

MEDIA RELEASE

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Local Land Service is the right home for the State's noxious weeds arrangements.

Weed management should be included in the Local Land Service (LLS) jurisdiction, because it is inseparable from other aspects of land management, whether for production, environmental benefit, or public amenity, in urban as well as rural environments.

"It is essential that the administration of weed control in NSW comes within the ambit of the proposed Local Land Service arrangements," Mr Peter Stark, President of the Serrated Tussock Working Party for NSW & ACT said.

"This view is consistent with the Terry Ryan Report, comments made by the NSW Department of Primary Industries Executive Director for Biosecurity and by many land managers attending the current round of LLS consultation meetings across the State."

The government should announce now that Local Land Services functions will embrace weed management activities.

The Serrated Tussock Working Party for NSW & ACT (STWP) strongly believes that LLS functions should be based on a new Biosecurity Act where success requires continuous improvement of the natural landscape in the interests of restoring degraded landscapes and managing landscapes to avoid new degradation.

"For efficient and effective biosecurity arrangements it is hard to understand the logic of establishing a new organisation to combine and replace old ones and yet purposely omit such a critical area as weed management," said Mr Stark.

"To purposely leave weeds within a very patchy management system where there are no uniform performance standards or accountability leads to the conclusion that the LLS structure is an attempt to make half a reform and not a complete one."

A fundamental belief of the STWP is that serrated tussock control efforts, as with all noxious weeds, will only succeed if there is a cooperative approach by landholders, if effort is part of wider whole of property and regional action on environmental and productivity issues and if a long-term perspective is routine.

The Serrated Tussock Working Party is a landholder based group formed in 2006 in response to public concern for increasing adverse effects of serrated tussock on the environment and agricultural production in New South Wales and the ACT.

Membership of the STWP is drawn from land owners across NSW.

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