



Local Land  
Services



Australian Government

# Local links

Local Land Services works with land managers and the community to improve primary production within healthy landscapes.

These case studies highlight the integration of services across the organisation and the diversity of partnerships and projects being undertaken.



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## Helping hand during Hunter floods

Wild weather and flooding in the Hunter Region during late April and May has seen Hunter Local Land Services, along with Department of Primary Industries (DPI), providing support to the primary emergency services agency, the State Emergency Services. As at 8 May 2015, Hunter LLS and Department of Primary Industries had: responded to 148 requests for assistance; distributed 20 tonnes of emergency fodder; 40 helicopter sorties to stranded stock and three days using flood boats; fodder supply to 1,800 cattle, 480 horses, 7 goats and 12 camels; helicopter support to ferry food to 50,000 stranded chickens; removing/disposing of more than 500 dead livestock; undertaken aerial surveys; assisted with missing and found stock; moved stock out of floodwaters; established small animal holding facilities at key evacuation centres; ongoing assessment and reporting to government on agricultural damage and production loss; staffed four recovery centres; extended payment of rates by three months.



## The lowdown on livestock health and production

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services has recently delivered a Livestock Health & Production Roadshow to give farmers useful and timely advice on managing stock health and productivity through the winter months. Workshops included: sheep and beef market outlooks; livestock disease management including control of liver fluke; drench resistance and the value of worm egg counts in cattle; Barbervax, the world's first vaccine for controlling Barber's Pole worm in lambs; and improving reproductive performance of cattle through genetics and management. Speakers from Local Land Services (District Vets and Livestock Officers), NSW DPI, and local rural merchandise business provided the most up to date information tailored to the needs of producers on the Northern Tablelands. Producers were able to ask their own specific health and production questions in an open forum, and also had the opportunity to take advantage of the technical knowledge and skills of speakers at the workshops to answer their questions.

## Stepping up to manage country

When Western Local Land Services hosted a two-day workshop at Merriman Station, near Brewarrina, the aim was to introduce Aboriginal land managers to the range of support services available and give them direction in the way they operate their businesses. But the Stepping Up To Manage Country workshop proved far more successful than anticipated, with participants asking for the program to continue on a regular basis. One couple even drove more than 720km two days later to attend the same workshop at Menindee. Several project ideas came out of the workshop, with land managers looking to apply for funding for on ground works and community groups developing plans for training and events. The workshop brought together a number of agencies, including the local Aboriginal Land Councils, Department of Primary Industries, Rural Fire Service and Crown Lands NSW.

*Funding partner: Australian Government, Winds of Change, Indigenous Land Corporation*



## Feral Fighters

The Local Land Services Feral Fighters initiative was launched in February 2015 across the South East and Riverina regions. It strategically targets feral animals at a regional and state scale through coordinated group baiting and control programs. The success of Feral Fighters rests with local land managers, groups and networks working together to coordinate and prioritise effective feral animal management. Group control programs reduce feral populations over broad areas with more sustainable outcomes. During autumn and spring 2015 wild dogs and foxes are being targeted using 1080 poisoned baits. To date, over 1600 land managers across the South East and Riverina regions have registered to participate in the autumn campaign. Feral Fighters receive: free pesticide training; 30 free meat baits during the 2015 autumn and spring campaigns; an aerial map of their property for planning purposes; up-to-date information and support from Local Land Services staff.

*Funding partner: Australian Government National Landcare Programme*

## Harrisia – High Profile Site Project

Harrisia cactus is a priority key emerging weed in the North West Local Land Services region, affecting land management particularly in the northern part of the region. There is a threat that this weed will continue to spread south if ongoing control programs and awareness do not stay at the forefront of landholders property management in the area. The high profile site project on the Gunsynd Way between Goondiwindi and Boggabilla aims to both increase and maintain awareness of the weed and to educate landholders on the most appropriate chemical for control options and the effective timing of application. Discussion with landholders, councils and spray contractors reveals there is no consensus as to what the best control options are. This trial is designed to bring demonstrated results to discussion of an important issue in the region.

*Funding partner: Waggamba Landcare Group, North West Weeds.*



## Connecting with Sydney-based absentee landholders

Greater Sydney Local Land Services is targeting absentee landholders with properties across NSW through sustainable land management education. With funding from the NSW Environmental Trust, the project involves a series of workshops in Sydney on land management issues such as water, vegetation and biodiversity. The funding will also allow the development of a smartphone app to provide spatially-relevant information about support agencies, Landcare networks and advice about rural living. Following from a pilot series of workshops for this audience, Greater Sydney is in a unique position to run this statewide engagement program to connect Sydney-based landholders with local land management agencies and resources. Staff are looking forward to working with other regions to achieve positive outcomes for both Local Land Services and the environment across NSW.

