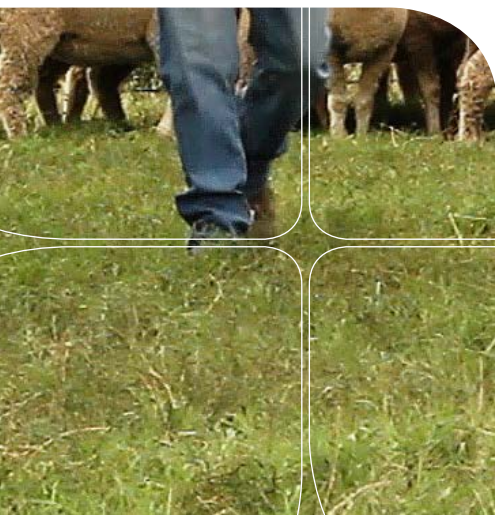




Local Land  
Services  
Northern Tablelands

# Local Annual Report 2016



# Contents

Foreword	1
Northern Tablelands region at a glance	2
2016 local achievements	3
Local Land Services goals	4
Local Land Services statewide goals	5
Resilient, self-reliant and prepared local communities	5
Biosecure, profitable, productive and sustainable primary industries	7
Healthy, diverse, connected natural environments	9
Our community	11
Case study: 2016 footrot survey	12
Case study: Ladies in Livestock	13
Case study: Trees on Farms program	14
Case study: Annual coordinated broadscale fox baiting program	15
Office locations	16

Published by the Local Land Services  
First published March 2017  
ISBN: 978-0-6480656-9-2.

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of the report January 2016 to December 2016. 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.  
© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services 2017.

# Foreword

Every year Northern Tablelands Local Land Services delivers outstanding achievements that surpass results of the previous year. It's not that I am surprised at the excellent achievements of the organisation but rather that I am proud of the results and relationships the team has developed. I also recognise that the results are built on the work of previous years, giving consideration to efficiencies, value for money and improved services to our ratepayers – all factors crucial to the viability and longevity of Local Land Services.

In 2016, the Pastures, Mixed Farming, Soils, Livestock and Farm Planning projects contributed to sustainable grazing management across almost 10,000 hectares of land.

We received 210 applications for landholders to plant more trees on their farms and these are additional to the more than 60 Trees on Farms projects that are already underway. 2016 data shows over 97,000 native, locally endemic seedlings have been planted on farm.

Aboriginal cultural heritage is a priority for Northern Tablelands Local Land Services and in 2016, 588 hectares of land were managed for Aboriginal cultural value. This was achieved through farm planning for the establishment of a beef production business at Jubullum near Tenterfield and introducing a traditional fire burn regime at the Aboriginal-owned property, "Wattleridge" near Guyra. We have also built a learning centre at Walcha to upskill local Aboriginal people in natural resource management.

The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services animal biosecurity and invasive species teams work together to implement animal biosecurity and vertebrate pest control programs that safeguard the NSW economy, community and environment and in doing so maintain domestic and international market access for Northern Tablelands livestock industries.

In 2016 we visited 350 properties to investigate potential threats from animal disease. This surveillance underpins disease certification and market access for Northern Tablelands livestock producers.

Our district veterinarians and biosecurity officers surveyed 65 flocks to maintain our Footrot Protected Area status. The animal biosecurity team also conducted 180 saleyard inspections across the region to monitor National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) compliance including ear tagging and National Vendor Declaration (NVD) completion in sheep, cattle and goats.

Of course, livestock production also benefits from the control and management of vertebrate pests.



More than 100,000 baits were dropped by helicopter and landholders laid 10,000 ground baits on 1,230,531 hectares of land as part of the 2016 annual Wild Dog Aerial and Ground Baiting campaign across the Walcha, Armidale, Glen Innes and Tenterfield districts.

The annual fox baiting program delivered 18,000 baits to 313 landholders via 23 coordinated fox groups from Deepwater to Walcha.

