

**From:** Adrienne Stackhouse  
**To:** [Pest Review](#)  
**Subject:** submission - 10 year weed and pest control strategy  
**Date:** Sunday, 2 July 2017 7:13:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [10 year weed and pest control strategy.docx](#)

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Dear Sir / Madam

A submission on behalf of KW & PW Stackhouse regarding the 10 year weed and pest control strategy.

On behalf of K.W. & P.W. Stackhouse and Stackhouse Farm Ltd, I wish to make submissions re: the 10-year weed and pest control strategy.

I have been involved with Nassella Tussock as a weed ever since my father organised the planting of a block of trees in the 1940's to see if tussock could be suppressed by growing trees in areas that had tussocks growing on them.

A group of farmers concerned about the tussocks invasive properties approached the government and had Nassella Tussock declared a pest of national significance. The Tussock board was set up and significant government money was provided to help control the plant. When ECan took over the tussock board, we have seen the input of finance decreased and more cost put on landowners.

The 10-year plan proposed, will transfer more costs to landowners. If ECan is serious about controlling Nassella Tussock they should be increasing their financial input into this work.

People like myself know just how quickly this plant can spread and cover large areas of pasture leaving it not suitable for grazing.

We have a common boundary with 9 vineyards and 7 lifestyle blocks and have seen tussocks spread rapidly. One lifestyle block that had a yearly grubbing of 20-50 tussocks per year, had a new lease who missed grubbing for two seasons because of not knowing about tussock, found that the block was growing over 700 tussocks per year, to grub for the following two years. This block is still producing large numbers of tussocks each year.

On the driveway to a local vineyard ECan staff grubbed 30 plus tussocks some years ago. Young tussock are now regrowing and can be seen when you drive in to the vineyard.

On our two adjoining blocks of land - approximately 140 hectare each, each block has had a 2-hour inspection on 12 of the last 13 years. We have failed to pass inspection because we have missed a few plants and have been issued with legal non-compliance notices. Initially when we took ownership, we were grubbing approximately 10,000 plants per season - now down to approximately 2000-2500

plants. On six of the 12 years, our regrassing required less than 20 plants to be compliant and a further 4 years less than 50 plants to comply. Surely, the inspector could grub the few plants we have missed but no, they photograph them, G.P.S. their location and send us a map telling us how incompetent we are. Yes, we have missed 1 tussock to every 6-10 hectares we own. Meanwhile our lifestyle and vineyard neighbours tell me ECan staff grub their block often grubbing 2 or more tussock per hectare. If ECan are going to control tussocks they should be inspecting every property over 500 square metres a minimum of once every 3 years.

ECan should either grub the scattered tussocks that landowners have missed or treat us all the same and stop grubbing lifestyle blocks and vineyards. I would suggest that 1 tussock per hectare could be a guide for inspectors to grub. Over that density, the inspector could then issue non-compliance notices.