

# Riverina Local Land Services Travelling Stock Reserve Grazing Area Pilot Consultation summary



Riverina Local Land Services recently sought feedback from the public on proposed changes to the management of TSRs in the central and eastern portions of the Riverina region.

The pilot proposes to create six defined grazing regions made up of travelling stock reserves, routes and the council roads. These regions will be made available for grazing through a tender application process.

Public consultation opened on Monday 7 June 2021 and closed midnight Sunday 30 July 2021. This was extended from the original closing date due to the impact of COVID on public information sessions.

In addition to the public consultation process, Riverina Local Land Services staff also met with Councils, the Aboriginal Community Advisory Council and other stakeholders.

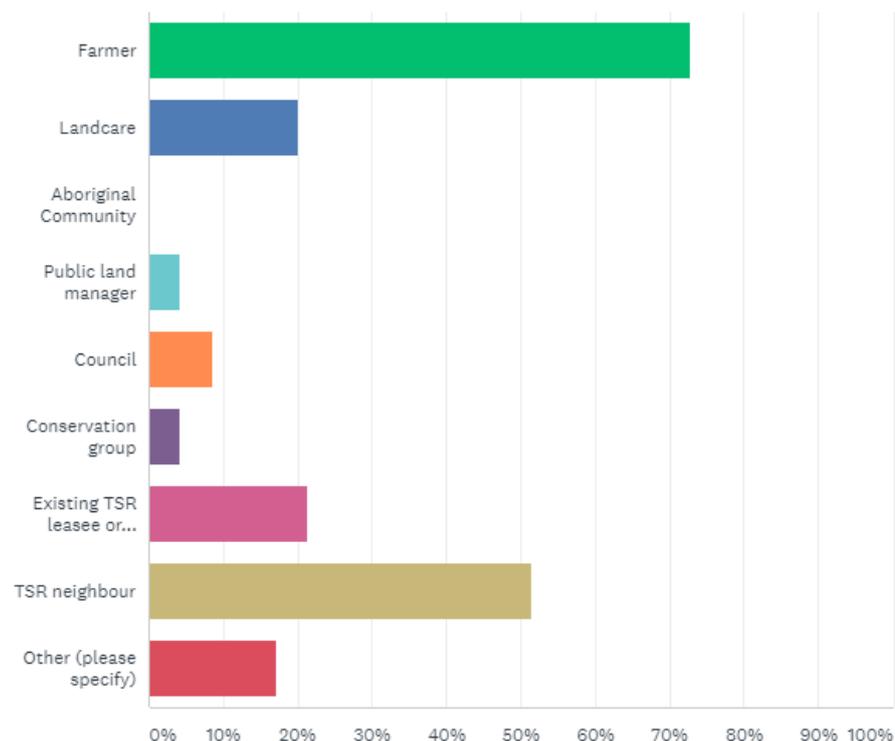
This report gives a summary of community participation and views on the grazing area pilot. There was a diverse response to the pilot and a number of perceived benefits and issues highlighted by the community. It's worth noting that many of these concerns relate to the broader TSR framework and not specific to this program.

We have adjusted the grazing area pilot in a number of areas in response to this feedback (see next page).

## Consultation participation

70 people participated in the consultation. The top categories of respondents were:

- 73% Farmers
- 51% TSR neighbours
- 21% Existing TSR leasee or permit holder
- 20% Landcare.



## For further information please contact:

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## Amendments to the Riverina TSR grazing pilot following consultation

We have listened to the community and our stakeholders on benefits and issues from their perspectives, and are making a number of changes to the pilot as a result.

The grazing area pilot will be adapted as follows to achieve better community, economic and environmental outcomes for TSR areas:

- reducing the number of grazing areas from seven to six
- changes to several grazing areas to reduce the time mobs are on roads and better aligning boundaries with Local Government Areas
- removing a sizable area in the far west of the West Wyalong grazing area due to concerns about carrying capacity in dry times and geophysical features of the area
- reducing the maximum mob size to 800, subject to seasonal conditions and negotiation.

