



The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Agriculture

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Ref: CMIN-2-21-7409

Cr. Cathy Majdlik
Mayor
Camberwell Ward Councillor
Civic Centre
232 HIGH STREET MELTON 3332

kathy.majdlik@melton.vic.gov.au

Dear Cr. Majdlik

SERRATED TUSSOCK ISSUES IN HILLSIDE

Thank you for your email dated 14 January 2021, regarding the serrated tussock issues in Hillside.

I commend you and the City of Melton for your substantial investment in the Environment Enhancement Policy and the recent assistance provided to residents in the Hillside area affected by serrated tussock seed last year.

Agriculture Victoria staff have contacted Laurie Conole, Co-ordinator of Environment and Sustainability (with Luke Shannon being on leave), to discuss ways in which the department can support the efforts of Melton City Council in the Hillside area.

I understand that Agriculture Victoria staff have organised to provide ongoing representation on the working group that Melton City Council are establishing to address the issues in the Hillside area. I support a joint effort between Melton City Council and Agriculture Victoria to develop a strategic approach to engage with the landowners of concern.

Agriculture Victoria Biosecurity Officers have excellent experience in engaging landowners with significant weed infestations and can be called upon as a resource if the working group deem this appropriate.

Regarding enforcement, Agriculture Victoria enforces established weed control in areas where there are coordinated community control programs in place. You might consider contacting the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party as they may be of assistance in setting up a community-led program in the Hillside area. The taskforce can be contacted via their website at www.serratedtussock.com.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

If you require further information, please contact Peter Kennedy, Regional Manager for the South East region, Agriculture Victoria on 0437 072 663 or peter.kennedy@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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