

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

*(2001 – 2002 )*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NSW Agriculture is responsible to ensure that the Weeds of National Significance Serrated Tussock Strategic Plan is effectively managed.

**Progress report.** The strategy was agreed and published in September 2000. The first progress report was prepared in August 2002. The report outlines activities that have been implemented to address the strategy, performance indicators, and a prospectus to guide the implementation of the strategy. It is available from NSW Agriculture, P O Box 389, Goulburn NSW 2580.

**Best management practices.** All serrated tussock regions now have some mechanisms to review best practices for their landscapes. While a national manual of serrated tussock is being developed recommendations on best management practices still need to be tailored to local conditions.

**Improving serrated tussock management.** Research into managing perennial grass weeds in perennial grass pastures is a key program of the new CRC for Australian Weed Management and is providing effective management to improve control techniques. Many new research sites established, including management to reduce potential of herbicide resistance. A biological control pathogen from Argentina is being held in quarantine awaiting approval for further testing.

**Managing the impact.** Serrated tussock control needs direct control of the weed and programs to make landscapes resilient to reinvasion. Most regions have included weed control into integrated natural resource management plans. Several regions in NSW have not included weed management in their draft catchment blueprints. Programs to alter land use to better manage serrated tussock have been restricted in area.

**Assessing the impact.** Infestations have been adequately mapped to allow regional and local strategic planning. A number of reports have been produced that outline the economic and social impact of serrated tussock.

**Community benefits and commitment.** All regions reported that serrated tussock plans had been developed. In some areas these plans are confined to direct control of the weed. Revisions of these plans should ensure that serrated tussock management is integrated with other weed and natural resource management programs.

**Regional and local planning.** Regional progress reports have been prepared for serrated tussock programs from Victoria and Tasmania. No region in NSW indicated that they had reported on the implementation of their serrated tussock plans, despite being in operation since 1999. The cessation of the Property Management Planning Program in NSW may lead to reduced capability on some properties – a program that targets serrated tussock managers might be considered. The NSW Serrated Tussock Working Party has been ineffective for more than two years. Regional Weeds Advisory Committees are attempting to take this role.