

AGRICULTURE



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We'd like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to working with you again in 2025.

To assist you in planning ahead during this time, there will be changes to Council Services and trading hours.



[See how Council is trading over the festive season](#)



Small farms network pasture walk

Join North Coast Local Land Services for an on-property field day in Bellingen.

Key topics of the day will include:

- A pasture walk identifying local grasses and weeds while discussing options for grazing management and soil health.
- Identifying and managing pasture dieback with discussion on other plant and animal biosecurity issues in the region.
- An overview of LLS programs that help landholders improve their landscapes and farm enterprises.

Places are limited and you are encouraged to register your attendance.

[Learn more and register here](#)



NSW Farm Safety Advisory Program

Workers in the agriculture sector are at far greater risk of being killed or injured at work than most. The NSW Farm Safety Advisory Program aims to provide the tools and support that farming businesses need, provided by people who understand the pressures and complexities of farming.

This **free** program offers practical tools and specialised advisors to improve health and safety, tailored for farmers.

[Reach out to an advisor today](#)



NSW Fire Ant Program update

The NSW Fire Ant response continues following detections of the invasive species *Solenopsis invicta* at Murwillumbah in November 2023 and Wardell in January 2024, and an interception at Clunes on 13 November 2024.

Following the Clunes interception, the Department took immediate action by placing a temporary suspension of turf movements from QLD fire ant infested areas into ANY part of NSW. Due to the swift response by contractors, the landholder and the NSW Fire Ant Program team, broader movement controls in the 5 km around the infested premises are not required.

[Read more](#)



North Coast Region Seed Bank

With increasing pressures from environmental change, habitat loss and invasive species, a native seed bank is being developed for the North Coast region. The project aims to ensure a steady supply of native plants that supports recovery and restoration programs.

You can get in touch with [Macleay Landcare Network](#) to be involved.

Macleay Landcare is hosting a Seed Collection Field Day on Tuesday 10 December.

[RSVP here](#)



Report pest sighting easily with FeralScan

Better manage and monitor cane toads, wild dogs, feral pigs, deer and other pests on your place with FeralScan. Use the free FeralScan app or visit the FeralScan website to record sightings, damage and control of feral animals.

It's quick and easy to use plus your records are private and confidential. Monitoring is important to help understand the extent of the problem and better target effective control.

[Find out more](#)



Farm Household Allowance

This program aims to provide targeted assistance that gives farmers and their partners practical support to assess their situation and plan a way forward to long term financial security. It is an Australian Government support package available to eligible farmers and their partner experiencing financial hardship when the income fluctuates to a low level.

[Find out more](#)



Review of the non-urban metering rules

The NSW Government has reviewed the non-urban water metering framework with key changes in the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 recommended to accelerate compliance. The aim of the review is to ensure the majority of all licensed water entitlement is measured with accurate, auditable and tamper-evident metering equipment.

This will not impact residents who have Council supplied water meters but it will affect properties that have water access licenses issued through Water NSW, such as stock and domestic or irrigation licenses. Feedback closes on Sunday 8 December 2024.

[Learn more and provide feedback](#)

Opportunities update

\$1,000 SafeWork small business rebate

This \$1,000 rebate will help you purchase safety items to improve work health and safety for you and your workers. [Learn more](#)

The Macleay Grant Hub is a free resource accessible to businesses, community groups, nonprofits, and individuals. It offers a comprehensive list of grant and funding opportunities. Receive email alerts for new grants, save your favourites and access tips to aid in your grant applications.

[Sign up to access these opportunities](#)

Sign me up for these updates and more

If you have any questions, please contact the Economic Development and Tourism Team on [02 6566 3200](tel:0265663200) or agriculture@kempsey.nsw.gov.au.

Economic Development and Tourism Contacts

Annabelle Sneddon

Economic Development Officer

annabelle.sneddon@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

[02 6566 3200](tel:0265663200)



Amelia (Millie) Coy

Tourism Development Officer

amelia.coy@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

[02 6566 3200](tel:0265663200)



Ashley Gray

A/Manager Economic Development and Tourism

ashley.gray@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

[02 6566 3200](tel:0265663200)



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