



Local Land
Services



Australian Government

Local links

Local Land Services works with land managers and the community to improve primary production within healthy landscapes.

These case studies highlight the integration of services across the organisation and the diversity of partnerships and projects being undertaken.



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Goal 1 - Resilient, self-reliant and prepared local communities

To till or not to till

Central Tablelands Local Land Services has been delivering events, knowledge and services to assist landholders with management decisions across the region.

A cropping and livestock update at Cowra drew a range of speakers and generated healthy discussion on various management practices.

Pastures Officer Phil Cranney said farmers across this mixed farming area know the right cropping and livestock mix for their businesses. "We are not recommending big changes to current livestock and cropping systems," he said. "These workshops are about presenting the latest research that could help fine tune existing practices."

Central Tablelands Local Land Services has been working closely with the NSW Department of Primary Industries to provide the most up-to-date knowledge and research for farmers.



New partnership welcomed by Central Coast growers

An enthusiastic crowd of local growers turned out to the launch of a new partnership between Greater Sydney Local Land Services and NSW Farmers. About 30 farmers from across the Central Coast took part in the Peats Ridge event which will provide more targeted and strategic support for the local agricultural industry.

NSW Farmers Central Coast Horticulture Branch President and avocado farmer Tim Kemp (pictured with David Green from Local Land Services) said the project was an opportunity for industry, growers and government to work together for the best outcomes for the farming community.

"This partnership is the first of its kind in NSW and has been made possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services team," he said. "We encourage more growers to come forward and give us feedback on local issues and suggestions around how we can support a more sustainable and productive agriculture industry."

Livestock discussion forums are fertile ground

Livestock producers are benefiting from a series of discussion groups springing up in the Murray region with the support of Murray Local Land Services.

This work brings together producers with common locations and enterprise types to share information and talk about hot topics. There are now livestock groups operating around Finley, Deniliquin and the upper Murray. The most recent is the Central Murray Ag Beef Group, based around Mathoura.

Each group has between 12 and 25 members who meet up to six times a year to discuss topics ranging from pasture management, breeding, nutrition, health and marketing, as well as hearing from industry experts. Major benefits for producers include learning from others and being able to share issues and successes with peers. As word spreads, Murray Local Land Services hopes to see similar groups develop throughout the region.

Funding partner: Australian Government's National Landcare Programme



Partnership to protect and grow Lord Howe Island

North Coast Local Land Services and the Lord Howe Island Board have signed a partnership agreement that will support the healthy natural resources and agricultural productivity of Lord Howe Island. The agreement will help improve the understanding of the factors driving change across Lord Howe Island and how these drivers interact to provide future opportunities to protect the Island's heritage values and outstanding natural environment.

The exceptional natural beauty of Lord Howe Island is characterised by a diversity of distinct landscapes and a wide variety of rare flora and fauna which has long been appreciated by the community. Its unique qualities received worldwide recognition when it was included in the World Heritage list in December 1992.

The partnership will ensure the ongoing delivery of innovative programs such as the efforts towards the eradication of weeds, exotic rodents and African big-headed ants.

Goal 2 - Biosecure, profitable, productive and sustainable primary industries

Advice and assistance provided to fire-affected landholders

Staff from across the state have been heavily involved in emergency response actions to bushfires this year. South East Local Land Services staff were on the ground in the Tarago and Sutton regions in the immediate aftermath of January's Currendooley fire.

Animal welfare issues were the primary concern of biosecurity and veterinary staff, who were on hand to provide advice and assistance to landholders. They also collected field information on property damage and stock losses to help plan for future incidents. Emergency fodder provisions were made available to landholders on substantially fire-affected properties. Local Land Services also coordinated a community meeting at Tarago, where locals engaged with the emergency services, the local rural resilience officer and other key stakeholders.

As will soon happen in other regions, support for landholders has now shifted to providing advice on pasture recovery, potential emergent weed and feral animal issues, erosion and burnt areas of native vegetation.



Building the Hunter's free range egg industry

Hunter Local Land Services has been working in partnership with Department of Primary Industries to establish a network of small-scale free range egg producers in the Hunter to facilitate sharing of information and resources.

Egg production is a major, high-value industry in the Hunter and free range egg production is a niche area which is swiftly growing in response to consumer demand.

A number of successful workshops have been held across the region since May 2016, with another scheduled on pastures and chickens as fertilisers.

An information hub has been set up on the LLS Open online engagement platform to keep members up to date on the latest industry developments in pest management, biosecurity, legislation and natural resource management. It also features videos on a range of topics and case studies on local producers.

