

Cross Property Planning project Mid-project survey results, December 2015

Natural assets

Almost half of all land holders surveyed chose their soils as the natural asset they value the most on their property (Figure 1). 28% value vegetation the most (either the diversity of plant life, or scattered trees), while only 4% value the diversity of animal life the most. 15% value creeks or waterways the most, 2% value their hills the most, and 6% couldn't pick just one asset as their favourite!

Almost all land holders surveyed (94%) said that it was important or very important to them to have areas of native habitat on their property. The majority (63%) rate the quality of native habitat on their property as good or very good.

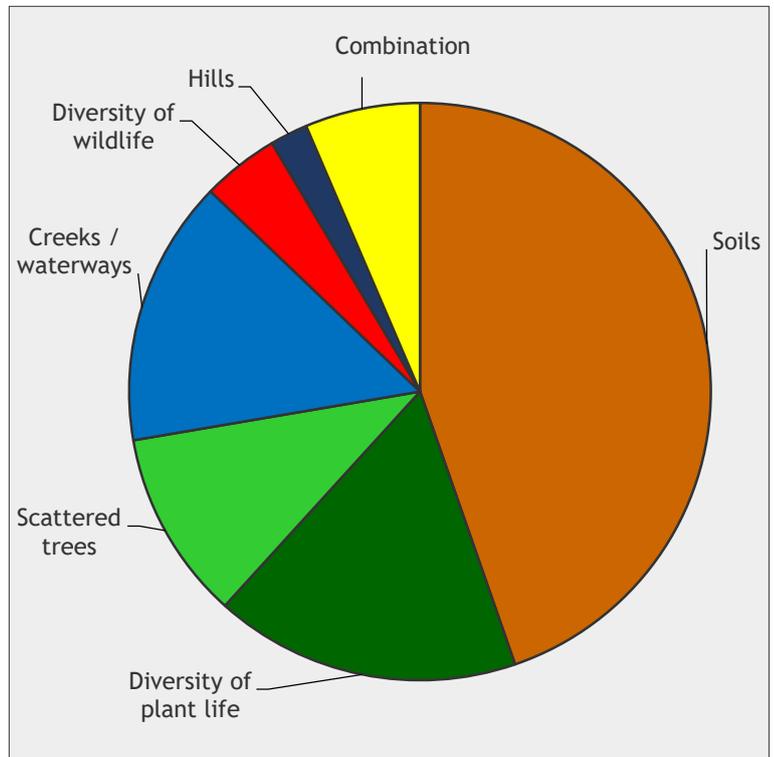
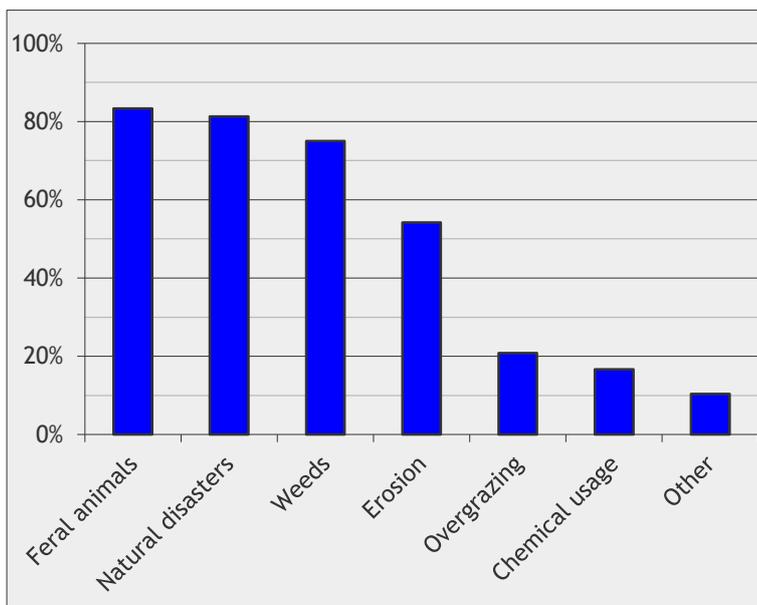


Figure 1: Which natural assets of your property do you value the most? (% of land holders)

