

2023 local annual achievement report

Riverina region

2023 was a productive year for the Riverina team, who continued to deliver a range of valuable services and programs to our local customers and ratepayers.

The year demonstrated that we continue to prioritise biosecurity with extensive coordinated feral pig control. We recovered from the widespread rain events from 2022, we faced significant and ongoing Varroa mite impacts on the beekeeping industry, and we ended the year preparing for the possibility of a drier 2024.

Some highlights for the year include connecting with Country through cultural cool burning and cultural water projects, continued rehabilitation works, threatened species conservation programs, a range of agricultural advisory services including Farming Forecaster, significant coordinated feral pig control, as well as a number of initiatives in the TSR and weeds space.

This will be my last annual achievement report as board Chair, and I would like to extend my gratitude to my fellow board members, staff, customers, and various partners for their support over the last 10 years.

Barney Hyams

Chair, Riverina Board



6,769,799 ha

of vertebrate pest control



13,497

1:1 advice consultations



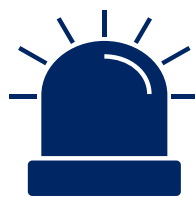
4,377

participants at awareness raising/capacity building events



386

animal disease surveillance investigations



43%

of staff trained for an emergency response

Cultural burning: creating connection to Country

A series of cultural burns were carried out on travelling stock reserves (TSRs) as part of a first of its kind project, studying the benefits of traditional fire management as a tool to reduce bushfire risk and improve biodiversity.

Researchers at the Australian National University (ANU) then undertook an extensive monitoring program to assess the ecological outcomes of the burns on biodiversity and fuel loads.

The project provided opportunities for First Nations people, including sponsored training in fire safety and management and employment as burning practitioners, building future community capacity in this important space.

Following the cultural burns, a direct-seeding experiment was carried out to see how this may help to restore and enhance declining plant communities on TSRs.

The findings from this project will help guide ongoing management decisions on TSRs and identify where traditional land management practices should be implemented in the future.

Riverina Local Land Services, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, ANU and ANU Enterprise partnered to deliver the project.



4,363 ha

of land managed for improved soil condition



2,891

weed inspections



15,493 ha

of threatened species, populations or ecological communities enhanced, rehabilitated, or protected



349

permits issued for TSRs



88

participants at Aboriginal training events