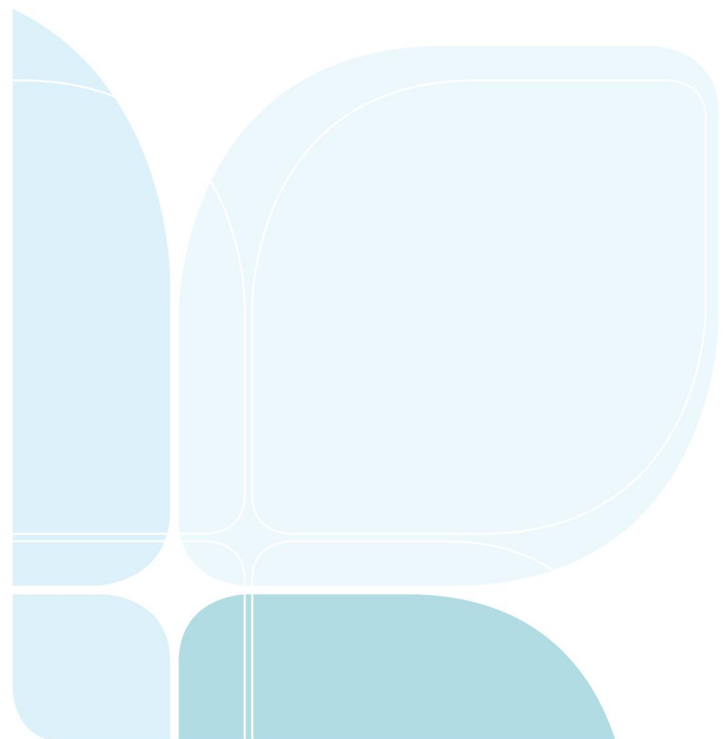




Local Land
Services
South East

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 Foreword

It is with pleasure that I present the South East Local Land Services annual report for 2014.

The establishment of Local Land Services is the largest government reform of land management and agricultural services since the 1940s. For South East Local Land Services, 2014 was a year of establishment, with the executive and Local Board working closely with staff during the transition from nine organisations into one. Our dedicated and hard-working staff worked closely with land managers to deliver services in our core functions of biosecurity, productive agriculture, natural resource management and emergency management. This annual report reflects the wide range of activities undertaken in the delivery of these services.

The last 12 months has begun the development of a new approach, a new way of providing services and connecting government to land managers. The development of strong partnerships will allow South East Local Land Services to work with land managers, industry and other stakeholders to deliver significant outcomes in the areas of biosecurity, emergency management, productive agricultural and natural resource management that lead to on-ground practice innovation in the years to come.

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow directors for their contributions during the year and I acknowledge and thank the committed staff of South East Local Land Services.

David Mitchell

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.

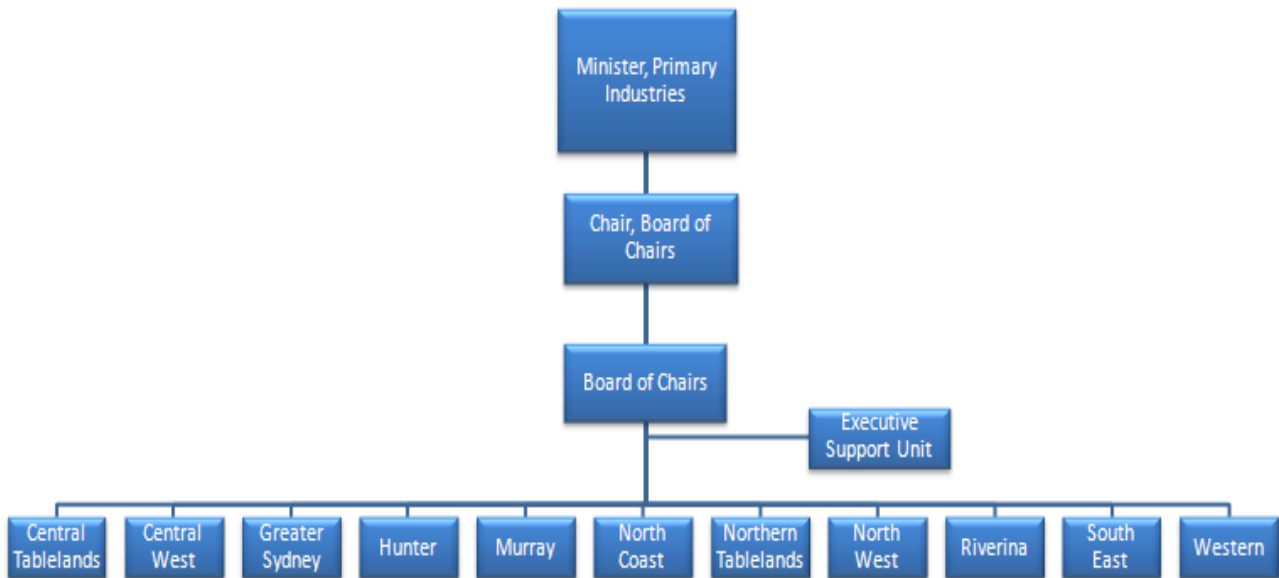
All the local Chairs together form the Local Land Services Board of Chairs. The Local Land Services Board of Chairs is led by the Local Land Services Chair of the Board of Chairs, John Macarthur-Stanham.