New dams and tanks were constructed on travelling stock reserves (TSRs), old dams were cleaned out to remove silt build up and expanded in size to hold a greater volume of water, and erosion was repaired. Extensive work was also undertaken to ensure TSR infrastructure is in good condition for handling the 12,874 head of livestock that moved through the travelling stock reserve network under walking permits in 2016.

Local Land Services makes good sense. We are here when it matters for agriculture, we are here for the environment and most importantly, we are here for people in rural communities. We are here when it matters in times of natural disaster - drought, flood or bushfire - and are vigilant in protecting our livestock industries from pests and disease. We look forward to being here when it matters for the people of the Northern Tablelands throughout 2017 and beyond.

**Hans Hietbrink**  
**Chair, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services**

# Northern Tablelands region at a glance



The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services region is situated in northern inland NSW. The 45,000 square kilometre region has a diverse climate, ranging from temperate to sub-tropical, with considerable differences in climate between the east and the west and great variety in its landforms, hydrology, vegetation and soils. Natural resources and land use in the region reflect climatic and geographic influences.

The Northern Tablelands landscape is located either side of the watershed that runs along the top of the Great Dividing Range. Streams on the western side are the headwaters of the Murray-Darling Basin, while streams on the eastern side of the watershed flow down to the NSW North Coast.

The Northern Tablelands landscape is characterised by a mosaic of grazing lands and patches of remnant woodland, many of which support national and state significant threatened fauna and flora species and ecological communities.

The total population of the Northern Tablelands region is 72,000 centred around the towns of Armidale, Glen Innes, Guyra, Inverell, Tenterfield, Uralla, Walcha and numerous small villages, all of which support productive rural communities predominantly producing beef, sheep and wool. Major industries and town viability are focused around agricultural production.

The region has the highest livestock carrying capacity of all regions of NSW and grazing is the major land use at 56% of the region. Significant smaller industries include forestry, apples and stone fruit, potatoes, glasshouse tomatoes, dairy farms, alpacas and cool climate wineries.

The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services region is an Aboriginal landscape and Local Land Services places a high value on Aboriginal involvement in landscape management. There are eight Aboriginal nations - Ngarabal, Dainggatti, Anaiwan, Kamilaroi, Banbai, Gumbainggir, Bigambul and Nganyaywana - incorporating various language dialects, which fall within the region.

# 2016 local achievements

350

PROPERTY VISITS  
BY VETS AND  
BIOSECURITY OFFICERS



530

GENERAL CONSULTATIONS BY  
VETS AND BIOSECURITY OFFICERS



180

SALEYARD INSPECTIONS

28

LIVESTOCK EXPORT  
CERTIFICATES ISSUED



944

PARTICIPANTS AT  
TRAINING EVENTS



11,929

HECTARES MANAGED FOR NATURAL  
RESOURCE OUTCOMES



\$2.4 M

INVESTED IN COMMUNITY GROUPS AND  
ON-FARM ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION



1,198

PROPERTIES INVOLVED IN WILD  
DOG BAITING



90

PERMITS ISSUED  
FOR MOVING STOCK



1.5 M

HECTARES MANAGED FOR  
PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

# Local Land Services goals

Local Land Services aligns all of its work with its mission of being a customer-focused business that enables improved primary production and better management of natural resources. The strategic direction of Local Land Services is summarised in four organisational goals.

Resilient,  
self-reliant and  
prepared local  
communities

Biosecure, profitable,  
productive and  
sustainable primary  
industries

Healthy, diverse,  
connected  
natural  
environments

Board members  
and staff who are  
collaborative,  
innovative and  
commercially-focused



## Local Land Services statewide goals

The operations of Northern Tablelands Local Land Services are aligned and integrated with the four statewide goals of Local Land Services. The Northern Tablelands Local Strategic Plan describes each area of operation and outlines key strategies and activities that will achieve each statewide goal.