### Next steps

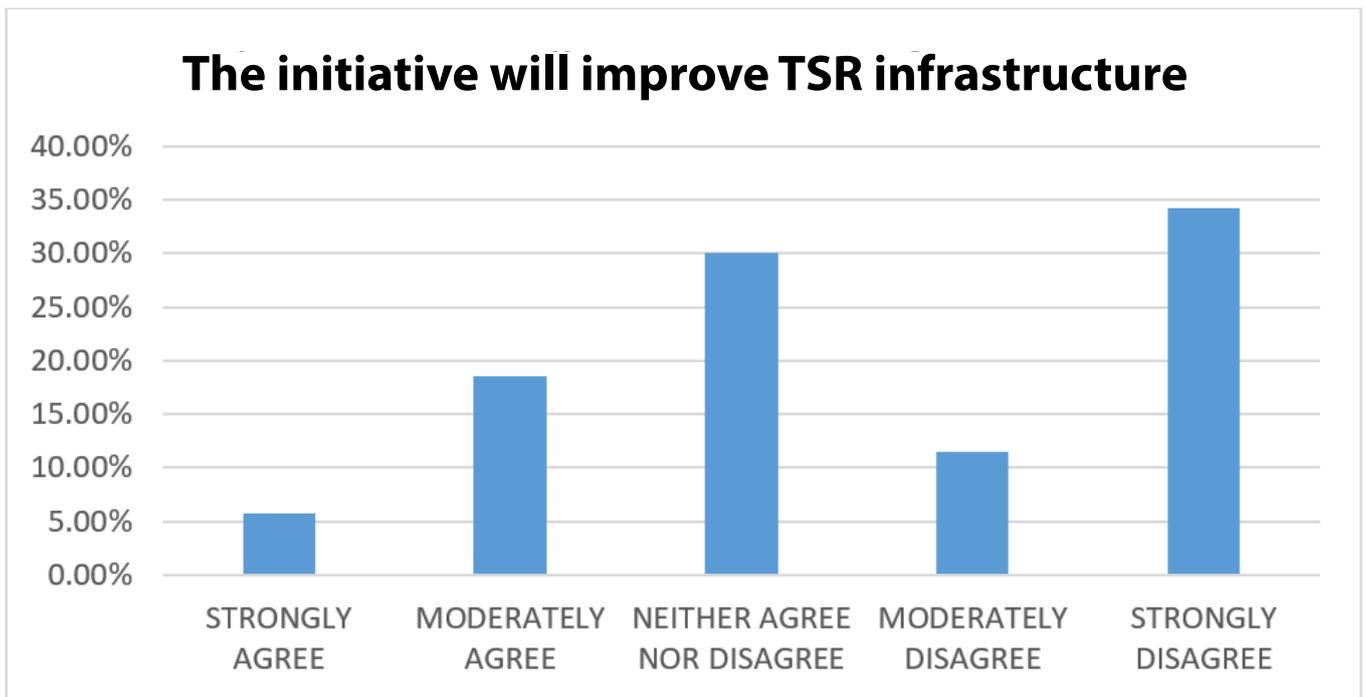
Where possible our staff will contact individual respondents to answer questions and clarify where needed.

We are continuing consultation with Councils on preferred stock grazing and travel routes through their LGAs.

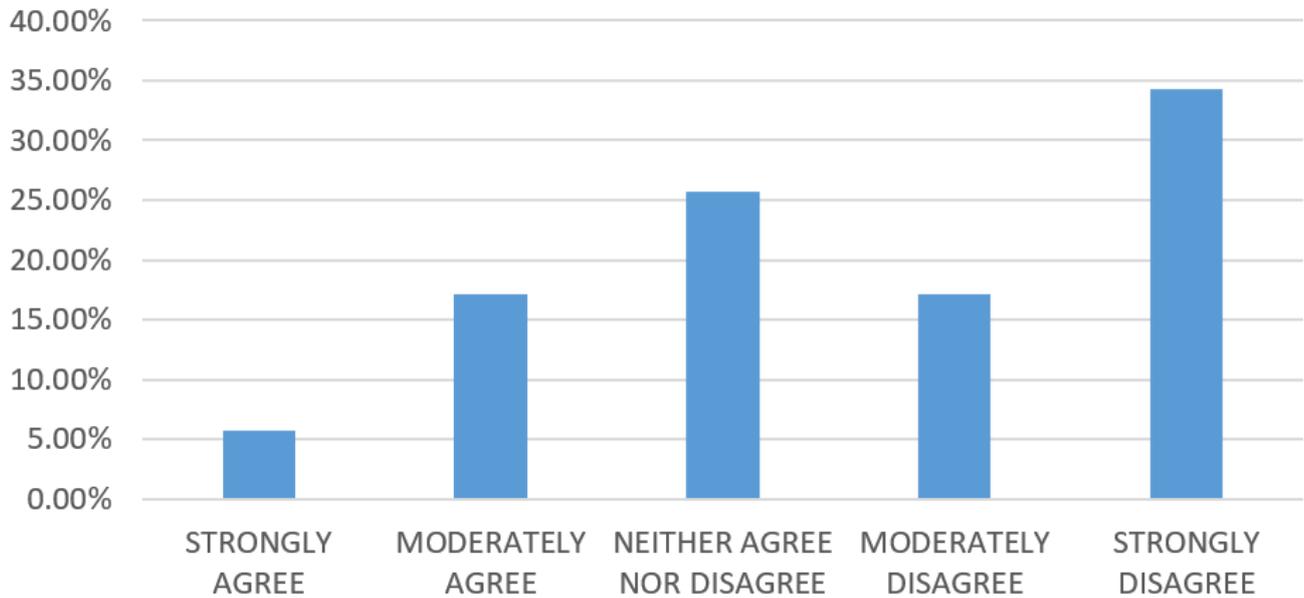
We are updating grazing area maps and preparing the tender material package and expect the grazing area pilot to be open to public tender in later 2021.

