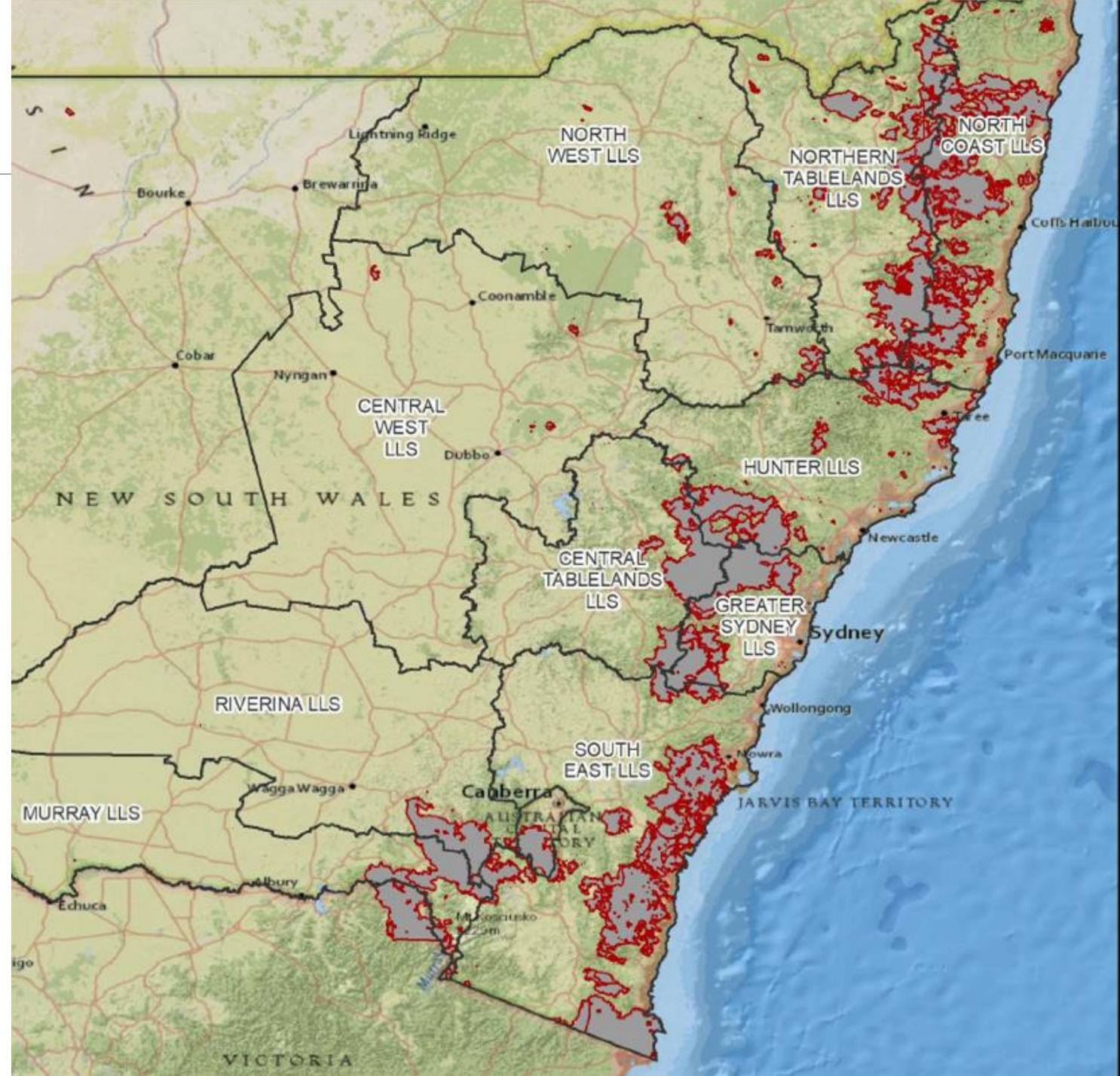


Value of NRM Plans in Emergency Response and Recovery

A case study of the NSW experience from the 2019-20 bushfires

Context

- The 2019-20 Summer Bushfires impacted 8 of the 11 NRM Regions in NSW
- There was a need to invest rapidly to mitigate the threats to environmental recovery
- The Australian Government needed a service provider to take rapid action to protect 'matters of national environmental significance'
- Regional Land Partnerships Head Agreement arrangements provided a mechanism to easily add additional projects



