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COUNCIL will place itself and the rural community in a better position to lobby for and get funding by demonstrating a renewed commitment to the war against weeds and tussock in particular.

Under The Noxious Weed Act the responsibility to control noxious weeds has rested with the land owner with Local Government administering the Act since 1906.

It is important that weed management becomes a priority issue, not just for council directors in their role as land managers but also the general manager of council.

His role is clearly defined within the Local Government Act.

He is the only conduit between councillor and staff.

The decision at the last council meeting to not bring "noxious weeds" management under his control is inconsistent with council's management structure and the legislative relationship between the general manager and councillors.

The community needs confidence that there is not only a process but a chain of command within council that can help lead the community by demonstrating that there are workable plans in place in council and means of measuring them and the results.

The general manager is best placed to co-ordinate the various weed activities of his directors and provide an aggregated report to Council and the community on the work that is being done, the outcomes from this work and the work that needs to be done.

It is clear that the State Government have some lingering thoughts regarding the value of the noxious weed funding invested to date in councils.

They have increased the need for all councils to have performance measurement, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of outcomes in agreements with them.

If Goulburn Mulwaree Council is to secure additional government funding for noxious weeds in the future, we require sound evidence for the claim and a much higher level of commitment to the cause than has been shown to date by council.

It is also important to recognise and acknowledge the large number of land owners who have continued to live up to their responsibilities and manage tussock on their land under difficult circumstances, many of these land managers feel their efforts have been undermined by the lack of effective action on other holdings as their lands are continue to be re-infestated from untreated areas.

**Stewart Thompson,
Goulburn.**

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