Threats to biodiversity



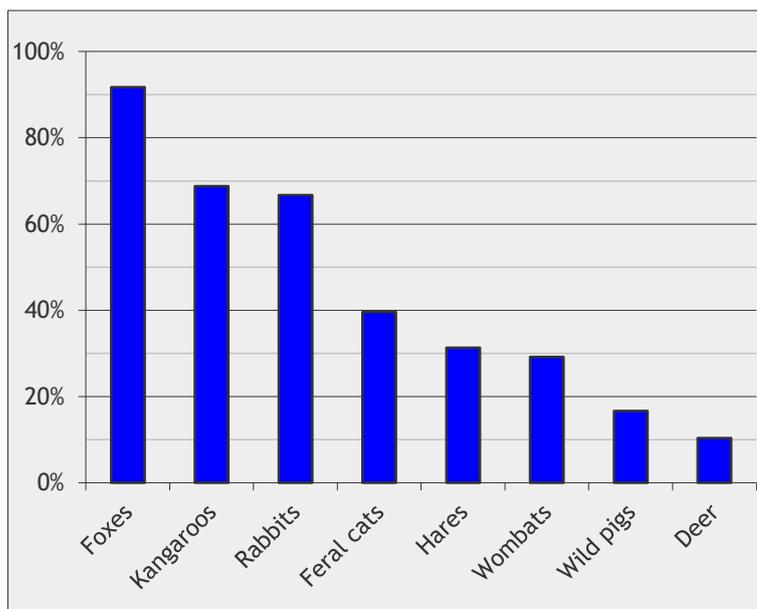
The main perceived threats to biodiversity on land holder's properties were feral animals (83% of land holders surveyed), natural disasters (81%) and weeds (75%). Erosion was also seen as a significant threat for more than half of the land holders surveyed (54%) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: What do you consider to be the threats to biodiversity on your property? (% of land holders)

Nearly all land holders surveyed (92%) see foxes as a threat to biodiversity on their property (Figure 3). Kangaroos and rabbits were also seen as major threats (69% and 67% of land holders, respectively).

83% of land holders rate the impact of the pest problem on biodiversity as significant or moderately significant, while 73% of land holders rate the impact of the weed problem on biodiversity as significant or moderately significant.

Figure 3: What are the main pest animals that threaten biodiversity on your property? (% of land holders)



Weed species varied in importance across the different regions (Figure 4). In the Illabo-Junee region, Barley grass was seen as a threat on almost all properties (96%). Capeweed and Bathurst burr were also significant threats (80% and 64% respectively).

In the Humula-Tarcutta region, blackberries and capeweed were seen as a threat by 90% of land holders. Barley grass was again seen as a significant threat, by 70% of land holders in this region.

In the Kyeamba region there was a greater diversity of problem weeds, however the main one's were St John's wort and blackberries (each 62% of land holders), followed by Paterson's curse and capeweed (each seen as a threat by 46% of land holders).

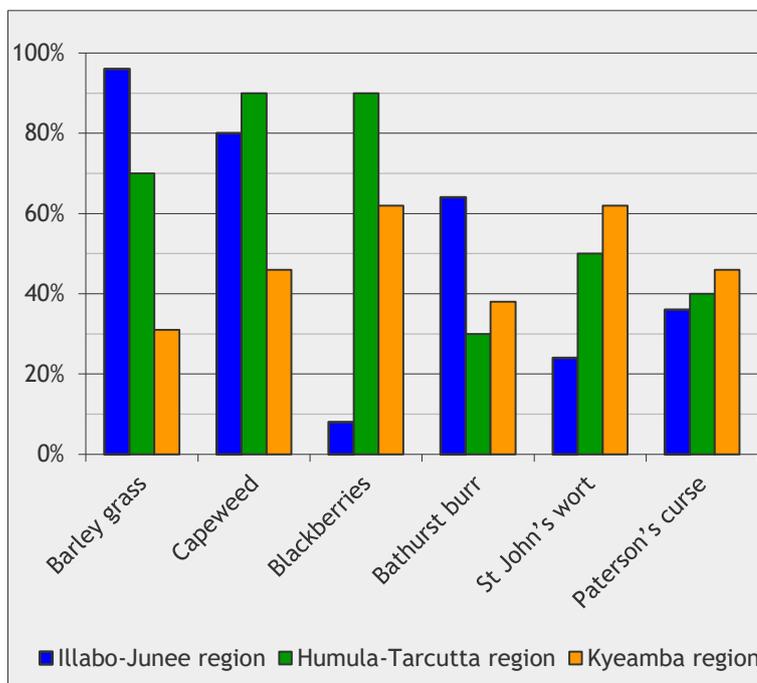


Figure 4: What are the main weed species that threaten biodiversity on your property? (% of land holders)

The Cross Property project

On-ground works completed (or planned to be completed in the next two years) by land holders involved in the Cross Property project include (Figure 5):

- Planting tree corridors or other native areas on their property (96% of land holders)
- Protecting existing areas of native vegetation or paddock trees on their property (81%)
- Participating in area-wide pest management programs, such as fox baiting (69%)
- Restricting stock access to dams or natural waterways on their property (61%)
- Undertaking more weed management on their property (54%)