### Resilient, self-reliant and prepared local communities

*Northern Tablelands Local Land Services is committed to making a significant contribution to the Northern Tablelands region in order to see it thrive. Resilience, self-reliance and preparedness are vital ingredients in a thriving community, ensuring it is better able to withstand shocks or disturbances to the landscape, production of food and fibre and the economy and still maintain its functions and structures.*

*The following activities have been implemented by Northern Tablelands Local Land Services in 2016, which was the first year of operation under the Northern Tablelands Local Strategic Plan.*

#### Emergency management and disaster relief

Emergency management is a shared responsibility that involves prevention and preparedness to minimise the impact of emergencies, responding to emergency events and conducting recovery operations to return communities, the environment and economy to business as usual. In partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, we help manage livestock disease and emergencies such as drought, bushfires and floods and biosecurity events involving plants, animals and pest insects.

Eighty-five per cent of Northern Tablelands Local Land Services staff have received base-level biosecurity and emergency response training while 50 per cent of staff have been trained beyond this level.

#### Aboriginal communities

We support Aboriginal people to care for Country, share traditional land management knowledge and help protect and strengthen Aboriginal cultural heritage.

We are working to promote Aboriginal cultural awareness and enhance engagement throughout our region. Our goal is to support Aboriginal communities in caring for Country, particularly through employment and training opportunities to build skills and capacity in land management.

More than 588 hectares of land holding Aboriginal cultural value were managed along with two Aboriginal properties.

#### Projects in the past year have included:

- The establishment of an Aboriginal Fire and Seasons calendar on an Indigenous protected area at "Wattleridge", Guyra, which is home to vulnerable species.
- Four Aboriginal cultural heritage training and awareness raising events were held to promote Aboriginal involvement in natural resource management, attracting more than 80 participants.
- Eight representatives of the Jubullum Local Aboriginal Land Council completed farm planning training. The training has encouraged the development of a business called 'Jubullum Quality Beef'.
- Cultural and site awareness training was delivered to all Northern Tablelands Local Land Services staff and local board members and Certificate III in Aboriginal Sites Work is being delivered to 16 Aboriginal people across the region.

## Sustainable agriculture

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services provides high quality advisory services to landholders in the region to improve the sustainability and resilience of the landscape, agriculture industries and communities. We have a strong team that provides credible, unbiased and trusted advice and extension services built upon sound scientific knowledge and evidence based practices.

We increased the capacity of land managers to improve primary production and natural resource management and trained more than 780 customers at training events. Almost 10,000 hectares of land was managed for sustainable grazing in the region.

### Projects in the past year have included:

- The Pastures and Mixed Farming project which launched the 'Ladies in Livestock' training initiative aimed at empowering women through practical on-farm skills training. The pilot training group at Guyra attracted 46 women.
- The Soils project ran a series of field days promoting soil health and interpretation of soil tests while the Livestock Extension project delivered trivia nights to test producers' knowledge on livestock health and management in a fun and social setting that engaged a large number of landholders.
- Our Farm Planning program worked with five groups across the Northern Tablelands to help landholders work smarter, improve decision making, improve the natural resource base and boost farm profitability. This project also delivered the Property Planning Competition which engaged with agriculture students in years 10 - 12, providing a real farm experience to test their knowledge and develop a plan for the farm that considers soils, land capability, landholder desires, markets, biosecurity, pest animals and farm sustainability.





## Biosecure, profitable, productive and sustainable primary industries

*Effective biosecurity and animal welfare is insurance to maintain market access for Northern Tablelands livestock and crop producers, now and in the future. Northern Tablelands produce is free of many of the pests and diseases found in other parts of the world and that's why Local Land Services works diligently with ratepayers to monitor herds, flocks and crops across the region and shares up-to-date advice and information to boost productivity.*

### Animal biosecurity and welfare

To keep our livestock markets open, district veterinarians and biosecurity officers deliver a number of state and national animal health programs.

Surveillance is one of the largest programs and is undertaken to demonstrate to our markets that we are free from certain diseases and to also better understand the prevalence of important diseases impacting on farm profitability.

