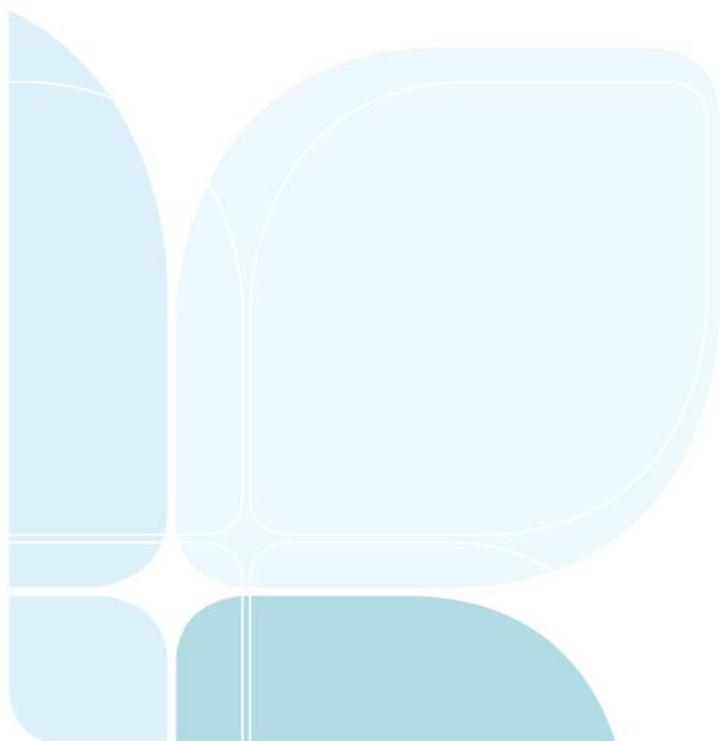


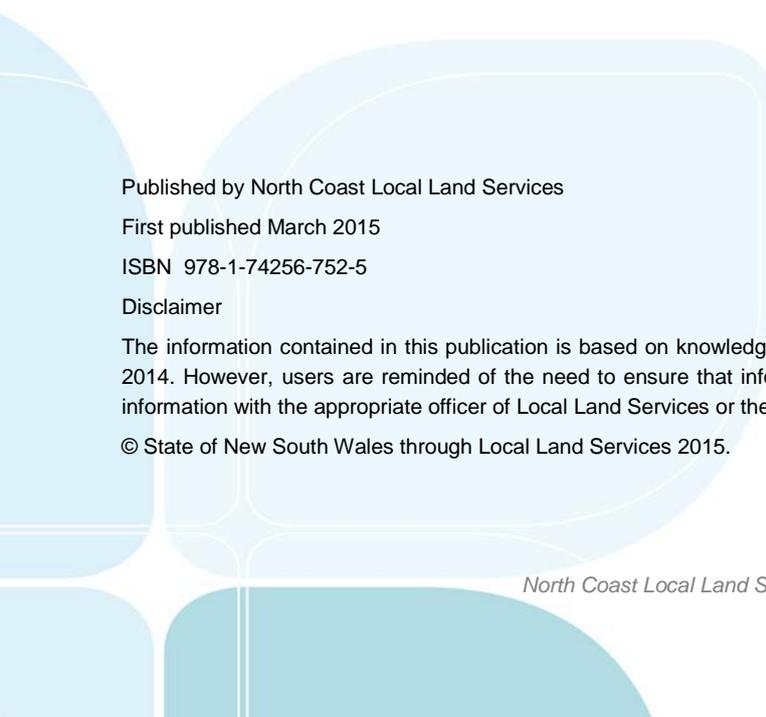


Local Land
Services
North Coast

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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Chairperson's Foreword

Mr Kent Lee



This report contains a summary of the activities and achievements of North Coast Local Land Services during our first full year of operations.

It underlines the breadth of activities in the North Coast region and is an impressive report card by any measure.

Above all Local Land Services is a people-oriented organisation focused across a broad spectrum of activities aimed at achieving positive outcomes. Our aim is to be innovative in the way we approach and deliver services and their resultant outcomes.

More than anything else the achievements detailed in this report are a testament to the skill dedication and positive attitude of the staff of North Coast Local Land Services. In an environment of significant organisational change and financial constraints our staff have remained focused, adaptive and positive.