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



Our Region

South East Local Land Services covers 55,600 square kilometres of south-east NSW - from Stanwell Park in the north to the Victorian border in the south and westward from Boorowa in the north to Thredbo in the south. The area covers 698 kilometres of coastline or 40% of the NSW coast. The region is home to 605,000 people including over 16,500 Indigenous Australians.

The coast is dominated by large tracts of public land, including national parks. Nature-based tourism is a significant contributor to the region's economy, especially on the coast and in the Snowy Mountains.

Agriculturally, the region is highly diverse. Land uses include agriculture (sheep, beef, dairy and cropping), horticulture, aquaculture, water harvesting, commercial and recreational fishing, heavy industry, forestry, surface and underground mining, urban and lifestyle development and tourism and recreation.

There are a number of pest animal species across the South East Local Land Services region, including wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs, rabbits and deer. In the north west of the region (around Yass and Boorowa) locusts and mice can also cause problems periodically. Reducing the impact of these pests is a priority for South East Local Land Services.

South East Local Land Services encourages sustainable production and environmental stewardship.

SOUTH EAST



Principal Office

Principal Office Address	Principal Office Phone	Email & Website
Level 1, 80 Crown Street WOLLONGONG	(02) 4224 9700	www.southeast.lls.nsw.gov.au enquiry.southeast@lls.nsw.gov.au

Senior Staff

	General Manager	Manager Land Services	Manager of Strategic Planning & Partnerships	Business & Finance Manager	Manager of Biosecurity
Name	Gavin Whiteley	Chris Presland	N/A	Teresa Hughes	Daniel Shaw
Location	Bungendore	Nowra		Wollongong	Berry
Contact	M: 0418 417 111	Ph: 4429 4445 M: 0413 274 882		Ph: 4224 9702 M: 0438 209 783	Ph: 4464 6011 M: 0418 963 808

Governance

CHAIR MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEMBER
David Mitchell	Ian Denney	Kenneth Garner	Christopher Shannon	Stuart Burge	Barry Gay	Mac Wilson
M: 0427 892 523						

Board Attendees

LLS	Name of Board Member	Number of Possible Meetings	Number of Meetings Attended
South East	David Mitchell	11	11
	Ian Denney	11	10
	Kenneth Garner	11	9
	Christopher Shannon	11	10
	Stuart Burge	8	7
	Barry Gay	8	8
	Mac Wilson	8	8



Operational overview by General Manager

In our first year of operation South East Local Land Services has provided advice and services to priority industries, protected them from pests and diseases and ensured the future of key natural resource assets.

In 2014 our team has achieved significant results, some of the highlights include:

- eight local customer forums
- 3450 general vet and biosecurity property visits
- 5572 hectares protected through natural resource management projects
- involvement in the red imported fire ant emergency management response
- sustainable grazing outcomes on more than 400 hectares of land
- more than 60 events with more than 1300 attendees

The establishment and strengthening of partnerships with community, industry and landscape stakeholders has been a focus for the new organisation as we work together to achieve common goals.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the dedicated staff of South East Local Land Services.