Market assurance is also provided by Northern Tablelands Local Land Services working with industry to ensure that Northern Tablelands livestock are traceable in the event of a residue detection or disease outbreak.

We also provide advice to producers on how to implement best practice biosecurity and welfare principles.

During 2016 district veterinarians and biosecurity officers attended 530 general consultations along with conducting 302 disease investigations.

Projects delivered by the biosecurity staff over the past year included:

- The Footrot Protected Area status survey and saleyard compliance which included Operation Mary, a statewide investigation into compliance in sheep saleyards.
- Sheepcatcher II which was a national traceability exercise for National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) compliance in sheep.

### Invasive species and plant biosecurity

Invasive pests can impact significantly on the productivity and profitability of agriculture.

We work with landholders to minimise the impact of pests on agricultural production and the environment. We provided 16 education and training workshops to build the capacity of 1,490 land managers and support and help coordinate group control programs — bringing landholders together to control wild dogs, foxes, pigs, and rabbits.

Working with land managers three new wild dog management plans were established and 1,198 properties were involved in wild dog baiting over an area of 1,230,531 hectares across the region.

Introducing the benefits of technology and innovation are critical in improving the effectiveness of pest programs and in 2016 wild dog control group boundaries were mapped and digitised and the use of FeralScan for wild dog management was increased.



### Projects in the past year have included:

- The annual coordinated aerial and ground baiting programs for wild dogs which continues to grow in participation by landholders.
- Regular seasonal baiting and control programs were carried out for rabbits, foxes and feral pigs.
- The Wongwibinda Cluster Fence project and two small scale projects were established through the Australian Government's \$3 million Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper program for pest and weed management in NSW. A desktop plant biosecurity risk analysis commenced to better document plant industry risks.

We support people with advice to manage pasture weeds and we work with local control authorities to support people to prevent the spread of new and emerging weeds and manage environmental woody weeds.

We are committed to improving the coordination of weed management in the region, working with the Northern Tablelands Regional Weeds Committee to determine weeds priorities for the region and develop strategic programs to control new and emerging weeds. In partnership with the New England Weeds Authority, we implement the Northern Tablelands component of the NSW Weeds Action Program 2015-2020.



## Protecting our agricultural industry

To support primary producers we encourage and promote sustainable agricultural practices and increase the productivity of primary production. Our biosecurity officers are empowered as Stock Inspectors in NSW.

Good surveillance detects any problems early and ensures the quality and safety of NSW livestock and livestock products and access to domestic and international markets. In the past year we undertook 200 investigations to exclude an emergency animal disease.

### Projects in the past year have included :

- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) program to confirm that we are scrapie and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) free.
- Northern Tablelands Local Land Services also contributed to the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP), which was established to help with the export of live sheep, goats and cattle to countries sensitive to bluetongue, akabane and bovine ephemeral fever viruses by providing evidence that the stock meet export certification requirements.

To control the movement of stock, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services monitors the National Livestock Identification System for compliance by undertaking saleyard audits and inspections and completed 180 inspections during the year.

Some 28 livestock export certificates were issued from the Northern Tablelands during 2016 ensuring our stock are free from livestock health and disease problems.

To protect market access, Northern Tablelands Local Land Services manages Property Identification Codes (PIC), with 125 PICs issued during the year.

## Travelling Stock Reserves and stock management

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services manages Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) for multiple users in the common interest of the whole community.

We manage more than 46,700 hectares of TSRs and promote a balance of use for production, social, cultural and environmental outcomes and continuously work to maintain and improve the resource.

Mobs of travelling stock are common throughout the Northern Tablelands with 90 walking permits issued in 2016 for stock movements.

## Healthy, diverse, connected natural environments

*Northern Tablelands Local Land Services' team works hard to bring landholders and our customers the best available research, knowledge and skills to assist producers to be more profitable and to ensure that natural resources are available for future generations.*

*We support healthy environments and biodiverse ecosystems across the Northern Tablelands region by assisting landholders and communities to improve the quality of their land, soil, vegetation and water through grants and funding for on-ground projects, partnerships and training.*

### Land management

Healthy ecosystems underpin successful, productive primary producers and communities. Through investment from the NSW and Australian governments, we support a healthy ecosystem across the landscapes of NSW.

