

Media Release

INVASIVE GRASS A SERIOUS THREAT TO AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL AREAS IN TASMANIA

2 October 2018

For immediate release

A workshop is being held on Wednesday, 3 October at TMAG from 10am until 3pm to look at the growing threat Chilean Needle Grass poses in Tasmania.

More than fifty land management practitioners from agricultural businesses, consultancies and contractors, local councils and state and federal agencies will be attending.

The plant is considered the worst invasive grass in mainland temperate Australia having spread over thousands of hectares of land across Victoria, NSW and parts of South Australia and Queensland.

Glenorchy City Council Environment Officer Adam Muyt said Chilean Needle Grass invades agricultural land, natural areas and recreational settings.

“It’s such a problem, it’s been declared a *WONS* – a Weed of National Significance – by the Commonwealth Government,” said Mr Muyt.

Clarence City Council Weeds Planning Officer Alister Hazeldine said Clarence has extensive populations of Chilean Needle Grass on both rural and urban land.

“We’re painting the picture of how far Chilean Needle Grass has spread in each municipality across Tasmania in recent years, what its impacts are, and what the best strategies are for containing and controlling it,” he said.

“If we don’t act in a coordinated fashion in coming years to control the spread of Chilean Needle Grass then the effects on Tasmanian agriculture and native grassy ecosystems are likely to be significant.”

For more information on Chilean Needle Grass and the workshop contact:

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