

2023 local annual achievement report

Greater Sydney region

Thankfully 2023 saw more moderate seasons in our region, enabling landholders and staff to focus on productivity and land management priorities.

It marked the first full year of our biodiversity project at Orchard Hills where we deliver biodiversity offsets for Western Sydney Airport. We are restoring Cumberland Plain Woodland to its original state. This is an exciting project where we are collaborating with local Aboriginal communities delivering cultural burns, reinvigorating local cultural practices and have 20 local Aboriginal trainees in a long-term development program.

Another highlight is seeing the Demonstration Farm flourish with engaged community members post-Covid. We undertook several trials for our project partners, with all produce generated by the trials donated to Food Bank to help those in need.

As my tenure as Chair of the Greater Sydney Board concludes, I reflect on the pleasure of working with board members to steer the agency strategically. Engaging with staff, industry stakeholders and regional partners has been enriching, and I am proud of our collective achievements.

Robert Webster

Chair, Greater Sydney Board



189,156 ha

of vertebrate pest control



1,085

1:1 advice consultations



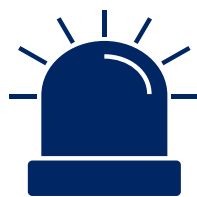
4,267

participants at awareness raising/capacity building events



26

animal disease surveillance investigations



40%

of staff trained for an emergency response

In November 2023, the successful aerial shooting operation funded by the State Feral Pig Program in the Megalong Valley, Blue Mountains, covered 48 landholdings and over 4,000 hectares, engaging 85-90% of private landholders. Over 2 days, the 5 flights culled 107 feral pigs, 7 feral goats, and 4 foxes, proving more efficient than ground control, which would take around 4 years for similar results.

Before and after the control program, drone surveys with thermal cameras provided crucial insights, utilising modern monitoring technologies. Pest management efforts continue with biosecurity officers providing advice, equipment, and traps to aid landholders in ground control activities, fostering a sustainable environment.

A follow up shoot is scheduled for April 2024, another aerial shooting operation underscores the commitment to managing pest populations. Such initiatives not only safeguard agricultural land but also preserve the delicate balance of local ecosystems, promoting biodiversity and ecosystem health for future generations.



6,257 ha

managed for improved agricultural production



164

1:1 technical advice consultation



681

participants at Aboriginal awareness raising/capacity building events



198 ha

of land managed for improved soil condition



381 ha

of weed management for improved biosecurity, agricultural productivity, and biodiversity