

Narrabri Shire Council
Management Plan for Serrated Tussock
(Nasella trichotoma)

Plan No: ST01/2006

Serrated Tussock (*Nasella trichotoma*) is a perennial tussock-forming grass to 50cm high and 25cm diameter at the base. The plant is eaten by stock if nothing else is available, and can result in a loss of condition of the animals and possible death. It can also result in lower wool quality.

Serrated Tussock have very long stems which droop at maturity, bearing flowers and seeds. There are numerous leaves emerging from the base of the plant, tightly rolled giving an almost cylindrical cross-section. There are up to 100,000 seeds per plant, about 2mm long and enclosed in reddish-brown or purplish bracts, each with a tuft of white silky hairs at the base. When the seeds are ripe, the heads droop over and touch the ground. The plants have a distinct purple appearance when flowering and a golden colour when seeds are ripening.

In the Narrabri Shire, Serrated Tussock is gazetted as a Class 4 noxious weed under Schedule 4 of Weed Control Order 19 (Order 19) made pursuant to section 7 and 8 of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* (the Act) as amended in 2005. Class 4 noxious weeds are plants that pose a threat to primary production, the environment or human health, are widely distributed in an area to which the order applies and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

Order 19 also provides that the growth and spread of this plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the Local Control Authority (LCA). To comply with Order 19, Serrated Tussock must be managed in such a way as to minimise the negative impact of the weed on the economy, community or the environment of NSW.

CONTROL MEASURES

The presence of Serrated Tussock should be notified to the Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) within seven (7) days of detection of the infestation, and it must be continuously suppressed and destroyed.

Owners/occupiers may use either or both of the following control methods:

- a. **Mechanical:** chipping effectively kills isolated plants, provided the base of the tussock is removed completely.
- b. **Chemical:** effective treatment with a herbicide registered for the control of Serrated Tussock, in the manner specified on the label.

NSC Weeds Officers will inspect private and crown land for infestations of Serrated Tussock. NSC will also undertake control work with allocated funds on Crown Land and land for which it has responsibility.

Enforcement through court action is an LCA option for non-compliance with Section 12 of the Act by the owner/occupier of private land.

The plan will remain in force until 1 March 2011 and Council may review, vary or revoke this plan in accordance with the Act.

Further information about this plan can be obtained from NSC by phone (02) 6799 6702, fax (02) 6762 4301 or by mail to PO Box 261, Narrabri NSW 2390.

Adopted: 21 November 2006
Revision Date: 1 March 2011

Authorised:
Acting General Manager