Gavin Whiteley

General Manager

Local Community Advisory Groups

Local Community Advisory Groups provide input into the development of plans, projects and services and are an integral link between Local Land Services and the community it serves. South East Local Land Services is in the process of establishing community advisory groups. A number of options have been reviewed by the Board over the calendar year, with the final community advisory group structure yet to be approved. South East Local Land Services intends to establish a number of community advisory groups related to landscapes within the region.

Key Achievements

Manage Weeds and Pests	
Measure	Achieved
Area (ha) of pest plant control measures implemented	801.8

Protect And Conserve Land, Biodiversity and Native Vegetation	
Measure	Achieved
Number of voluntary conservation agreements negotiated	81
Area (ha) protected	5572.2
Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	222.6
Area (ha) of terrestrial native vegetation protected by fencing	255.2
Area (ha) planted to terrestrial native species	108.3
Area (ha) of land treated and/or protected from soil erosion by engineering works	59.4
Area (ha) of soil treatment for other than erosion or acid sulphate soils	148.7
Area (ha) of land managed for sustainable grazing	396.3
Area (ha) protected by fencing specifically for significant species/ecological community protection	596.3

Community Involvement and Support	
Measure	Achieved
Number of awareness raising events such as demonstrations, field days or study tours conducted	68
Number of participants who attended in days	1371
Number of written products such as brochures, newsletters, posters or fact sheets developed	74
Estimated number of recipients	27416
Number of training sessions, workshops, seminars or other skills and training events conducted	55
Number of participants in person in days	1044
Number of community groups OR projects assisted	511

Number of activities undertaken to support community groups	150
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Protect Rivers, Wetlands and Coastal Environments	
Measure	Achieved
Area (ha) of riparian native vegetation protected by fencing	194.7
Area (ha) of riparian native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	717.8
Streambank length (km) of riparian vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	214.2
Streambank length (km) of riparian vegetation protected	35
Area (ha) planted to riparian native species	95.7
Number of stream bank engineering works	4
Length (m) of stream bed stabilised	648
Number of stream bed stabilisation sites	6
Number of off-stream (alternative) watering sites installed	72
Length (km) of streambank protected from stock	32
Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation protected by fencing	30.3
Area (ha) of wetland native vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated	35.2
Area (ha) of wetlands with connectivity reinstated	25.5
Area (ha) planted to wetland native species	36.6

Animal Biosecurity and Welfare
<p>Successful management of emergency animal diseases (EADs)</p> <p>During 2014 all Local Land Services regions successfully worked with NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) 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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitting brains from suitable cases to exclude Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) (BSE and scrapie) 	
Measure	Achieved
Number of investigations to exclude an EAD	44
Number of training exercises conducted by region	1
Number of staff that participated in a EAD response during 2014	5
Percentage of (at risk) pig properties inspected for swill feeding in last 4 years	75%
Number of sudden death investigations to exclude anthrax	29
Number of Anthrax incidents managed	0
Number of Hendra incidents managed	0
Number of cattle and sheep brains collected and submitted to exclude TSE	6

<p>Improving market access for NSW livestock and products, supported by adequate and relevant surveillance information</p> <p>During 2014 all Local Land Services regions successfully worked with DPI to ensure market access for NSW was supported by adequate and relevant surveillance information. This was achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 December 2014)	5
Number of specialist Animal Biosecurity Officers (as at 31 December 2014)	1
Number of disease investigations: visits	484
Number of disease investigations: telephone	304
Total number of PICs	17720
Total number of PICs that required active management during 2014 (new, amalgamated, subdivided)	2247

Number of articles submitted to DPI-LLS Animal Health Surveillance News	0
Number of NAMP sentinel herds	7
Number of NAMP light traps	1
Number of regional surveillance projects	5
Number of sale yard inspections	160
<p>Animal welfare standards are effectively managed to allow market access and meet community expectations</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	15
Number of incidents and emergencies requiring animal welfare management	4
<p>The negatives impacts of established diseases and pest of animal are minimised in NSW</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 - Ovine Johne’s disease (OJD) management program • Cattle Tick and Tick Fever • NSW Sheep Lice Program • <i>Cysticercus bovis</i> • Other notifiable disease investigations and management 	
Measure	Achieved
Total number of lameness investigations to exclude sheep footrot	85
Number of footrot infected flocks under management to eradicate footrot during 2014	23
Number disease investigations to exclude BJD	38
Number of BJD traces investigated	9
Number of BJD infected herds under property disease management plans	8