We are focussed on implementing landscape-scale approaches to address threats to the natural environment. In particular, we are supporting land managers to rehabilitate degraded habitat, restore vegetation, manage weeds and contribute to the recovery of threatened ecological communities.

In the past year, 113 voluntary conservation agreements were negotiated, protecting and conserving for biodiversity enhancement 1,929 hectares of land. This area also received support for measures to better manage sustainable grazing.

#### Projects in the past year have included:

- The Trees on Farms program, where landholders in over-cleared landscapes around Guyra and Bundarra, worked to plant native vegetation on farm for biodiversity outcomes as well as shade and shelter for livestock.
- Northern Tablelands Local Land Services has identified a range of high conservation value vegetation communities on TSRs, including weeping myall habitat, and poplar box and carbeen woodlands, which are being managed for conservation and protection from impacts of grazing livestock.
- New fences were constructed on TSRs in the north west of the region to protect the endangered plant Winged Peppergrass and other unique local species that are under threat from over grazing, feral pests and weeds. The fencing and dam construction work was funded through the National Landcare Programme in recognition of the high conservation values that have been identified on a number of reserves.

### Biodiversity

Native vegetation benefits both on farm production and environmental health. Healthy native vegetation can increase land values and productivity while reducing operating costs.

We're aiming to improve the condition of native vegetation and riparian areas, extend habitat for threatened flora and fauna, and enhance existing wetland vegetation extent and quality. To achieve this, we have enhanced and rehabilitated 170 hectares of wetland native vegetation.

Sound management of native vegetation to rehabilitate, enhance and protect remnants and to increase the area of native vegetation in the landscape is a key objective for land managers in the Northern Tablelands region. In the past year we have enhanced and rehabilitated 659 hectares of land and protected 1,270 hectares of vegetation through fencing.

Native vegetation is also critical for maintaining and improving habitat for many threatened flora and fauna species and for sustaining the health and function of local ecosystems. We planted 97,293 native species seedlings to assist in regeneration.

#### Projects in the past year have included:

- The Trees on Farms project which promotes the production benefits of trees on farms. An advertising campaign significantly increased landholder participation in the project. The project aims to bring native vegetation back in over-cleared landscapes in the Northern Tablelands, helping to boost connectivity across the region.
- The Riparian Biolinks project, a six-year project that will be completed in 2017, achieved excellent on farm outcomes with landholders. The project continued to focus on increasing biodiversity and native vegetation connectivity across the landscape in mapped priority areas. Revegetation works along riparian zones was a major focus.
- The Cool Country 20 Million Trees project focused on revegetating farms in the Northern Tablelands from Guyra to Armidale and Uralla and Walcha areas. Much of these areas are over-cleared and native vegetation dieback is a major issue. This project was complimentary to the Trees on Farms project.
- The Upland Wetlands Incentives project is a collaboration between private landholders, Local Land Services and WetlandCare Australia. Landholders have committed to revive precious upland wetlands and montane swamps on the Northern Tablelands.



## Investment and partnerships

We support and engage new and existing Landcare networks and groups, community and industry partners, to undertake on-ground works and capacity building activities. Working with Landcare NSW and NSW Government, we're aiming to improve land and water ecosystem management, soil health and native vegetation protection.

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services has allocated more than \$1.2 million for local Landcare networks to undertake community action planning, deliver small community grants and the Regional Landcare Facilitator functions for the three-year period from 2015 to 2018. We partnered with New England Weeds Authority (NEWA) to deliver a \$70,000 priority weeds program and deliver the final year of the tropical soda apple control program.