Northern Tablelands footrot protected area status maintained

While the Northern Tablelands area has a long history of managing the risk of footrot, being a protected area does not stop footrot occurring.

Every year Northern Tablelands Local Land Services investigates cases of lameness in sheep to identify or exclude footrot. This year 50 to 60 flocks will be inspected by Biosecurity Officers and District Veterinarians across the Northern Tablelands region.

Any introductions of sheep onto a property present a risk of introducing footrot. Sheep producers are encouraged to request a National Sheep Health Statement when purchasing sheep and keep introduced sheep separate from the rest of the flock for as long as possible. These strategies should be part of a farm biosecurity plan.

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services found no footrot in last year's survey and staff do not expect to find any this year but the price of disease freedom is to keep looking so that we can defend the region's protected area status.



Engaging communities on regional weed plans

Eleven draft Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans were provided online for public consultation in February. The plans and supporting documentation were loaded to the online engagement portal, LLS Open at open.lls.nsw.gov.au for interested organisations and individuals to provide feedback on the management of weeds in their region.

The draft Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans were developed collaboratively with the Regional Weed Committees and Local Land Services. The plans contain established strategies and actions to achieve goals that focus on shared responsibility for weed management.

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* adopts the concept of a general biosecurity duty. This means that anyone who is aware of a potential risk should take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise or eliminate that risk. The Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans are a direct response to this legislative reform.

Goal 3 - Healthy, diverse, connected natural environments

Carp exclusion screens benefit native fish

The installation of carp exclusion screens on the inlets of two temporary wetlands has seen water quality and native fish species benefit significantly.

Western Local Land Services partnered with the NSW Department of Primary Industries to promote the development of productive nursery habitats for native fish and to monitor the effectiveness of this management intervention for juvenile populations of flow-pulse specialists and other small-bodied native species.

The two wetlands in the Wentworth area were totally dry when the temporary carp exclusion screens were erected, which helped the habitat and aquatic communities become established.

Staff involved in the project monitored water quality and carried out regular fish community assessments to document colonisation by native and non-native species. This information helped to show that wetlands where adult carp were excluded experienced water quality improvements and a greater diversity of species.



Twilight event highlights catchment and biodiversity

A Walgett By the River twilight field day examined the principles of catchments in understanding water and its importance in agricultural, ecological and cultural contexts. The field day was the highlight of a series of nine events run by North West Local Land Services that attracted more than 150 people. The events showcased topics including catchments, riverine systems, weeds, native tree and shrub identification, and biodiversity.

As part of the exercise, the group collected and tested water samples from around Walgett and compared test results with samples from other areas and data already publicly available online. One of their findings was that water coming from Warialda was very different to water from Tamworth, which was different again to that from Queensland.

By mapping data such as flow and salinity, the group learnt a great deal about the role geology and appropriate land use play in water quality and catchment health.

Funding partner: Catchment Action NSW

Partnership with Central West Landcare forging ahead

Following on from a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Central West Landcare and Central West Local Land Services, the two have partnered to deliver a forum in Dubbo that addressed meaningful opportunities for large-scale social, agricultural and environmental impact.

The MoU signifies the beginning of a strengthened working relationship between Landcare and Local Land Services in the region and demonstrates a commitment to continued collaboration. It set the scene for the Dubbo Partnership Forum, which was an opportunity for a range of people working in the areas of healthy environments, communities and sustainable agriculture to meet Landcare groups and explore ways of working together.

The forum showcased successful partnerships and provided tips for making the most of partnerships, including getting young people onto the land by linking them with investors.

Funding partner: NSW Government's \$15 million Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative



Grant supports regeneration of Coolamon wetland

The Coolamon travelling stock reserve (TSR) has received an environmental boost, thanks to a collaborative community project that brings together a range of local organisations. Coolamon Landcare received \$15,000 from Riverina Local Land Services to regenerate five hectares of wetland on the TSR.

This was one of six community grants to local groups across the Riverina. The Coolamon partnership brings together the Coolamon Men's Shed, local schools and Coolamon Landcare to establish a wetland above the dam on the TSR. It will see native birds and animals feed, nest, breed and move between Kindra State Forest and the TSR.

The project demonstrates how local communities are working with Local Land Services on TSR management, Aboriginal cultural heritage, threatened bird species and revegetation of native vegetation in a way that benefits all partners.

Funding partner: Catchment Action NSW