## Workshops proven effective

Wild dogs have been caught by landholders in Merrygoen, Dubbo and Bruie Plains after attending Central West Local Land Services workshops designed to build wild dog management skills in the community. While the Merrygoen dog had not been known to attack livestock, the Dubbo animal had killed over 60 sheep in the area with the Bruie Plains dog notching up at least four. Working with trapper John Ward, landholder Graham Woods trapped the Dubbo dog a week after attending one of our workshops while landholder Mike Yeo had success in Merrygoen post monitoring to get a feel for the animals' routines. Landholders are encouraged to contact Local Land Services to report wild dog presence and/or activity in their regions.

*Funding partner: Australian Government Drought Recovery Program*



## Partnership stabilises erosion issues

North Coast Local Land Services and Rous Water are working together to address erosion issues on grazing, horticultural and strategic non-agricultural properties, protecting riverbanks, farming land and improving the water quality. The project is protecting both precious water supplies and preserving important riparian zones and has important outcomes in the stabilisation of riverbanks and a reduction in soil erosion. The outcome of this work assists in improving water quality for rural stock and domestic supply as well as town water use. The project contributes to grazing enterprise viability through improved stock water quality and by providing shelter for stock and pasture. As a bonus the project will improve riparian and in-stream habitat values for biodiversity - helping to link existing restoration projects in the area and Boat Harbour Nature Reserve. The partnership with Rous Water is an important one where the community benefits from a number of positive outcomes in water quality, biodiversity and primary industry productivity.

*Funding partner: Australian Government National Landcare Programme*

## Working together on Ovine Brucellosis

In partnership with staff from the Biosecurity, Animal Health and Agriculture team at Murray Local Land Services, sheep producers in the Murray region are taking control of decision-making about the management of Ovine Brucellosis (OB) in their flocks. OB affects the fertility of rams and can reduce lambing percentages. When OB was found in a flock recently, District Veterinarians Scott Ison, Mark Corrigan and Dan Salmon, together with Livestock Officer Gen Reardon and Senior Biosecurity Officer Neale Whitsed, coordinated an information day, targeting sheep producers in the local area. Using knowledge gained on the day about the disease and options for management, the farmers formed an action group to work together. Another workshop was held using a similar model where the farmers direct the next steps to be taken. These workshops have shown the effectiveness of establishing groups to deliver integrated veterinary, biosecurity and agricultural services.



## Rice crops connecting wetlands and people

On farms across the Riverina, something special is happening. It involves a peculiar bird, hundreds of rice growers and the will to unite farming and wildlife conservation. Australia's mysterious Bunyip Bird – the globally endangered Australasian Bittern – has been at the centre of an innovative collaboration between the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, Birdlife Australia, Riverina Local Land Services and several other organisations. Since 2012 the well-guarded secrets of the bittern have been uncovered and awareness has been raised of its plight. The project has been well supported and a satellite tracking program has now begun. On 21 April 2015, the tracking of the first bird began. He is affectionately known as "Robbie". Initially, Robbie moved locally around his Coleambally rice crop but by early May he had dispersed 557 kilometres to the South Australian coast. Robbie's travels will uncover the network of wetlands that the bittern population depends on after harvest during the colder months. Follow Robbie's journey at [www.bitternsinrice.com.au](http://www.bitternsinrice.com.au)



## Delivering broader outcomes for natural resource management, agriculture and cultural values

Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) is working in partnership with the Orange Local Aboriginal Lands Council (OLALC) and Cadia Valley operations (CVO). A cross partner support model has been arranged through the provision of a dedicated staff member (Angus Arnott) who is focused on delivering the mutual outcomes of all three organisations. This model has presented Central Tablelands LLS the opportunity to work a lot closer with these partners and has given a much clearer understanding of how they operate, their needs and how we can work on projects that are mutually beneficial. Under this arrangement, Angus Arnott, Senior Land Services Officer with Central Tablelands LLS is working in a fee for service arrangement for both OLALC and CVO while also working one day per week for Central Tablelands LLS. This commenced in January 2015 and since that date Angus has developed strong relationships with both OLALC and CVO. Through this model Central Tablelands LLS is able to establish stronger relationships with and between all three organisations, all of whom have a large influence on natural resource management across the region.

