Local Land Services

2023 local annual achievement report

Northern Tablelands region

2023 presented our producers with continuing challenges, with a winter feed gap followed by dry seasonal conditions. We successfully adapted programs to the needs of our producers in response, providing 399 requests for technical advice and 20 field events to assist producers, in addition to supporting the RFS in their response to bushfire in our region.

In the pest management space, we delivered 153 coordinated baiting control programs, 8 aerial shooting programs and provided landholders with access to grain for feral pig management, removing a combined 12,720 pest animals from our region over a significant 546,197 hectares.

We were also active in protecting our region's natural environment, focusing on improving habitat for Regent Honeyeaters, Swift Parrots and other threatened woodland birds in the Northern Tablelands.

With useful rainfall across most of the region, we look forward to supporting producers in their recovery and throughout the year ahead.

Grahame Marriott

Chair, Northern Tablelands Board

1,264,402 ha

of vertebrate pest control

9,355

1:1 advice consultations

9,617

participants at awareness raising/capacity building events

137

animal disease surveillance investigations

34%

of staff trained for an emergency response

NSW GOVERNMENT

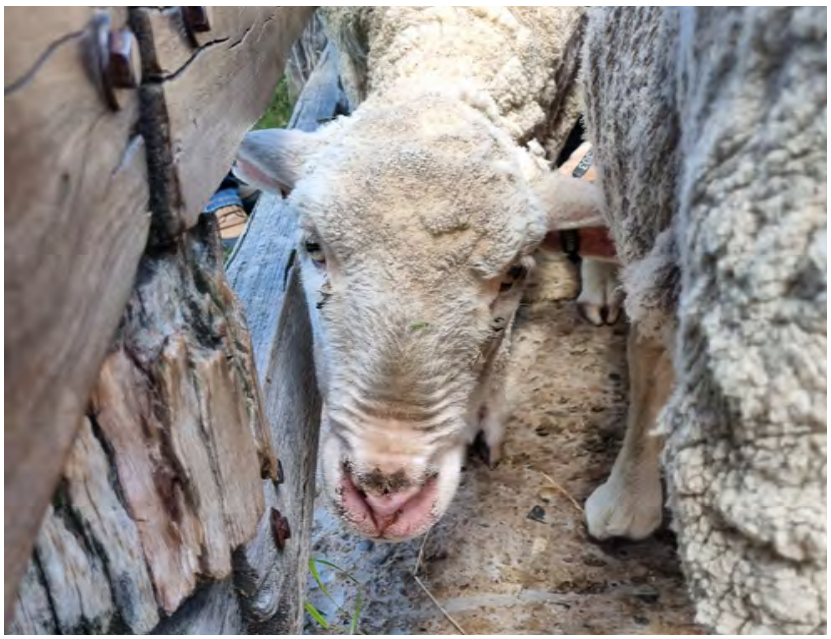
The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Biosecurity team made an important discovery in April 2023, diagnosing clinical Bluetongue Virus (BTV) in sheep for the very first time in New South Wales.

Disease surveillance programs are undertaken by our team every day and play an important role in our state's biosecurity.

The team was contacted by a sheep producer concerned about unexpected deaths of their sheep, with animals presenting with swelling and redness around the face, crusty noses, lameness and intolerance to exercise.

After ruling out Barbers Pole Worm and photosensitisation, blood tests identified BTV as the cause, and the team communicated effectively with private veterinary practitioners and the Department of Primary Industries. The insect-borne virus is commonly detected in sentinel cattle herds but had not previously been seen in sheep.

The case highlighted the importance of livestock owners monitoring the health of their animals and seeking answers when unusual things happen.



4,363 ha

of weed management for improved biosecurity, agricultural productivity, and biodiversity

92

Aboriginal community groups supported

1,073

permits issued for TSRs

366

pest animal programs

84,094 ha

managed for improved agricultural production