

# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

## Hunter Local Land Services



*It's been a tough year for many local producers and communities across much of our region. From the devastating Sir Ivan fires in February 2017 that decimated the district around Cassilis in the Upper Hunter, through to drought conditions in many parts of the region, where decent rain has failed to fall since autumn 2017.*

*Our staff have been at the frontline with you, helping landholders recover from disaster, manage their livestock and property in tough conditions and help improve biosecurity and farm management in challenging times.*

*At Hunter Local Land Services we recognise that our landholders care deeply for their properties, livestock and crops. We know that together we can achieve great outcomes for future land management because we too are local and live within the community.*

*We have the local knowledge, expertise and networks that can help you manage and adapt to changing conditions and policies.*

*We recognise the need to be flexible to meet the needs of our customers, and are determined to offer the right services at the right time to the right people.*

*We value our partnerships with other agencies, industry, community groups, local aboriginal organisations and our landholders. This collective caring is achieving great outcomes in our region with projects such as the \$1 million Professional Wild Dog Controller Program, that aims to reinvigorate the local sheep industry by removing problem wild dogs from known hotspots.*

*The current board has reaffirmed Hunter Local Land Services' dedication to providing value for money service to our ratepayers, by increasing the hours of our frontline vets, putting on new biosecurity officers and expanding our agricultural extension team during 2017.*

*Hunter Local Land Services also provided more than \$1.47 million in grants to landholders and community groups to help them improve their natural landscape and deliver small on ground works that benefit our region.*

*The board and I are hopeful of a more stable year ahead for our region, but will ensure that when needed our staff are always available to help.*

Lindy Hyam  
Chair, Hunter Local Land Services Board

## 2017 Snapshot



We assisted more than **130 land managers and community groups** undertake on **ground works** to enhance and **protect the environment** by providing **\$1.47 M** in incentive funding.



We're the **boots on the ground** to support agriculture and animals in an emergency and responded to **six major emergencies in 2017** including the Sir Ivan fire. More than **50 per cent** of staff have been trained to assist in an emergency or biosecurity outbreak.



We held our **largest ever autumn wild dog control program** with more than **160 properties** involved in an **aerial baiting** program across the region.



We support **Aboriginal people** to care for Country, share traditional land management knowledge and help protect and strengthen **Aboriginal cultural heritage**. Nearly **30 ha** of land with **Aboriginal cultural value** was managed, and more than **80 people** attended cultural burns.



We increased the capacity of land managers to improve primary production and natural resource management and trained more than **6,280 customers** at training events.



Our vets provided more than **348 general consultations** and conducted **112 property exclusions** for disease investigations.



Local Land  
Services

# Our on ground achievements

We managed **7,000 ha** of travelling stock reserves, for the economic, social and environmental benefits for the region and issued more than **50** walking permits for stock movement.

We provided education and training workshops to build the capacity of more than **1,100** land managers to support and help coordinate group control programs — bringing landholders together to control wild dogs, foxes, pigs and deer.

We supported proactive farmers and enabled more than **2,000 ha** of land to be managed for sustainable grazing.

We supported landholders who rehabilitated and improved the condition of **1,153 ha** of land and protected **877 ha** of vegetation through fencing and grazing management.

Working with weeds professionals and landholders we eradicated gorse from the region.

We worked with more than **100** volunteers and school groups to plant more than **3,500** local native species along the Hunter estuary.

Our vets visited saleyards nearly **200** times checking NLIS compliance and welfare standards.

We undertook a strategic research partnership with Griffith University to investigate **4,800 km** of Hunter streams to prioritise future on-ground works to improve river condition.

More than **50** per cent of the local oyster industry now have Farm Profiles, which help improve their economic and environmental performance.

## SALEYARDS GLOUCESTER

The Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan was endorsed and implemented to protect the region from biosecurity threats. This plan has already led to eradication of one weed

To protect market access, we issued 255 property identification codes.

Our customer service team assisted an increased number of customers, including providing support with meeting industry requirements for the management of Bovine Johnes disease.

We issued 48 media releases about programs and events.

We increased our social media followers by more than 1,000 people.

Our GIS team received more than 40 five-star reviews for completed services.

We welcomed new appointed and elected board members to the organisation.



## Contact details:

If you have any enquiries  
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