

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 14th March 2014

Land owners united in need to tackle serrated tussock!

There is gold in the hills, but that's not what a group of over 50 land managers wanted to talk about in Hill End on Sunday 9th March. They wanted to know about the sometimes golden foliage of the serrated tussock plant, a difficult plant to identify and control, a declared noxious weed and a plant that needs an ongoing and coordinated effort to manage.

The Hill End area, half way between Mudgee and Bathurst, typifies serrated tussock country. The area is dominated by native pastures with areas of steep slopes and shallow soils, perfect gold country, and the perfect environment for serrated tussock. Serrated tussock is well established across the area and the activities and understanding of land managers varies enormously.

The people attending learnt about the invasive nature of the plant with the potential to infest entire properties causing a greater reduction in carrying capacity than any other weed in Australia. Serrated tussock has already invaded many of south-eastern Australia's most endangered native grasslands with serious threats to native flora and fauna.

"To do nothing is not an option," Clare Hamilton, NSW/ACT Serrated Tussock Coordinator said.

"You need an ongoing program and to accept that serrated tussock control is an annual management activity, not a once off. You need to use a variety of tools, a plan that keeps you in control and to work with your neighbours."

Clare Edwards, Senior Land Services Officer (Pastures), Central Tablelands Local Land Services talked about the importance of accurate identification of the plant and the need to focus on your desirable pasture species as part of a serrated tussock control program.

Feedback from the morning was extremely positive, with people asking for more information sessions and support to form a working group to tackle the problem across the region. A paddock walk and identification day will be held in the area on Sunday 6th April and will be followed by discussions on the formation of a working group. All land owners in the area are encouraged to attend and to register their interest by contacting Clare Hamilton by email: clare.hamilton@midwestern.nsw.gov.au or mobile 0428 791 359

Many thanks go to Hill End Gold Limited whose initiative it was to have the day and to the Central Tablelands Local Land Services and the Serrated Tussock Working Party for NSW & ACT for their support.

For more information or to register your interest in future activities in the Hill End, Hargraves, Turondale and Sofala area contact Clare Hamilton on 0428 791 359

For interview , images or media assistance:

Clare Hamilton, NSW/ACT Serrated Tussock Coordinator, phone: 0428 791 359



Mature serrated tussock plants growing in the Hill End area



Serrated tussock plant following chemical control



Interested land owners, Royal Hall Hill End.

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