



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.



Spring 2015

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

Developing flood resilience in the Hunter

Hunter Local Land Services has developed a Flood Readiness Kit to ensure farmers are better prepared for floods in the wake of the devastating April 2015 super storm. The practical kit is designed to help primary producers on floodplains prepare for flooding events and improve on-farm flood resilience by planning how they will protect and provide for their livestock. It contains a series of resources, including an on-farm flood plan template and timeline, a practical guide to reducing on-farm risks, plus details on where and how to access emergency information and warnings. Staff developed the kit in consultation with local farmers and trialled it with a select group of primary producers. Hunter Local Land Services has also developed a series of videos to support landholders in preparing for and recovering from flooding.

Funding: Hunter Catchment Contribution, a levy to provide services in flood mitigation in the Hunter River catchment



Growing future rural leaders

Thirty two future rural leaders graduated from the South East Local Leaders Program in June. Coordinated by South East Local Land Services and South East Landcare, with funding from the Australian and NSW governments, the program is fostering the leadership potential of rural people who are involved in the natural resource management, Landcare, community, biosecurity and agricultural sectors. It was delivered by Global Learning leadership trainers and consists of eight contact days over a three-month period. The training includes leadership project work and online tasks. Participants learnt to identify and refine their leadership styles, build and work effectively within teams, understand and develop skills for working in complex situations and build an ongoing mentoring and support network of community leaders. By supporting programs like this, South East Local Land Services is helping to increase the capacity of rural communities.

Funding partners: Australian Government's National Landcare Programme (including Community Landcare grants) and Catchment Action NSW

Farmers protecting Aboriginal cultural values

A chance encounter by farmer Michael Zell has seen an historic Aboriginal grave site protected on his Gulargambone property, Memsie. While inspecting a fox den, Mr Zell discovered the culturally-significant burial site. This led to a chain of events which saw the site fenced and protected with support from Central West Local Land Services. This project also helped Mr Zell better understand the Aboriginal cultural values on his land. Like many properties across Australia, Memsie has signs of historic Aboriginal occupation. "We have often come across stone tools in the paddocks," Mr Zell said. "As a practice, we move them under trees to stop them getting damaged from farm machinery. The project with Local Land Services is another way we're trying to protect what is here." Local Land Services works with landholders on a range of production and environmental issues, including protecting Aboriginal cultural values.

Funding partner: Catchment Action NSW



Coordinators to forge stronger links with volunteers

The call for organisations to host coordinators under the NSW Government's new \$15 million Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative met with a great response when applications closed in October. With 60 part-time positions available statewide, we received applications from more than 80 not-for-profit organisations. Applications came from a range of existing Landcare networks, with many joining forces to develop partnership bids to manage the employment and administration arrangements. Other local conservation and community groups also applied. A Joint Management Committee of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW is assessing the applications and will ask each region to recommend the most suitable arrangements to meet local expectations. The goal of the initiative is to build capacity and connections with local communities to produce on-ground change. The initiative has also been designed to ensure the future financial viability of the Landcare model.

Funding partner: NSW Government's Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative

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

Integrated approach to managing wild deer in the Hastings

North Coast Local Land Services is chairing the Hastings Wild Deer Working Group, focusing on wild deer management in the Port Macquarie region. Wild deer have been a concern in the area since the 1980s and as the Hastings region continues to develop, the negative impacts of wild deer have increased. Damage to crops, plant nurseries, vineyards, golf courses and local gardens has escalated and the prevalence of vehicle accidents involving wild deer has intensified. Damage to native bushland, impacting on threatened species, such as the local koala population is also being caused by the wild deer. An extensive community survey to gather local knowledge on the location and impacts of wild deer gathered 194 surveys responses and identified 349 locations. The survey data will be used to develop a wild deer control strategy with the objective to protect key assets, such as controlling wild deer in proximity to roads and around the highly impacted suburbs.

Funding partner: Catchment Action NSW



Everything you need to know about Lucerne

'Lucerne online' is a short course on lucerne management relevant to all NSW lucerne growing regions. It was developed by Riverina Local Land Services in collaboration with Tocal College, NSW DPI and industry leaders. It is available through Tocal College, under PROfarm, and allows lucerne growers to set production targets and learn how to achieve them in self-paced online learning modules. Riverina Local Land Services agronomist, Lisa Castleman tapped into the specialist knowledge of Rob Wilson, a former lucerne breeder with Pioneer Hi-Bred and Neil Griffiths, a technical specialist in pasture production at NSW DPI to combine the science of lucerne production with practical on-farm skills. Experienced lucerne-growers, Michael Payten from Alfalfa, Canowindra, and Graeme Parker from Ercildoon, Henty have shared their knowledge and practical experience in short videos throughout the course content.