We will update the community through the Riverina Local Land Services website, social media and email.

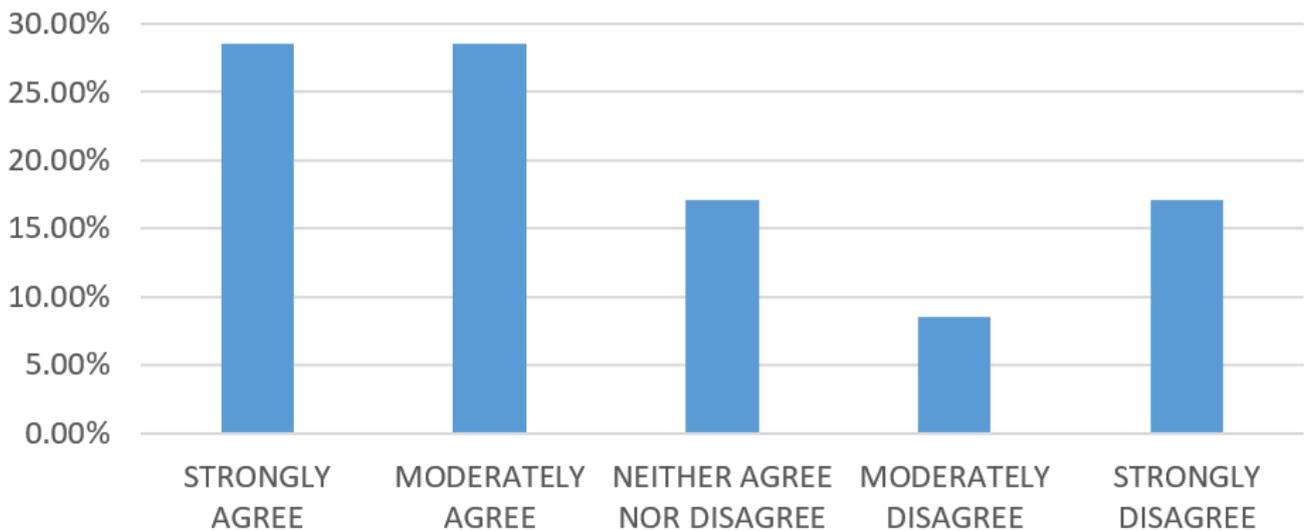
# Response overview

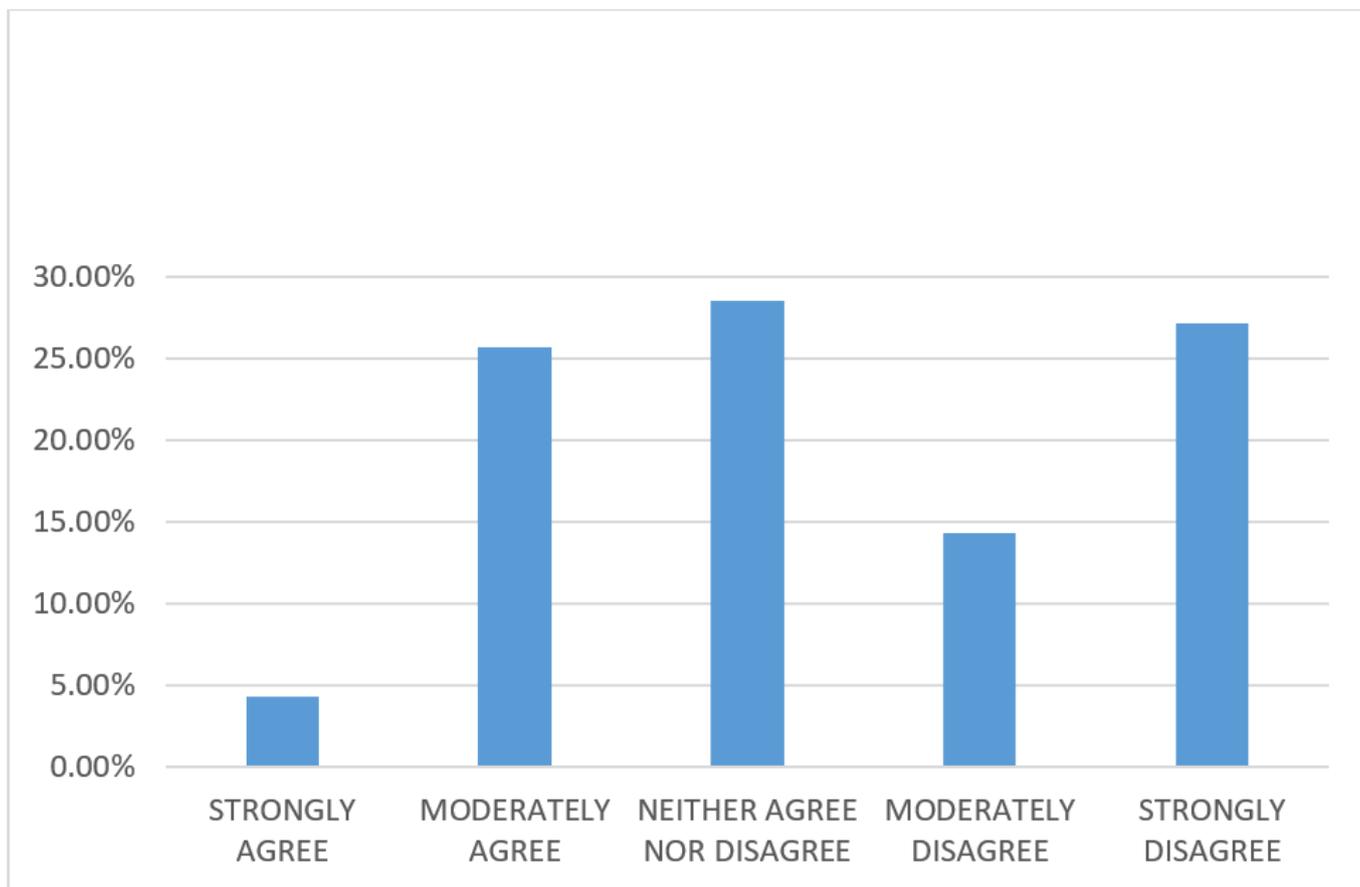


## The initiative will improve biodiversity outcomes on high biodiversity conservation areas



## TSR infrastructure maintenance and improvements should be covered by user generated income (ie stock walking and TSR grazing permits)





#### Key benefits of the pilot reported by respondents

- User pays is a fairer system.
- Strategic grazing benefits groundcover, weed control and native grasses.
- Improved biodiversity, soil health and ecology of TSRs.
- Better maintenance of TSRs.
- Better management of roadside plant growth to reduce the fire potential.
- TSR grazing permits are currently short term and don't allow for proper planning.

#### Key issues of the pilot reported by respondents

- Biosecurity
  - risk of weeds spread between council areas
  - cattle coming from other areas to spread disease.
- Large mob size impact on:
  - TSR access and recreational use of TSR
  - wildlife and conservation values of TSR, particularly small TSRs
  - roads, property, fences and adjoining stock
  - road risks.
- Loss of access for other graziers in times of drought and floods.
- Dependent on effective policing by LLS. Unsure of penalties for infringements.
- Short term focus of leasees without a strong connection to TSR.
- Unknown market for concept.
- Data to support benefits – biodiversity, income.
- Difficult to manage larger TSR area logistically.
- Scheme is not viable to small operators.
- Unknown capacity of drovers/stock owner permit holders to manage land sustainably.
- Sheep producers excluded.