Number of OJD Regional Biosecurity Areas	0
Number of disease investigations to exclude Cattle Tick or Tick Fever	0
Number of producers provided with advice on sheep lice control	32
Number of <i>Cysticercus bovis</i> field investigations	0
<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	5
Number of holdings with current OC and other residues Property Management Plans	14
Number of lead and other toxicity cases managed	1
Number of disease events referred to Public Health Unit	0

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	3
Number of surveillance programs aimed at detecting new invasive species from high risk locations	1
Number of new invasive species identified	0
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	2
LLS full time equivalent positions supporting the eradication or control of new or emerging invasive species	1
Number of holdings consulted for the management of new or emerging invasive species	5500
Number of holdings participating with control programs for new or emerging invasive species	300
Effectively manage – reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species i.e.; wild pigs, rabbits, foxes , dogs and plague locusts	
Measure (Wild Dogs)	Achieved
Percentage of holdings not reporting wild dogs	99.74%
Number of wild dog management plans	13
Percentage of land managers within an area defined by a wild dog management plan participating with on-ground strategic baiting programs	7%
Number of integrated aerial baiting programs for wild dogs	4
LLS full time equivalent positions supporting wild dog management (control and coordination)	8
LLS financial resources committed to wild dog management	\$950,000.00
Measure (Foxes)	Achieved
Percentage of holdings not reporting foxes	99.10
Percentage of land managers participating with fox baiting programs	9.2%
Number of group control programs	15
Measure (Rabbits)	Achieved
Percentage of holdings not reporting rabbits	99.10
Percentage of land managers participating with rabbit baiting programs	2%

Number of group control programs	8
Measure (Feral Pigs)	Achieved
Percentage of holdings not reporting feral pigs	99.67
Percentage of land managers participating with feral pig control programs	0.2%
Number of group control programs	11
Measure (Other LLS Activities)	Achieved
Number of property compliance inspections undertaken to complement proactive and compliant land managers	0
Number of enforcement actions undertaken to compliment proactive and compliant land managers	0
LLS full time equivalent positions committed to managing invasive species	18
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	57
Number of land managers participating with training programs and development workshops	1900
Number of new strategic management plans implemented	0
Number of existing strategic plans reviewed	2

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	4

agriculture and animals.	
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.	3
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.	25%
Number of LLS staff that have been trained to the introduction level	30%
Number of LLS staff that have been trained to the applied level	7 (within 2014)
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	100
List of emergency responses participated in	5
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

Plant Biosecurity	
Prevention – There will be no introductions into the region of any plant biosecurity issues	
Measure	Achieved
Education and training of LLS personnel on biosecurity awareness, best practice, preparedness and prevention	1 workshop
Identification of local plant biosecurity threats and incursion pathways with local industry	0
LLS field personnel trained for surveillance activities	2
Early detection – Any plant biosecurity incursions into the region are immediately identified and reported	
Measure	Achieved
Receive training in emergency management and response procedures	LLS Liaison Officers participating with Local Emergency Management Committee's
Field personnel trained for Emergency Plant pest surveillance activities	2 staff trained
Surveillance results reported to Plant Biosecurity	0
Containment and eradication – All plant biosecurity incursions are contained and eradicated	
Measure	Achieved
Delivery of education and training to other LLS staff and local groups on biosecurity awareness, best practice, preparedness and prevention.	2 staff trained
Field personnel trained for Emergency Plant pest surveillance activities	2 staff trained
Transition to management	
Measure	Achieved
Action transition to management projects including recovery	Nil requirement due to no plant biosecurity incursions across the state for the reporting period.
Effective management of established pests and diseases	
Measure	Achieved

Promotion of practices to prevent spread	Plant Biosecurity information provided at local field days and events to producer groups and industry.
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