This has allowed North Coast Local Land Services to build a solid foundation. There is more to be done, much more, and I look forward to working with all our stakeholders to continue developing a new approach to delivering services and outcomes to achieve our vision of 'resilient communities in productive, healthy land and seascapes'.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their contribution and support during the past twelve months.

Kent Lee
Chair

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.

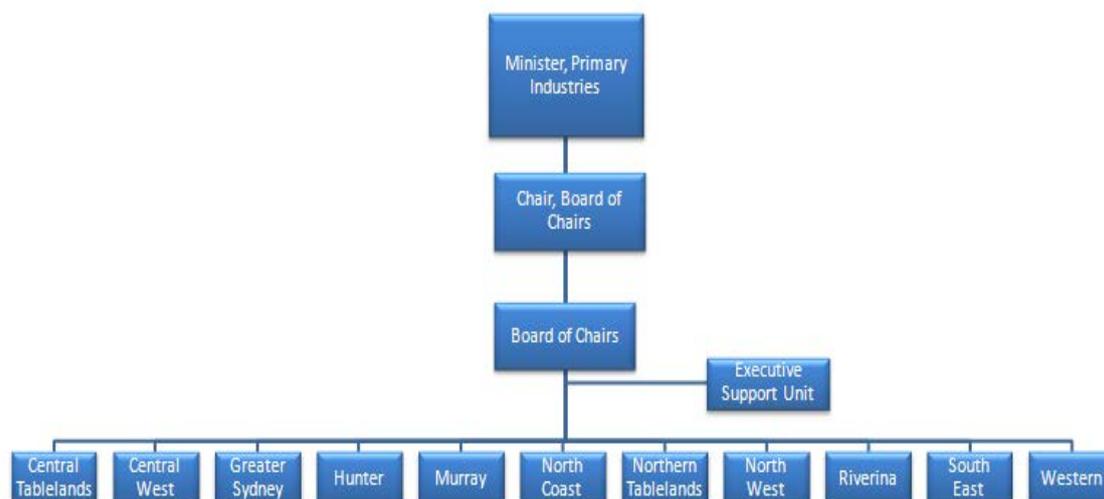
All the local Chairs together form the Local Land Services Board of Chairs. The Local Land Services Board of Chairs is led by the Local Land Services Chair of the Board of Chairs, John Macarthur-Stanham.

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



The North Coast Local Land Services Region

The North Coast Local Land Services Region covers an area of approximately 32,120 sq km. The major population centres are located on the coast and are connected primarily by coastal transport routes. The Region's Northern, Central and Southern "socio-ecological landscapes" support unique suites of landscape, livelihood and lifestyle values. As such they provide a local basis for LLS planning and delivery, allowing us to connect with the needs of local communities.



*Includes Lord Howe Island

healthy, natural and productive landscapes and seascapes and the lifestyles, culture and opportunities they create. An iconic and densely populated coastline provides a focus for recreational pursuits and much sought after sea changer way of life. Aboriginal Peoples are major landholders within the region, partly through their cultural connection to country and their increasing involvement in land management and ownership.

Landscapes

The region has a diversity of natural landscapes and a mix of temperate and subtropical climates. The region has nationally recognised biodiversity and wilderness and wetland areas and complex and diverse soil systems. The nine large river systems with extensive floodplains have strong connections through to estuarine and marine environments. While a significant proportion of the region is within protected areas, there are many threatened species and communities and significant habitat areas that occur on private land.

Livelihoods

The North Coast supports a range of diverse and productive natural resource-based livelihoods, including grazing, horticulture, fishing and aquaculture, timber production and tourism. Changes to agricultural viability are driving shifts in traditional farming practices across the region – these shifts include farm aggregation, diversification and intensification, along with the adoption of innovative and best practice approaches. The north coast has a large and capable community actively engaged in sustainable production industries and the management of the Region's natural resources.