Regional NRM Planning

In each of the NRM regions impacted in NSW:

- A range of NRM Plans were already in place
- There were established NRM planning processes in place
- There were established relationships with relevant agencies, community groups and other stakeholders
- \$40M of Australian Government investment over 3 years



Riparian revegetation program targeting a high value waterway to protect Booroolong Frog habitat in the Murray region

Responsive

Each of the 8 NRM Regions in NSW were able to immediately respond by implementing projects that;

- Focused on high value natural assets
- Addressed critical threats that were exacerbated from the impact of the fires
- Examples include;
 - Aerial and ground control of pigs and deer
 - Fox baiting and ground control
 - Threatened species translocation
 - Erosion and sediment control
 - Artificial habitat such as nest boxes
 - Threatened species impact assessments
 - Local area and species recovery plans
 - Woody weed control



Immediate aerial baiting programs were deployed in the North Coast region to reduce the threat of predation from foxes on vulnerable fauna

Inclusive

Each Local Land Services region had pre-existing established relationships with others, including key community stakeholder groups.

All projects were undertaken in partnership with others including;

- First Nations People
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment
- NSW Soil Conservation Service
- NSW Forestry Corporation
- NSW Fisheries
- Private contractors
- Universities
- Individual Landholders
- Landcare Groups
- Local Government Authorities
- Victorian, ACT and Queensland NRM agencies



Landholder erosion control videos were produced in partnership with neighbouring regions and the Soil Conservation Service in the Murray region to reduce the sediment and water quality impacts on aquatic fauna

Collaborative

Local Land Service in each region took a leadership and coordination role across stakeholder groups and other government agencies

- Facilitating multi stakeholder planning and coordination of activities
- Communicating priorities, threats, challenges, opportunities and outcomes
- Development of cross regional shared priorities and consistency in approaches
- Implementing cross-regional operations to achieve optimal species outcomes
- Enabling cross-tenure collaboration and coordination of activities



Hunter Local Land Services partnered with Hunter Region Landcare Network to implement pest and weed programs with 5 landcare groups in bushfire affected areas adjoining the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Camera wildlife monitoring was undertaken to better target pest control activities and measures effectiveness.

Agile & Adaptable

As priorities changed, as time since the fires moved on, Local Land Services NRM regions were able to be agile and apply adaptive management principals which were embedded in their region's NRM plans.

Each region was able to;

- Re-prioritise natural assets requiring attention as new information became available
- Respond to the Australian Government and other investor priorities
- Utilise organisational surge capacity through redeployment of existing staff or recruitment of additional staff; and the use of established contractors and partners
- Use existing relationships and networks to plan at varying scales and across land tenues, to undertake activities to address threats to natural assets



Efficient

Excellent value for money was achieved because regions could;

- Build upon established projects and programs that could be scaled up
- Leverage additional resources from NSW Government and other organisations such as universities and Landcare groups
- Combine resources with neighbouring regions to achieve economies of scale
- Use existing procurement processes with robust value for money criteria built in
- Use existing staff, contractors, volunteers and partners that already had existing skills and knowledge of the local area and the subject matter



Effective

Existing NRM plans in place with clear articulation of assets, threats and actions ensured that activities were effective in achieving ecological outcomes.

- Activities often focused on threats that achieved multiple species outcomes such as erosion control, revegetation and pest animal control.
- Outcome monitoring was often already in place, which helped ensure effectiveness was able to be measured.
- Working in partnership and across land tenure ensured the most appropriate actions could be undertaken at the right scale in coordination to achieve optimal outcomes.



Burnt logs removed from roadsides by Regional Roads Victoria due to safety concerns were used to stabilise banks and create Trout Cod habitat in the Murray region

NRM Regional Planning

“Increases ability to respond to natural disasters and emergency situations”

“Increases effectiveness of recovery programs”



Local Land
Services

2019-20 Bushfire Recovery

- Responsive
- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Agile and adaptable
- Efficient
- Effective