

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party

Community Grants

Funding Guidelines



The Victoria Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) is providing community groups and organisations with the opportunity to apply for grants to manage serrated tussock.

The grants aim to support community groups and organisations build their capacity to achieve long term voluntary management of serrated tussock.

Grants of up to \$5,000 (GST excluded) are available to deliver a project which meets the priorities and criteria outlined in these guidelines.

The grants promote collaboration between community groups, local government and the VSTWP in the best practice management of serrated tussock.

A key objective of the grants is to support community groups and organisations that have been actively controlling serrated tussock over a number of years.

These grants provides a valuable opportunity for communities, particularly those experiencing heavy infestations, to reduce the impact of serrated tussock on agricultural, social and environmental values and assets.





Eligibility criteria

To apply, the following conditions must be met:

- Be a not-for-profit community group or organisation.
- Be incorporated, or be sponsored by an incorporated organisation. Permission from the sponsoring organisation must be gained before applying as that organisation will be legally responsible.
- Have public liability insurance of at least \$10 million, and at least \$1 million professional indemnity insurance, or be sponsored by an organisation that carries such insurance.

Examples eligible groups and organisations include

- Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare, and Friends of groups and networks
- Environmental, naturalist groups or volunteer associations
- Conservation Management Networks
- Public land committees of management
- Traditional owner groups and associations
- Schools and educational groups

Assessment criteria

The VSTWP Committee will assess applications based on their alignment to the following criteria:

Community Support and Action:

Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate a high level of community support and action over a number of years.

Collaboration:

Projects should involve existing partnerships or aim to develop new partnerships with local, regional and state organisations, groups or communities.

Asset protection:

Projects that protect key agricultural industries or environmental assets (e.g. native grasslands) will be considered favourably.

In-kind contribution:

Priority will be given to projects with in kind contributions. This includes monetary contributions, labour, equipment or supplies.

Sharing Information:

A commitment to sharing project findings through networks to other communities in Victoria.

Example activities or projects:

- Serrated tussock educational field days with presentations and demonstrations for best practice control techniques.
- Targeted landholder extension through collaborative letter mail outs involving the proponent group, local Municipality and the VSTWP.
- Education and raising community awareness through print and social media and signage.
- Surveillance and mapping of serrated tussock infestations.



What will not be funded

- On ground serrated tussock control works.
- Costs associated with labour and commercial operations.
- Activities designed to raise revenue.
- Financial subsidies for existing government operations.

Obligations

The successful applicant must agree to the following conditions:

- Successful applicant will be required to sign a letter of agreement.
- The VSTWP must be notified of any changes to the nominated Key Contact.
- The applicant must provide the VSTWP with information relating to the project when requested, for the purpose of news articles for the VSTWP Tussock Times newsletter, website, social media.
- When promoting the project, the applicant must acknowledge the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party.
- The applicant must agree to the payment schedule and provision of supporting evidence such as receipts, photographs etc. to the VSTWP.
- All activities associated with the grant must adhere to Occupational Health and Safety requirements.
- The project must be completed within 6 months.
- A project report is required to be submitted to the VSTWP Executive Officer on completion of the project. The report is to include:
 - Project overview.
 - Supporting evidence, such as receipts, photographs, photo points,

etc. Please ensure 'consent to publish' is obtained from all individuals captured in photographs.

- Relevant quotes from individuals involved in the project.
- Assessment of whether the project aims and objectives were met.



Applications

Applications will be received at any time. Applicant will be notified within 30 days of the application being received.

Note: Funding for this program is limited so the VSTWP does not guarantee all applications will be funded. Applications may be considered for future rounds of funding.



Payment Schedule

50% of the grant will be paid to the group or organisation upon approval of the project and the group representative signing the letter of agreement. The balance will be paid on completion of the final report.

The VSTWP will make payment by direct deposit.



How to apply

Only fully completed applications will be accepted for assessment.

Complete the attached application form and email to the VSTWP Executive Officer:
martin.deering@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Further information or assistance

For information or assistance about the VSTWP Community Grants, contact:

Martin Deering

P: 0417 541 719

E: martin.deering@agriculture.vic.gov.au

