The war against weeds intensifies

Council appoints more staff

By LEIGH BOTTRELL

GOULBURN Mulwaree Council has moved to combat its worsening noxious weeds by appointing two additional (temporary) spray officers.

This is part of a wider attack on serrated tussock, Chilean needle grass and other intractable weeds throughout the council area.

The aim is to meet goals recommended in a report prepared by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) for the Northern Tablelands and Northern Tableland districts. Council staff have already been trained, and each of their vehicles is equipped with a weed recognition card.

The report states the need for measurable results and focused outcomes from noxious weed control efforts. As a result, Council adjusted its 2011/12 Management Plan to last December’s noxious weeds education program by the end of this year, and also the field service program to help landholders prepare weeds management plans by March 31, 2012.

Funding has now been allocated for 2011/12 to review the weed status of the entire local government area; encourage all land owners to develop their own weeds management plan/program; provide training and support through the council outdoor staff on weed identification and response; review and revise standard operating procedures and evaluate the cost of all weed processes and procedures; Undertake projects aimed at mother lode infestations of serrated tussock;

New Zealand against serrated tussock and Chilean needle grass. A message aimed at motorists is to be distributed on a 10-day period, as the two weeds are found about every year. The next 10 days will be particularly tight, with heavy rainfall expected.

For more information on invasive aquatic weeds, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds.