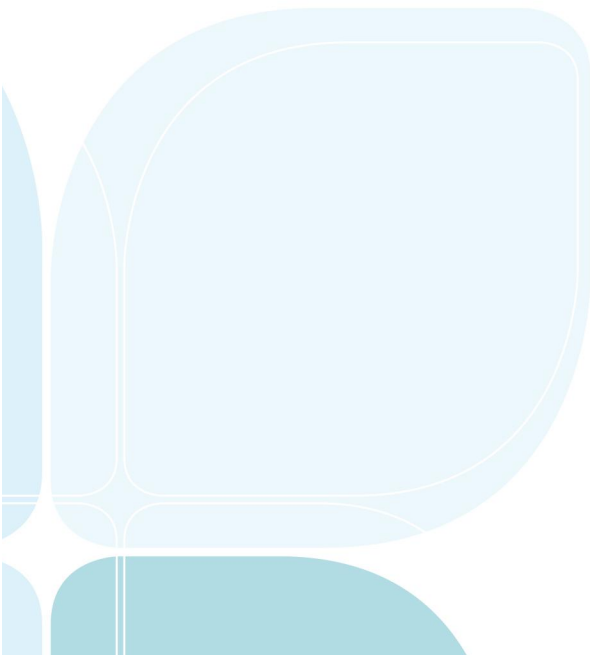




**Local Land
Services**
Riverina

ANNUAL REPORT

1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014



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Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of the report January 2014 to December 2014. However, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

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About Local Land Services

Local Land Services (LLS) brings together agricultural production advice, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management into a single organisation. Eleven LLS regions, managed by 11 local boards cover NSW: Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North West, Riverina, South East and Western regions.

Each Region is accountable for delivering services that add value to local industries, enhance natural resources, protect industries from pests and disease and help communities respond to emergencies like flood, fire and drought.

Local boards headed by local chairs work closely with farmers, landholders and communities. Each region will develop operational management plans that will prioritise service delivery on a regional basis, reflecting regional priorities.

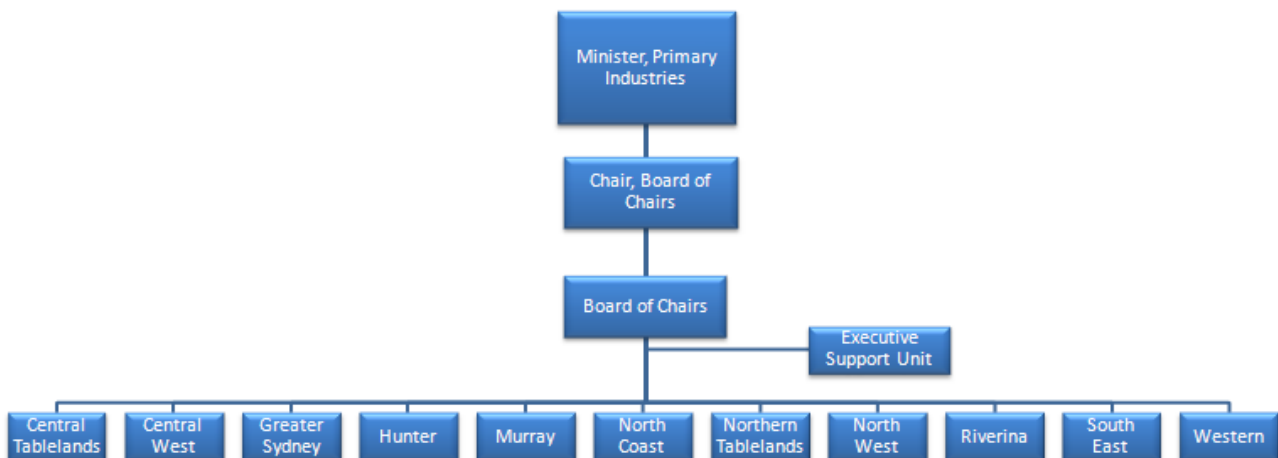
All the local Chairs together form the Local Land Services Board of Chairs. The Local Land Services Board of Chairs is led by the Local Land Services Chair of the Board of Chairs, John Macarthur-Stanham.

Local Land Services boards are accountable for:

- administering and delivering local land services
- developing and implementing appropriate governance arrangements for the delivery of local land services
- preparing a state strategic plan and local strategic plans
- providing and facilitating education and training in connection with agricultural production, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management
- making recommendations regarding rates, levies and contributions on rateable and other land
- providing and administering grants, loans, subsidies or other financial assistance for local land services
- communicating, consulting and engaging with the community, including the Aboriginal community, to encourage participation in the delivery of local land services.

The Regions and the Board of Chairs are supported by a small Executive Support Unit (ESU) located primarily at Dubbo. The Executive Support Unit seeks to provide Local Land Services with operational leverage and administrative and policy consistency, while respecting Regional decision making and accountability.

Organisational Chart



Our Region

The Riverina Region is one of the most agriculturally productive and diverse regions in Australia covering an area of approximately 67,000 square kilometres and is bounded by Harden in the east, Hay in the west, Hillston in the north and Lockhart in the south. The region is serviced by 18 offices in 13 locations. Land use in the Riverina Local Land Services area is mainly agricultural with dry land grazing and cereal based cropping accounting for over 80% of land use. Irrigation farming in the region covers over 5% of the area. Many natural assets of international and national importance are also found in the area serviced by the Riverina Local Land Services.

Major agricultural produce includes beef, sheep, cotton, grains, oilseeds, wine grapes, citrus, walnuts, almonds, and Forestry. In 2011–12, the gross value of agricultural production (GVAP) in the Riverina region was \$1.7 billion, which was around 16 per cent of the total gross value of agricultural production in New South Wales (\$10.8 billion) for 2011–12. The diverse nature of agriculture is a direct reflection of the diversity in the landscape, climate, and natural assets ranging from the high rainfall areas of the Great Dividing Range in the east; to the semi-arid rangelands in the west.

The region has been divided into highlands, mixed farming, irrigation, and rangelands agricultural production zones to ensure that efficient and effective service delivery can be achieved and to assist in matching appropriate resources for service delivery.



Principal Office

Principal Office Address	Principal Office Phone	Email & Website
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650	(02) 6923 6300 1300 795 299	admin@lls.nsw.gov.au www.lls.nsw.gov.au/riverina

Senior Staff

	General Manager	Business & Finance Manager	Manager of Strategic Land Services	Manager of Land Services	Manager of Biosecurity & Emergency Services
Name	Rob Kelly	Wayne Maybury	Lilian Parker	Michael Dunn	Ray Willis
Location	Wagga/Griffith	Wagga Wagga	Wagga Wagga	Wagga Wagga	Wagga Wagga
Contact	Ph: 1300 795 299	Ph: 02 6923 6360	Ph: 02 6923 6368	Ph: 02 6923 6342	Ph: 02 6923 6321

Governance

CHAIR MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER
Sam Archer	Barney Hyams	Julie Briggs	Ian Auldish	Helen Dalton	John Davey	Peter Speirs

Board Attendees

LLS	Name of Board Member	Number of Possible Meetings	Number of Meetings Attended
Riverina	Sam Archer	10	10
	Barney Hyams	10	9
	Julie Briggs	10	8
	Ian Auldish	10	10
	Helen Dalton	8	6
	John Davey	8	8
	Peter Speirs	8	7

Operational overview by General Manager

The inaugural year of Riverina Local Land Services was centred on customer, employee, and community engagement.

The main focus was to bring together three separate organisations to form a single, customer-focussed entity that will deliver local solutions for local problems. However, this can only be achieved by collaborating with and listening to our customers and stakeholders.

To this end, Riverina Local Land Services has established five Community Advisory Groups (CAG's) covering the highlands area, mixed farming zone, intensive irrigation areas, rangelands, Aboriginal areas, and communications and engagement. The groups are made up of community representatives to gather in-depth feedback and provide advice on initiatives and issues proposed by Riverina Local Land Services. The CAG's form an integral part of the success of Riverina Local Land Services; in fact they are one of our biggest assets.

Some of the key highlights for 2014 include:

- Community, Industry, and CAG consultation and engagement to provide input and advice on the local strategic plan development.
- Built capacity and capability of land managers in natural resource management via delivery of \$3m of incentives, improving 15,000 hectares in native vegetation planting, invasive species control, fencing and training.
- The sustainable management of 85,000 hectares of Travelling Stock Reserves.
- Successful eradication of (HP) Avian Influenza from poultry farms in the Young area.
- Funding and technical assistance with wild dog management.
- Queensland Fruit Fly control program.
- Technical advice delivered on livestock, irrigation, cropping, mixed farming, and weed management.
- Innovative pest animal surveillance and trapping through WiFi technology.
- Co-ordinated information sessions and surveillance of Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

Further information on these and other activities undertaken by Riverina Local Land Services is contained in this document.

On the safety front, we remain absolutely committed to providing a healthy and safe working environment for our employees, our contractors and our visitors. This focus is ongoing, with more work to be done in the year ahead to continue to improve our safety performance and culture.

I thank the Board Members and our Management Team for your leadership and support and all employees for your dedication and hard work throughout our transformation journey.

I also take this opportunity to thank our customers and stakeholders and our Community Advisory Groups for your continued support and valuable feedback. With your continued collaboration and support the Riverina region will continue to be the premier agricultural region in Australia.



Rob Kelly
General Manager

Local Community Advisory Groups

Local Community Advisory Groups (CAG's) provide input into the development of plans, projects and services and are an integral link between Local Land Services and the community it serves.

Riverina Local Land Services has established six Community Advisory Groups covering the highlands area, mixed farming zone, intensive irrigation areas, rangelands, Aboriginal communities, and communications and engagement. The groups are made up of community representatives, competitively selected based on skills, to gather in-depth feedback and provide advice on initiatives and issues proposed by Riverina Local Land Services. The CAG's form an integral part of the success of Riverina Local Land Services; in fact they are one of our biggest assets.

The Riverina Local Land Services Community Advisory Groups is a group of community representatives meet with the General Manager and the management team, in facilitated sessions designed to gather in-depth feedback on initiatives and issues proposed by Riverina Local Land Services.

The goals of the Group, which meet quarterly, are to:

- provide input into the development of local strategic plans;
- provide input from the Group during project planning and development phases;
- provide input from the Group on the range of services to be provided;
- provide a forum for focussed and sustained discussion with community representatives;
- provide a conduit between the Board of Riverina Local Land Services and the community on the issues that need to be addressed by Riverina Local Land Services; and
- seek input about the issues important to the Riverina community.

Riverina Local Land Services will seek input on a range of matters related to service delivery. This may include:

- Region specific priorities;
- Levels of and types of service; and
- Community consultation.

Key Achievements

Manage Weeds And Pests	
Measure	Achieved
Area (ha) of pest plant control measures implemented	7723

Measure
Number of conservation covenants or other agreements attached to title negotiated
Area (ha) protected
Number of voluntary conservation agreements negotiated
Area (ha) protected
Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated
Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation protected by fencing
Area (ha) planted to terrestrial native species
Area (ha) of land treated and/or protected from soil erosion by engineering works
Area (ha) of soil treatment for other than erosion or acid sulphate soils
Area (ha) of land managed for sustainable grazing

Community Involvement and Support	
Measure	Achieved
Number of awareness raising events such as demonstrations, field days or study tours conducted	206
Number of participants who attended in days	10504
Number of written products such as brochures, newsletters, posters or fact sheets developed	154
Estimated number of recipients	96876
Number of training sessions, workshops, seminars or other skills and training events conducted	98

Number of community groups OR projects assisted	184
Number of activities undertaken to support community groups	327

Protect Rivers, Wetlands And Coastal Environments	
Measure	Achieved
Area (ha) of riparian native vegetation protected by fencing	397
Streambank length (km) of riparian vegetation protected	38
Area (ha) planted to riparian native species	236
Number of stream bank engineering works	0
Length (m) of stream bed stabilised	0
Number of stream bed stabilisation sites	0
Number of off-stream (alternative) watering sites installed	12
Length (km) of streambank protected from stock	16
Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation protected by fencing	56
Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	56
Area (ha) planted to wetland native species	0
Area (ha) of coastal native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	0

Animal Biosecurity & Welfare
<p>Successful management of emergency animal diseases (EADs)</p> <p>During 2014 all Local Land Services regions successfully worked with Department of Primary Industries to minimise the impacts of EADs on trade, production, the environment and public health and wellbeing. This was achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency animal disease Investigations • Preparing for and responding to EAD Incidents • Inspecting piggeries for swill feeding • Submitting brains from suitable cases to exclude Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE and scrapie)

Measure	Achieved
Number of investigations to exclude an EAD	550
Number of training exercises conducted by region	5
Number of staff that participated in a EAD response during 2014	0
Percentage of (at risk) pig properties inspected for swill feeding in last 4 years	Percentage last four years (number in 2014)
Number of sudden death investigations to exclude anthrax	1
Number of Anthrax incidents managed	nil
Number of Hendra incidents managed	nil
Number of cattle and sheep brains collected and submitted to exclude TSE	29

<p>Improving market access for NSW livestock and products, supported by adequate and relevant surveillance information</p> <p>During 2014 all Local Land Services regions successfully worked with Department of Primary Industries to ensure market access for NSW was supported by adequate and relevant surveillance information. This was achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of District Veterinarians and Biosecurity Officers undertaking disease investigations to maximise likelihood of early detection of notifiable exotic and endemic diseases • Managing Property Identification Codes for all holdings with stock • Certifying holdings to enable live exports • Entering surveillance events in the electronic Livestock Health Management System • Submitting articles (case reports) to the DPI-LLS Animal Health Surveillance News • Sampling sentinel herds and managing light traps as part of the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP) • Regional surveillance projects • Sale yard inspections 	
Measure	Achieved
Number of District Veterinarians (as at 31 Dec 2014)	5
Number of specialist Animal Biosecurity Officers (as at 31 Dec 2014)	2
Number of disease investigations: visits	750
Number of disease investigations: telephone	3000
Total number of PICs	Total number
Total number of PICs that required active management during 2014 (new, amalgamated, subdivided)	10%
Number of articles submitted to DPI-LLS Animal Health Surveillance News	4

Number of NAMP sentinel herds	1
Number of NAMP light traps	unknown
Number of regional surveillance projects	2
Number of sale yard inspections	160
<p>Animal welfare standards are effectively managed to allow market access and meet community expectations</p> <p>During 2014 all Local Land Services regions successfully worked with DPI to ensure the welfare of stock grazing on rated land meets community and industry expectations and allows market access for NSW products. This was achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Veterinarians and Livestock Officers, at the requests of the RSPCA, providing advice to stock managers and enforcement agencies in “failure to feed” cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. • Animal welfare is effectively managed in incidents and emergencies (including flood and fire). 	
Measure	Achieved
Number of ‘failure to feed’ cases attended	1
Number of incidents and emergencies requiring animal welfare management	3
<p>The negatives impacts of established diseases and pest of animal are minimised in NSW</p> <p>During 2014 all Local Land Services regions successfully worked with DPI to assist industry to manage the priority diseases that exist in NSW.. This was achieved through the delivery of the following endemic disease programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining all of NSW a Footrot Protected Area - NSW Footrot control program • Maintaining the NSW Beef herd’s Bovine Johne’s disease (BJD) Protected Area Status - National BJD program • Supporting producer groups to form regional biosecurity groups to manage and prevent the spread of OJD into areas with low rates -I Ovine Johne’s disease (OJD) management program • Cattle Tick and Tick Fever • NSW Sheep Lice Program • <i>Cysticercus bovis</i> • Other notifiable disease investigations and management 	
Measure	Achieved
Total number of lameness investigations to exclude sheep footrot	50
Number of footrot infected flocks under management to eradicate footrot during 2014	17
Number disease investigations to exclude BJD	1
Number of BJD traces investigated	1
Number of BJD infected herds under property disease management plans	1
Number of OJD Regional Biosecurity Areas	1

Number of disease investigations to exclude Cattle Tick or Tick Fever	not required
Number of producers provided with advice on sheep lice control	120
Number of <i>Cysticercus bovis</i> field investigations	0
<p>NSW manages residue or contaminant risks in livestock production and significant zoonotic risks from animal diseases</p> <p>During 2014 all Local Land Services regions successfully worked with DPI to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trade is not disrupted by residues or contaminants in livestock or livestock products • human health is not at risk from contaminants and • people are safeguarded from significant animal diseases that also affect humans (i.e.zoonoses) <p>This was ensured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompt investigation of all residue cases originating the from National Residue Survey • Property management plans (PMPs) for all properties with residue contamination with grazing animals. • Delivery of the National Organochlorine Management Program • Management of lead and other toxicity cases with residue implications • Liaison with NSW Public Health Units to ensure knowledge of any zoonotic incidents are shared between the organisations • Investigation of any relevant wildlife or feral animal diseases 	
Measure	Achieved
Number of Organochlorine Management and other trace back residue investigations	0
Number of holdings with current OC and other residues Property Management Plans	5
Number of lead and other toxicity cases managed	1
Number of disease events referred to Public Health Unit	1

Invasive Species	
<p>Local Land Services has responsibility to lead the coordination of strategic control programs in regions where invasive species threaten Biosecurity. The key focus of the work is aimed at reducing the impact of endemic species (i.e. declared) and prioritising the exclusion or eradication of emerging and new species. LLS achieves this work through collaboration and where necessary compliance and enforcement services with landholders and local, state and commonwealth stakeholders who all share responsibility and the benefits for managing invasive species.</p>	
Exclude - Prevent the establishment of new invasive species	
Measure	Achieved

Number of identified high risk locations for the establishment of new invasive species	nil
Number of surveillance programs aimed at detecting new invasive species from high risk locations	nil
Number of new invasive species identified	nil
Eradicate or contain – eliminate, or prevent the spread of new invasive species e.g. Deer	
Measure	Achieved
Number of control programs targeting new or emerging invasive species	nil
LLS full time equivalent positions supporting the eradication or control of new or emerging invasive species	9
Number of holdings consulted for the management of new or emerging invasive species	nil
Number of holdings participating with control programs for new or emerging invasive species	nil
Effectively manage – reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species i.e.; wild pigs, rabbits, foxes , dogs and plague locusts	
Measure (Wild Dogs)	Achieved
Percentage of holdings not reporting wild dogs	0
Number of wild dog management plans	3
Percentage of land managers within an area defined by a wild dog management plan participating with on-ground strategic baiting programs	65%
Number of integrated aerial baiting programs for wild dogs	nil
LLS full time equivalent positions supporting wild dog management (control and coordination)	1.5
LLS financial resources committed to wild dog management	
Measure (Foxes)	Achieved
Percentage of holdings not reporting foxes	not required
Percentage of land managers participating with fox baiting programs	40%
Number of group control programs	96
Measure (Rabbits)	Achieved
Percentage of holdings not reporting rabbits	not required
Percentage of land managers participating with rabbit baiting programs	20
Number of group control programs	2

Measure (Feral Pigs)	Achieved
Percentage of holdings not reporting feral pigs	not required
Percentage of land managers participating with feral pig control programs	70
Number of group control programs	5
Measure (Other LLS Activities)	Achieved
Number of property compliance inspections undertaken to complement proactive and compliant land managers	309 inspections over 46,000 hectares
Number of enforcement actions undertaken to compliment proactive and compliant land managers	nil
LLS full time equivalent positions committed to managing invasive species	9
Capacity – ensure NSW has the ability and commitment to manage invasive species	
Measure	Achieved
Number of training and workshop days aimed at building the capacity of land managers to undertake effective invasive species management	120
Number of land managers participating with training programs and development workshops	1200
Number of new strategic management plans implemented	2
Number of existing strategic plans reviewed	1

Emergency Response	
<p>Local Land Services has a responsibility to provide emergency management roles in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for biosecurity emergencies and natural disasters. LLS is a supporting government agency under the Agriculture and Animal Services Function Area (AASFA), so it must ensure that resources of LLS are available during a natural disaster or biosecurity emergency. The AASFA allocates the responsibilities for emergency management and the measures below reflect those responsibilities.</p>	
Prevention – Building capacity in the community to minimise the impacts of emergencies on agriculture and animals	
Measure	Achieved
Number of regional industry <u>strategies</u> that LLS has been involved with that assists with prevention and/or building capacity to minimise the impacts of emergencies on agriculture and animals.	1

Number of regional industry <u>groups</u> that LLS has been involved with that assists with prevention and/or building capacity to minimise the impacts of emergencies on agriculture and animals.	2
Preparation – Building capacity in LLS and the community to prepare for and reduce the impact of emergencies affecting agriculture and animals.	
Measure	Achieved
% of staff identified in the regional Emergency Response Team that are trained to the applied level.	100
Number of LLS staff that have been trained to the introduction level	27
Number of LLS staff that have been trained to the applied level	27
Number of LLS staff that have been trained beyond the applied level	7
Response – Ensuring an effective, coordinated response to emergencies impacting on agriculture and animals	
Measure	Achieved
Number of estimated working days devoted to emergency responses	30
List of emergency responses participated in	avian influenza, fires, fire ant response
Recovery - helping communities recover from the impacts of an emergency affecting agriculture and animals	
Measure	Achieved
Number of natural disaster response reports that have been prepared and submitted to the Regional Director	0
Number (and location) of natural disaster declarations that have been made as a result of LLS preparing natural disaster reports.	0

Plant Biosecurity	
Prevention – There will be no introductions into the region of any plant biosecurity issues	
Measure	Achieved
Education and training of LLS personnel on biosecurity awareness, best practice, preparedness and prevention	One DPI Plant Biosecurity workshop in Wagga
Identification of local plant biosecurity threats and incursion pathways with local industry	Plant Biosecurity issues identified and documented in each region in a factsheet
LLS field personnel trained for surveillance activities	Introductory training for 19 biosecurity staff in each region. Identification of plant biosecurity role within Biosecurity and Emergency Services Unit
Early detection – Any plant biosecurity incursions into the region are immediately identified and reported	
Measure	Achieved
Receive training in emergency management and response procedures	Incident Management Team identified and trained in emergency management and response procedures.
Field personnel trained for Emergency Plant pest surveillance activities	19 Field personnel have been trained by DPI Plant Biosecurity in LLS regions where surveillance programs have been carried out
Surveillance results reported to Plant Biosecurity	nil
Containment and eradication – All plant biosecurity incursions are contained and eradicated	
Measure	Achieved
Delivery of education and training to other LLS staff and local groups on biosecurity awareness, best practice, preparedness and prevention.	Information provided at field days, staff forums in each LLS Region. Mock emergency exercise held for all staff in June 2014 for 70 staff
Field personnel trained for Emergency Plant pest surveillance activities	19 Field personnel have been trained by DPI Plant Biosecurity in LLS regions where surveillance programs have been carried out

Transition to management	
Measure	Achieved
Action transition to management projects including recovery	Nil requirement due to no plant biosecurity incursions across the state for the reporting period.
Effective management of established pests and diseases	
Measure	Achieved
Promotion of practices to prevent spread	Plant Biosecurity information provided at local field days and events to producer groups and industry.