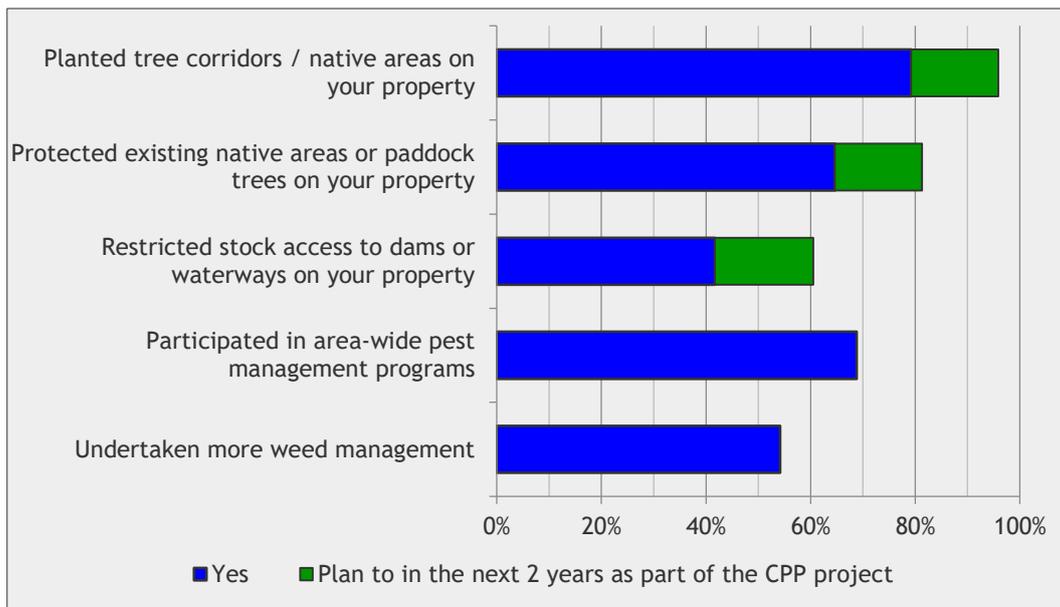


Figure 5: Have you done any of these activities as part of the Cross Property project? (% of land holders)

Land holders overwhelmingly supported the importance of having access to Project Officers to assist with planning and implementing their on-ground works (96% of land holders surveyed), and having funds provided to complete NRM work (94%) (Figure 6).

Over 90% of land holders believe that the project is helping to improve biodiversity and connectivity across the landscape. In terms of the social aspects of the project, 94% of land holders surveyed believe the project has assisted land holders to become engaged and interested in natural resource management. Most land holders also believe the project has held field days and workshops on interesting topics (88%), and has provided opportunities for social interaction with their neighbours (82%).