Lifestyles and culture

The North Coast is a region of vibrant towns, villages and communities that support diverse coastal and hinterland lifestyles. The people have a strong connection to their

Principal Office

Principal Office Address	Principal Office Phone	Email & Website
49 Victoria Street Grafton NSW 2460	(02) 6642 0622	www.northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au admin.northcoast@lls.nsw.gov.au

Senior Staff

	General Manager	Business & Finance Manager	Manager Strategic Planning	Manager Land Services (NRM & Ag Advice)	Manager Biosecurity & Emergency Services
Name	Bruce Brown	Grant Lewis	Royce Bennett	Nicole Strehling	Jo McGoldrick
Location	Coffs Harbour	Coffs Harbour	Coffs Harbour	Kempsey	Kempsey
Contact	Ph:6659 9400	Ph:6659 9400	Ph:6659 9400	Ph: 6563 6700	Ph: 6563 6700

Governance

Board Members can be contacted through North Coast Local Land Services 1300 795 299

CHAIR MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER
Kent Lee	Thomas Amey	Mark Bulley	Thomas Cooper	Janine Reed	Neil Summerville	Trevor Wilson

Board Attendees

LLS	Name of Board Member	Number of Possible Meetings	Number of Meetings Attended
North Coast	Kent Lee	9	9
	Thomas Amey	8	8
	Mark Bulley	9	9
	Thomas Cooper	8	7
	Janine Reed	9	8
	Neil Summerville	8	7
	Trevor Wilson	9	9

Local Community Advisory Group

North Coast Local Land Services appointed 15 community representatives to a Community Advisory Group for the North Coast region. The Group has the role of making recommendations to the Board to assist NCLLS service delivery focus areas of sustainable and productive agriculture, natural resource management, biosecurity and emergency management.

The Community Advisory Group provides a communication, consultation and engagement forum of key stakeholder representatives and North Coast Local Land Services. The Group makes recommendations to the Board in a number of areas including service delivery, regional priorities, emerging issues, opportunities for collaboration and partnerships, advice on delivery of key strategies, and communication networks.

The Group is an important part of North Coast Local Land Services' engagement with the North Coast community and NCLLS may make further appointments to the group to enhance representation and expertise.

North Coast Local Land Services will also continue to work with other key regional groups and networks involved in activities.

The appointed members are:

David Cameron (East Lismore), Robert Quirk (Tweed), Cassie Price (Ballina), Tony Wilson (Kyogle), Bonnie Walker (Tuckombil), Garry Dew (Nana Glen), Terry Tibbett (Grafton), Patricia Beatty, (Coffs Harbour), Sue Salvin (Bowraville), Terry Schmitzer (Byabarra), Om Jhorar (Doonbah), Bob Jarman (Kyogle), Cr Rhonda Hoban (Nambucca), John Grant (Whian Whian) and Cr Ernie Bennett (Richmond Valley).

The Group is chaired by the North Coast Local Land Services Chair and meetings are attended by the General Manager. The group met twice in 2014 and appointments are for 3 years.

Key Achievements

Manage Weeds And Pests	
Measure	Achieved
Area (ha) of pest plant control measures implemented	1206

Protect And Conserve Land, Biodiversity And Native Vegetation	
Measure	Achieved
Number of conservation covenants or other agreements attached to title negotiated	0
Area (ha) protected	0
Number of voluntary conservation agreements negotiated	13
Area (ha) protected	241.4
Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	1280
Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation protected by fencing	20
Area (ha) planted to terrestrial native species	15.8
Area (ha) of land treated and/or protected from soil erosion by engineering works	0
Area (ha) of soil treatment for other than erosion or acid sulphate soils	0
Area (ha) of land managed for sustainable grazing	N/A

Community Involvement and Support *	
Measure	Achieved
Number of awareness raising events such as demonstrations, field days or study tours conducted	45
Number of written products such as brochures, newsletters, posters or fact sheets developed	34
Number of training sessions, workshops, seminars or other skills and training events conducted	41
Number of community groups OR projects assisted	300
Number of activities undertaken to support community groups	90

**refers to internal and funded NRM projects only*

Protect Rivers, Wetlands And Coastal Environments	
Measure	Achieved
Area (ha) of riparian native vegetation protected by fencing	6.6
Streambank length (km) of riparian vegetation protected	1.5
Area (ha) planted to riparian native species	0
Number of stream bank engineering works	1
Length (m) of stream bed stabilised	1400
Number of stream bed stabilisation sites	6
Number of off-stream (alternative) watering sites installed	6
Length (km) of streambank protected from stock	6.6
Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation protected by fencing	N/A
Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	50
Area (ha) planted to wetland native species	1.1
Area (ha) of coastal native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	20

