

# 2023 local annual achievement report

## North Coast region

The North Coast is the third most biodiverse region in Australia and the most biodiverse region in New South Wales and our programs help protect our precious environment and support our diverse agricultural producers.

In 2023 we completed the Australian Government funded Regional Landscape Partnerships Program which invested \$22 million into environmental programs across the North Coast region over the last 5 years. Over the last year we protected 350 ha of important koala habitat which had suffered through bushfires and floods.

Our invasive pest team continued to help farmers and the environment in the management of pest predators, feral pigs and deer. When the region experienced drought like conditions, our team delivered 15 dry times events engaging 267 landholders and providing practical advice to help farmer decision making.

Our work is varied and interesting and it is an honour to lead a team who are so passionate about what they do for our ratepayers.

Bob Smith

Chair, North Coast Board



**831,173 ha**

of vertebrate pest control



**9,722**

1:1 advice consultations



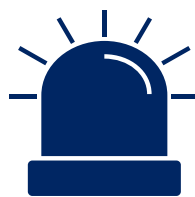
**164**

participants at awareness raising/capacity building events



**439**

animal disease surveillance investigations



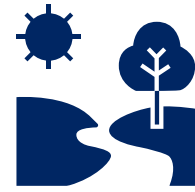
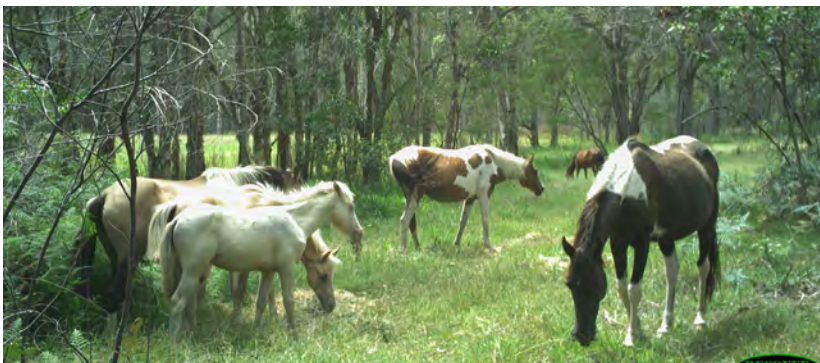
**63%**

of staff trained for an emergency response

Our Invasive Pest team has been working with landholders in the Clarence and Coffs Harbour regions to manage the impact of wild horses for the benefit of farmers, our natural environment and motorists traveling on tourist roads, including the M1.

In 2023 the North Coast team issued a General Biosecurity Direction under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* for wild horses within the Halfway Creek/Glenugie area. The Direction compels all landholders (public and private) to report wild horses and develop management plans. It is the first Direction in NSW for a pest animal and will assist in achieving eradication of wild horses from the area.

The North Coast team have also implemented an innovative wild horse trapping program which aims to rehome wild horses. More than 120 wild horses have been rehomed to either Brumby rescue organisations or members of the general public who were engaged via an expression of interest process.



**335 ha**

native vegetation enhanced,  
rehabilitated or protected



**265 ha**

of threatened species, populations  
or ecological communities enhanced,  
rehabilitated, or protected



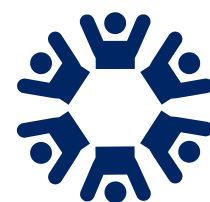
**31 km**

of stream length or river/estuary  
enhanced rehabilitated or protected



**20,779**

weed inspections



**21**

Aboriginal community  
groups supported