



The Hon Niall Blair MLC

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

IM16/13361

Mr Harry Bentley
Secretary
Berridale Rocky Plain Landcare Group
722 Rocky Plain Road
BERRIDALE NSW 2628

Dear Mr Bentley

Thank you for your letter of 1 May 2016 regarding the maintenance of Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) and the control of African lovegrass.

Local Land Services acknowledges that the control of African lovegrass and other noxious weeds is a difficult task. Weed management requires an integrated approach to be effective. South East Local Land Services is acutely aware of the spread of noxious weeds, particularly where livestock and other animals graze TSRs, and along roadsides due to contaminated vehicles and machinery.

South East Local Land Services is committed to the control of noxious weeds, including African lovegrass, on parcels of Crown land it manages. Currently, South East Local Land Services manages in excess of 500 parcels of Crown land across the south east region of NSW, covering over 7800 hectares.

One initiative implemented by Local Land Services to assist in this management is to consider adjoining landholders when assessing TSR leases throughout the region. If a TSR is suitable for a long-term grazing permit, there are numerous conditions in the permit that place the responsibility of weed management with the lessee. This is the case for weed and pest animal management control, as well as for fence maintenance.

South East Local Land Services acknowledges that enforcement of grazing permit terms and conditions, and the conduct of pre and post lease inspections, are areas requiring improvement.

South East Local Land Services biosecurity staff has undertaken weed control on many TSRs, as resources have allowed. It has a biosecurity officer dedicated to the day-to-day management of 105 TSRs in the Cooma area. Weed management on these TSRs is undertaken on the basis of priority and potential weed impacts on adjoining land holdings.

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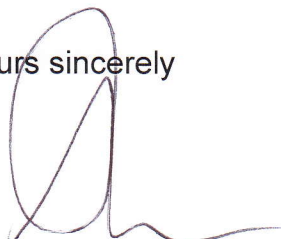
In 2015, the South East Local Land Services Snowy River Biodiversity - Weaving the Web project, provided funding for contracts to control African lovegrass. Additional works were undertaken on the TSRs of Dog Kennel, Dutton, Mason, Maffra, Dalgety, Beloco and Numbla Vale. These TSRs are located in the Snowy River Landcare area.

Local Land Services is currently undertaking the development of a state-wide framework for the future management of this land. The draft state-wide framework will allow for the development of a regional TSR management plan for South East NSW to facilitate more consistent and transparent management, resourcing and reporting.

In addition, South East Local Land Services recently commenced a review of the condition of TSRs throughout the region. This review considers a range of issues such as weeds, fencing, water availability and groundcover. This information will inform the development of the regional management plan, which will address specific local issues, such as weed control.

I trust this information is of assistance. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I have asked that Mr Christopher Harris, Acting Manager Biosecurity and Emergency Services, be available to assist you. He can be contacted on telephone (02) 6118 7705.

Yours sincerely



24 JUN 2016

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