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	86
Number of training exercises conducted by region	1
Number of staff that participated in a EAD response during 2014	2
Percentage of (at risk) pig properties inspected for swill feeding in last 4 years	83% (8 in 2014)
Number of sudden death investigations to exclude anthrax	6
Number of Anthrax incidents managed	0
Number of Hendra incidents managed	1
Number of cattle and sheep brains collected and submitted to exclude TSE	6 cattle

Improving market access for NSW livestock and products, supported by adequate and relevant surveillance information

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:

- 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)	4
Number of specialist Animal Biosecurity Officers (as at 31 Dec 2014)	Most Biosecurity Officers assist with animal health investigations as requested
Number of disease investigations: visits	550
Number of disease investigations: telephone	>2000
Total number of PICs	18,396
Number of articles submitted to DPI-LLS Animal Health Surveillance News	0
Number of NAMP sentinel herds	4
Number of NAMP light traps	1
Number of sale yard inspections	>180

Animal welfare standards are effectively managed to allow market access and meet community expectations

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:

- 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	22
Number of incidents and emergencies requiring animal welfare management	0

The negatives impacts of established diseases and pest of animal are minimised in NSW

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:

- 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
- *Cysticercus bovis*
- Other notifiable disease investigations and management

Measure	Achieved
Total number of lameness investigations to exclude sheep footrot	8
Number of footrot infected flocks under management to eradicate footrot during 2014	0
Number disease investigations to exclude BJD	98
Number of BJD traces investigated	69 by property visit 207 investigations by desktop/NLIS/history
Number of BJD infected herds under property disease management plans	23
Number of OJD Regional Biosecurity Areas	0
Number of disease investigations to exclude Cattle Tick or Tick Fever	5
Number of producers provided with advice on sheep lice control	0
Number of <i>Cysticercus bovis</i> field investigations	1
<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	102

Number of lead and other toxicity cases managed	2
Number of disease events referred to Public Health Unit	1 hendra 1 brucellosis in dogs

Invasive Species	
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.	
Exclude - Prevent the establishment of new invasive species	
Measure	Achieved
Number of identified high risk locations for the establishment of new invasive species	Nil Identified
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	0.1 FTE
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
Number of wild dog management plans	8
Percentage of land managers within an area defined by a wild dog management plan participating with on-ground strategic baiting programs	10
Number of integrated aerial baiting programs for wild dogs	2
LLS full time equivalent positions supporting wild dog management (control and coordination)	7.2
LLS financial resources committed to wild dog management	\$0.5m - \$06.m (including salaries)
Measure (Foxes)	Achieved

Percentage of holdings not reporting foxes	99%
Percentage of land managers participating with fox baiting programs	1%
Number of group control programs	3
Measure (Rabbits)	Achieved
Percentage of holdings not reporting rabbits	98.8%
Percentage of land managers participating with rabbit baiting programs	0.6%
Number of group control programs	1
Measure (Feral Pigs)	Achieved
Percentage of holdings not reporting feral pigs	99.87%
Percentage of land managers participating with feral pig control programs	0.07%
Number of group control programs	1
Measure (Other LLS Activities)	Achieved
Number of property compliance inspections undertaken to complement proactive and compliant land managers	Nil
Number of enforcement actions undertaken to compliment proactive and compliant land managers	Nil
LLS full time equivalent positions committed to managing invasive species	8
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	20
Number of land managers participating with training programs and development workshops	300
Number of new strategic management plans implemented	2
Number of existing strategic plans reviewed	1

Emergency Response

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.

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.	2
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.	68
Number of LLS staff that have been trained to the introduction level	41
Number of LLS staff that have been trained to the applied level	14
Number of LLS staff that have been trained beyond the applied level	4

Response – Ensuring an effective, coordinated response to emergencies impacting on agriculture and animals

Measure	Achieved
Number of estimated working days devoted to emergency responses	25
List of emergency responses participated in	3 (1 x hendra & 2 x bushfire)

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	1
Number (and location) of natural disaster declarations that have been made as a result of LLS preparing natural disaster reports.	1 - Kempsey (Bellimbopinni)