The Northern Tablelands Koala Recovery Strategy, in partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, surveyed koala populations in the region and built community capacity to undertake ongoing monitoring of koala populations. Incorporated into the Threatened Species program was funding to protect four threatened flora species in the region under the NSW Government's site specific Save Our Species program.

2016 saw the reinvigoration of the New England North West Biodiversity Alliance that brings together the region's stakeholders to enhance investment and partnerships associated with biodiversity outcomes.





## Our community

The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Farm Planning program underwent a transformation in 2016 to be even more relevant to local producers with updated modules and expert facilitators.

A farm plan is a written management plan for a farm business which takes a whole farm approach and considers property layout, landuse, land capability, financial planning, farm biosecurity, risk management and people management.

In 2016, the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Farm Planning program helped landholders work smarter, adapt to changes in their business, prepare for climatic extremes, improve decision making, improve the natural resource base and boost farm production and profitability.

Sixty land managers participated in farm planning from 43 farms covering an area of more than 36,600 hectares.

# 2016 footrot survey

*"Fortunately we found no footrot in the 2016 survey but the price of disease freedom is to keep looking so that we can defend our Protected Area Status on the Northern Tablelands,"*

- Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, District Veterinarian, Andrew Biddle.

## Location

Northern Tablelands region.

## The challenge

To maintain virulent footrot prevalence below one per cent in the Northern Tablelands region and to maintain the Footrot Protected Area status of the region.

## Work undertaken

Inspection of sheep on 65 properties. On selected properties district veterinarians and biosecurity officers inspected approximately 150 adult sheep using a sheep handler.

Foot scores were recorded and where necessary, samples were taken if footrot was suspected.

Each inspection took one to two hours to carry out and the cooperation of our farmers is greatly appreciated.

## Benefits

- the footrot survey, which is a proactive surveillance program, maintains a level of vigilance for virulent footrot
- it reinforced best practice for sheep biosecurity
- if purchasing local sheep they are less likely to be affected by footrot
- if you and your neighbours are footrot free, then the occasional stray sheep that inevitably escapes the boundary fence does not pose a risk of spreading disease.



## Key achievement

All inspections were clear of footrot and Northern Tablelands has maintained its Footrot Protected Area status.

## Total investment:

\$30,000.

## In collaboration with:

- 65 sheep producers across the Northern Tablelands region.

# Ladies in Livestock

*"Ladies often come into farming businesses with significant skills from previous careers. Ladies in Livestock is helping them to feel more confident and engaged in their family farming operations. It provides women with a supportive and positive environment to learn in."*

- Guyra cattle producer, Kirsty White.

## Location

Guyra.

## The challenge

To boost women's participation in Northern Tablelands Local Land Services agriculture training and extension activities to represent the equal contribution they make to farming decisions.

The program also aims to build women's technical skills and confidence in the paddock.

Women in the Ladies in Livestock program are already involved in farm management, but many may not have come from a farming background.

## Work undertaken

The inaugural 'Ladies in Livestock' group was formed in Guyra.

The group meet monthly to undertake on-farm training in topics including: animal scoring; pasture identification; soil test interpretation; sheep marketing options; animal health issues; financial administration and pest control.

The ladies meet in school friendly hours, allowing for school drop-offs and pick-ups.

The training is designed to be hands on and in the paddock, teaching practical farm skills.

## Benefits

- the Ladies in Livestock training program is designed to create a supportive environment for women to learn
- the program aimed to give hands-on, technical training to boost women's confidence to make informed and sound decisions that lead to practice change and an increase in profitability, productivity and sustainability on farm.



## Key achievement

- 46 women engaged in the program
- overwhelming positive feedback from women involved in the program
- sponsorship opportunities identified
- excellent media coverage of the program.

## Total investment

- \$15,000

## In collaboration with

- cattle and sheep producers in the Guyra region.
- Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

# Trees on Farms program

*"It's clear that many farmers recognise the production benefits of healthy natural bushland, such as shelter for stock and pastures, improved water quality, and habitat for natural predators that keep pests in check. The combined outcomes of the Trees on Farms and Biolinks projects are demonstrating a success story on the Northern Tablelands."*

- Northern Tablelands Local Land Services,  
Senior Land Services Officer, Iestyn Taylor.

