

Making News

Serrated Tussock funding: A new appointment to a State-wide project targeting serrated tussock aims to bring about better co-ordination of district and regional programs so control efforts increase in consistency and effectiveness.

The NSW Government has provided funding to the Serrated Tussock Working Party for NSW and ACT through the noxious weeds grants program to employ a project officer to lead a co-ordinated campaign.

Improving co-ordination is the critical first stage in a five year plan to reduce the impact of the weed.

The NSW/ACT serrated tussock co-ordinator, Clare Hamilton, based at Mid-Western Regional Council in Rylstone, said her role is to quantify the current impact of serrated tussock and some of the successful management options being implemented.

"Serrated tussock is one of the worst perennial grass weeds in Australia with the ability to cause complete loss of production in pastoral land and a monoculture in former native grasslands," Ms Hamilton said.

"It continues to spread across NSW and the ACT with devastating consequences for land managers and the environment.

"Raising awareness of serrated tussock, its identification and potential to cause significant economic and environmental problems will be a key component of the long term project.

"As part of my role I will work with agronomists, weeds officers and land managers who between them hold a wealth of information and experience to help co-ordinate regional control programs and lead to more effective control at farm level."

Funding is from the 2009/2010 \$8.55 million Noxious Weeds Grants program.

- ALYSSA FITZGERALD