

## WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

### Section 371 (1) (b) of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*

This Weed Control Program is a Council endorsed document under Section 371 (1) (b) of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, and describes how a person must discharge the person's general biosecurity duty for the biosecurity matter (weed) described.

#### PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Serrated Tussock

Scientific name: *Nasella trichotoma*

#### AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire

#### SPECIES INFORMATION

Serrated Tussock is a tussock grass (about 0.5m tall) with very fine bright green leaves. Older leaves and whole tussocks in winter have a characteristic bleached appearance. Long, branched seed heads weep over to the ground around the tussock. The tiny straw colored, awn-less seeds are enclosed in reddish purple glumes, giving the whole plant the appearance of a large pink cushion when flowering.

Serrated Tussock is most invasive in over-grazed pasture in dry areas, but it will readily invade any sort of grassy vegetation, and even spread into forest adjacent to infested pasture. It can build up to high density eliminating most other plants. Individual plants are long-lived and seed remains viable in soil for more than 13 years. Dense stands produce a serious fire hazard. Serrated Tussock's fibre content is so high that stock are unable to digest it and animals forced to graze it may eventually starve to death. It therefore reduces stock carrying capacity of pasture, as well as being one of the worst potential environmental weeds of remnant grassy native vegetation of farming areas.

The entire seed head snaps off and blows around like a tumbleweed to collect against fences and other obstructions. It is very light and can be carried many kilometres by the wind. Seed can also stick to clothing and animals and is spread in the manure of stock feeding on infested pasture, in contaminated hay and in mud on vehicles.

#### LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Serrated Tussock is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

#### WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Destroy infestations.

### **COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS**

(1) Destroy all plants, or if that is not practicable, destroy as many plants as is practicable and stop the spread of any remaining plants from the property in a manner agreed to, or dictated by, Council.

(2) The landholder must prevent spread from their land.

(2) Slashing is not a control method.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
- issue a penalty notice (refer to *Biosecurity Regulation 2017 (NSW)* Schedule 6 - Penalty Notice Offences)
- enter the property, perform weed direction works and recoup all costs and expenses incurred.

### **REVIEW DATE**

28 August 2019, or when required.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Invasive Species Supervisor – *Biosecurity Act 2015* Authorised Officer

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