Funding partners: Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and Catchment Action NSW

Wild dog attention moves to Walgett and Lightning Ridge

The Walgett and Lightning Ridge areas traditionally haven't had a wild dog problem. But, in recent years, these communities have been identified as key emerging wild dog areas. Over the past year, North West Local Land Services biosecurity staff have worked closely with a number of wild dog control groups. In the lead up to the coordinated spring baiting campaign, staff conducted a number of wild dog control workshops that were well attended by local landholders. The workshops were followed by the roll out of 20 motion detection cameras that will be used by landholders to monitor wild dog activity on their properties. A further series of workshops is planned in coming months. These workshops will equip wild dog control groups with training in canid ejectors, which increase the effectiveness of baiting programs.

Funding partner: Australian Government Drought Pest Management Program



Livestock innovation on show

The latest innovations in technology for the sheep and cattle sectors were showcased this spring at a Livestock Innovation Forum presented by Northern Tablelands and North West Local Land Services, the University of New England, CSIRO, NSW Farmers, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Practical Systems. Technical experts and farmers already using this technology explained and demonstrated how the latest livestock management devices and interactive systems can be practically used on farm. Landholders discussed how they transfer on-farm data and feedback from industry into smart decisions in their farming businesses. A highlight of the Livestock Innovation Forum was the launch of the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services App by NSW Farmers Association President, Derek Schoen. The new app for smart phones and tablets will alert people in times of emergency and target messages regarding critical issues such as disease outbreaks and flood warnings. It also features links to local events, news and essential information for landholders on the Northern Tablelands.

Funding partner: Australian Government's National Landcare Programme

Goal 3 - Healthy, diverse, connected natural environments

Fish, Frogs and Fresh Flowing Water

A collaboration between Local Land Services, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, DPI Fisheries and Taronga Zoo has received a \$1 million dollar grant from the NSW Environmental Trust. The grant will help secure the future of Fish, Frogs, Flora and Fresh Flowing Water habitat in central and southern NSW. The key beneficiaries of the Saving Our Species (SOS) Partnership Grant will be seven threatened species: the Booroolong frog, the yellow-spotted bell frog, the Tumut grevillea, the spotted tree frog, the Macquarie perch, the southern pygmy perch, and the Murray crayfish. Project sites include private property on the Central Tablelands where farmers will also benefit from on-ground works to tackle erosion, feral pests and invasive weeds. Funding for the Fish, Frogs, Flora and Fresh Flowing Water Project will be distributed between the Central Tablelands, Murray, Riverina and South East Local Land Services regions.

Funding partner: Saving our Species Partnership Grants Program



Casting light on gliders' plight

Burrumbuttock landholders are working together to save the local squirrel glider population. Fifteen landholders have entered partnerships with the Squirrel Glider Local Area Management Plan project. With funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, the landholders are part of a trial project that will connect critical patches of habitat to help the animals move around the landscape more freely to forage for food and find suitable tree hollows for breeding. Landholders receive financial and technical support from Murray Local Land Services to fence, revegetate and expand native vegetation corridors that are essential to the gliders. Our project partners are Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, Greater Hume Shire, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, West Hume Landcare and Burrumbuttock landholders. The project aims to ensure that squirrel gliders remain part of the Burrumbuttock environment in the future.

Funding partner: Australian Government's National Landcare Programme

Celebrating 10 years of river restoration

Ten years ago the Macdonald Valley community embarked on an ambitious challenge to restore the Macdonald River to its former glory. Local landowners took up the challenge and, with the support of Hawkesbury City Council and Greater Sydney Local Land Services, they developed a project to improve fish habitat through better land management and revegetation. Grants to riverbank landowners saw restoration works undertaken, while workshops and field days increased the knowledge and capacity of landowners. Targeted weed control of a number of troublesome weeds has also been hugely successful, with black willow and tree of heaven both brought under control. With the Macdonald River looking the best it has in the past decade, the community held celebrations to mark their achievements during October. More than 100 people attended the festivities and acknowledged the strong support of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services and the community members and landholders who worked hard to achieve this outcome.

Funding partners: Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, Catchment Action NSW and Hawkesbury City Council



Carbon conference

More than 160 people gathered in Cobar in October to hear the latest facts and figures about Australia's emerging carbon economy at the Rangelands Carbon Conference. As the presentations were tailored to address local conditions and issues, participants said they got so much more out of it. Many were surprised to learn that there are more options in the region than sequestering carbon in trees. They also appreciated the opportunity to speak directly with carbon brokers and advisers at the expo. The conference emphasised that good natural resource management should be a component of all land-based projects, regardless of the carbon method used, and that landholders should fully explore the financial implications of undertaking a carbon project before committing to it. Based on the feedback received, and the fact that the industry is evolving quickly, there is a chance Local Land Services may host another expo in the future.

Funding partner: Australian Government