## Location

Northern Tablelands region.

## The challenge

To change landholder attitudes to value native vegetation and biodiversity as integral to their farming systems.

## Work undertaken

The program promotes the production and profitability benefits of native vegetation to engage with landholders to achieve on-farm revegetation and restoration.

The program used a series of humorous cartoons to engage with landholders to undertake revegetation activities on farm.

Areas with little to no native vegetation were targeted in the Guyra, Armidale, Uralla and Walcha areas.

## Benefits

- the Trees on Farms program is into its third year and, in that time, has developed over 80 partnerships with local landholders all undertaking works to protect and enhance native vegetation on farm
- neighbouring properties are now undertaking works and linking vegetation corridors
- revegetation works from the first two years are currently being implemented in favourable conditions due to above average rainfall, boosting survival rates.

## Key achievement

- 210 expressions of interest were received from landholders wanting to plant native vegetation on their farms
- 65 partnerships with landholders were developed in 2016
- continued maintenance of the Northern Tablelands seed bank, providing local provenance seed for all our tree planting programs, increasing revegetation survival rates



- 70 people trained as Florabank accredited seed collectors, providing a powerful seed collecting network across the Northern Tablelands
- 120 hectares of revegetation works planting 43,530 native plants back in the landscape in 2016.
- 764 hectares of remnant vegetation protected.

## Total investment

- \$500,000.

## In collaboration with

- landholders across the Northern Tablelands region
- Australian Government's National Landcare Programme
- NSW Catchment Action.



# Annual coordinated broadscale fox baiting program

*“Cooperation and collaboration between neighbouring properties underpins the success of the fox control program every year.”*

- Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, Biosecurity Officer, Brett Cameron.

## Location

Guyra, Uralla, Armidale and Walcha.

## The challenge

To maximise the number of landholders participating in the Coordinated Broadscale Fox Baiting program.

## Work undertaken

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services provided administrative support in the coordination of the fox baiting program.

The biosecurity team delivered baits to landholders and worked closely with fox group coordinators to maximise engagement and effectiveness of the program.

Engagement was increased using a coordinated campaign that included radio, letterbox drops, flyers and social media.

The baits were buried to a depth of at least 10 cm and covered with loose soil to simulate the canine habit of burying excess food. This technique minimises the chance of non-target bait takers.

## Benefits

- reduced predation on livestock, boosting lambing percentages and farm productivity
- reduced predation on native species
- reduced risk of foxes spreading disease.

## Key achievement

- the annual fox baiting program delivered 18,000 baits to 313 landholders via 23 coordinated fox groups from Deepwater to Walcha
- for the first time as part of the campaign, maps were compiled showing the properties involved in the coordinated fox baiting program and where there were gaps in the program that could enable foxes to retreat to un-baited areas.



## Total investment

- \$60,000.

## In collaboration with

- fox group coordinators and other livestock producers from the Guyra, Uralla, Armidale and Walcha areas
- Landcare across the region greatly assist in providing information dissemination via newsletters and networks.

# Office locations

## Inverell Office

T: 02 6720 8300  
F: 02 6720 8398

15 Vivian Street  
PO Box 411  
Inverell NSW 2360

## Glen Innes Office

T: 02 6732 8800  
F: 02 6732 1420

1 Greenaway Street  
Glen Innes NSW 2370

## Glen Innes Research & Advisory Station

T: 02 6730 1930

444 Strathbogjie Road  
Glen Innes NSW 2370

## Armidale Office

T: 02 6770 2000  
F: 02 6772 7274

126-130 Taylor Street  
Armidale NSW 2350

## Tenterfield Office

T: 02 6739 1400  
F: 02 6736 2614

142 High Street  
Tenterfield NSW 2372

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services  
[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/northerntablelands](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/northerntablelands)  
1300 795 299