to establish links with all relevant serrated tussock organisations and to develop strong links with the NSWMG.

Appendix 1 – National Serrated Tussock Management Group

Current members of the Group, are:

Chairman. Land manager, Inverleigh, Victoria	Scott Chirnside
National Coordinator Serrated Tussock	Bronwen Wicks
Weeds Manager, New England Weeds Authority, Armidale NSW	James Browning
Regional Weed Management Officer, DPIW, Hobart, TAS	Andrew Crane
Executive Officer, Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party, DPI, Geelong, VIC	Byron Crowe
State Weed Control Coordinator, NSW Department of Primary Industries	Syd Lisle
Grazier, Gunning, NSW	Michael Nicholls
ACT Parks, Conservation & Lands – Corresponding member	Steve Taylor
Land manager, Mt Wallace, Victoria	Jim Seager