

2023 local annual achievement report

Hunter region

During 2023 we continued to provide flood recovery support to landholders while also shifting to provision of drought support services, particularly in areas of the Upper Hunter and Manning Great Lakes. This rapid shift, from floods to the driest period on record for areas of the Upper Hunter, reflects the challenges faced by our primary producers and the importance of our local teams to be responsive to the changing needs of our customers.

In response to the higher risk of foot and mouth disease our team continued to support land managers by coordinating and leading programs for control of feral pigs.

Through the Regional Weed Committee we made excellent progress towards eradication of 6 environmental and agricultural weeds from the region.

Through our partnership with Tocal College, with support from Firesticks Alliance, the region now has 20 students who are formally recognised as Cultural Fire Practitioners.

In partnership with agencies and local councils we facilitated emergency planning workshops to support communities seeking to be disaster ready.

Tony Hegarty

Chair, Hunter Board



1,308,984 ha

of vertebrate pest control



1,976

1:1 advice consultations



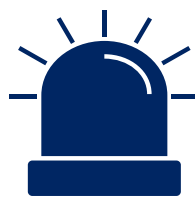
26,054

participants at awareness raising/capacity building events



458

animal disease surveillance investigations



43%

of staff trained for an emergency response

Inaugural Hunter River Forum brings river users together for a shared vision

The 2023 Hunter River Forum was held to support local action to improve the condition of Hunter rivers. The event theme was improving the health and resilience of the Hunter River through community engagement in riparian management. The event brought together landholders, government agencies, industry and community-based environmental and Aboriginal organisations.

Engaging keynote speakers set a forward-looking focus, often with interesting viewpoints to engage the audience. Professor Kirstie Fryirs' presentation titled 'Geomorphology of the Hunter River' highlighted the importance of putting 'roughness' back into river channels to improve river health and reduce flood risk by slowing down floods. She likened increasing channel roughness with increasing the fibre in your gut.

A highlight was celebrating community involvement and innovative actions to improve river health. This ranged from community-led riparian revegetation projects through to genetic testing of endangered river red gums to inform conservation of the species.



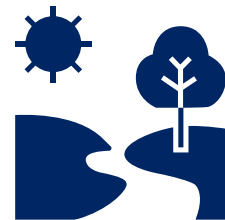
2,646 ha

of land managed for improved soil condition



28 ha

of certificates issued (LM)



2,343 ha

of native revegetation enhanced, rehabilitated or protected



3,651 ha

of TSRs actively managed



8

emergency management preparatory exercises