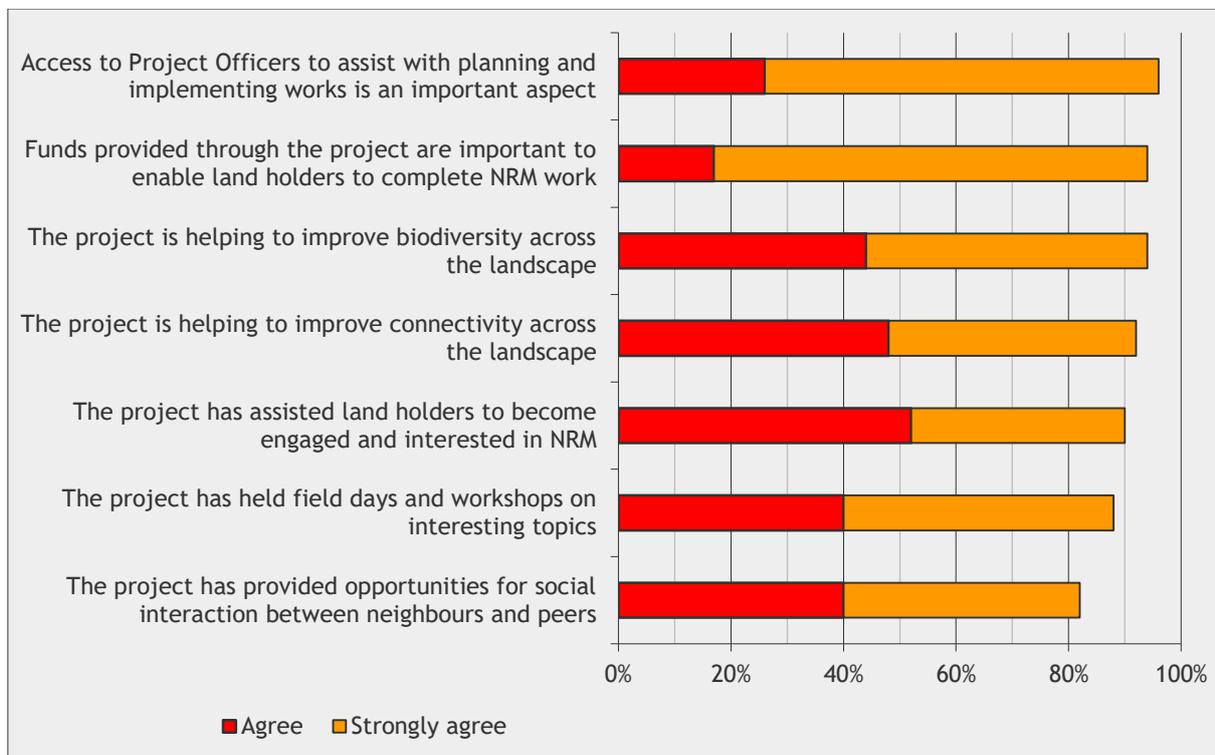


Figure 6: Do you agree with these statements about the Cross Property project? (% of land holders)

Land holders involved in the Cross Property project typically saw the main outcomes as being related to environmental benefits, followed by the social aspects and then the economic aspects. Of the ten most highly rated outcomes, 60% were environmental, 30% were social and only 10% were economic. The top three outcomes under each of these three categories are summarised below, while the main outcomes across the whole project are shown in Figure 7.

Environmental outcomes:

1. Increase in new plantings and wildlife corridors across the landscape
2. Improvement in biodiversity through increasing habitat
3. Improved connectivity of remnant vegetation across the landscape

Social outcomes:

1. Increased opportunities to network with neighbours and peers, through field days and workshops
2. Increased activities at the whole-of-landscape scale, such as plantings and area-wide fox baiting programs
3. Increased interest in the community for natural resource management

Economic outcomes:

1. Increased productivity, through increased shelter for livestock, pasture and crops
2. Increased land values and landscape amenity
3. Improved grazing management, due to sub-division of paddocks

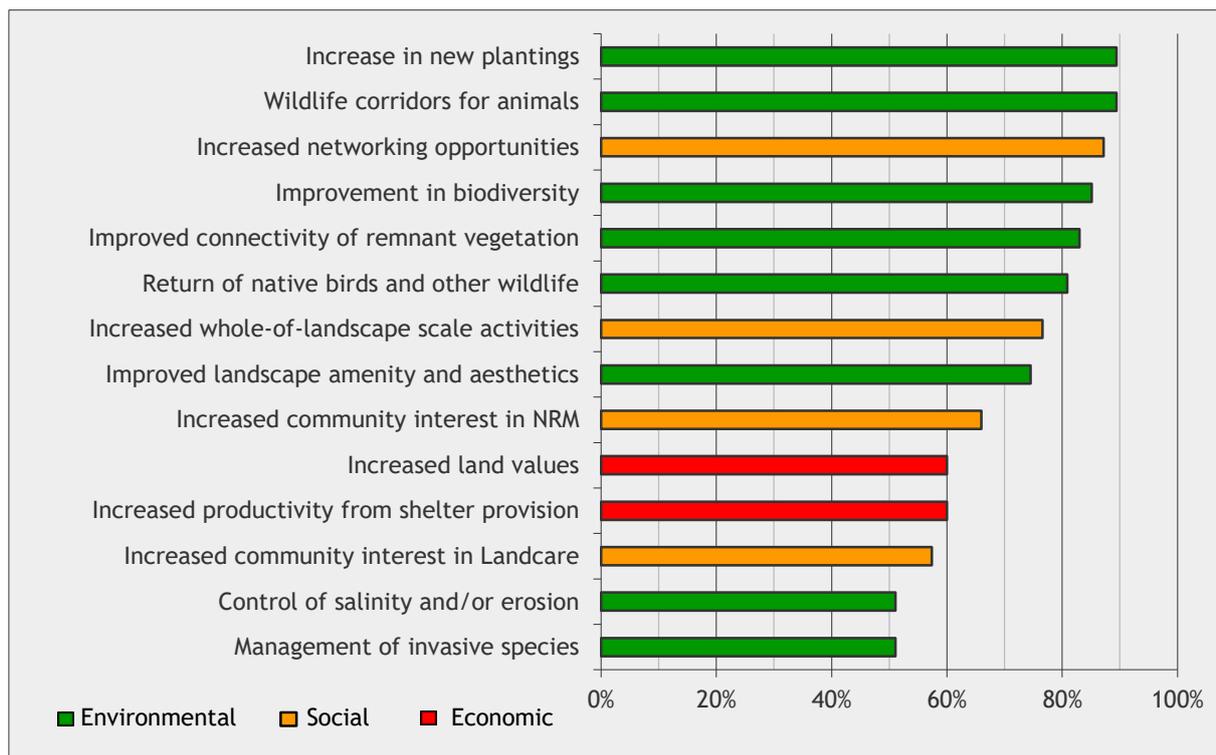


Figure 7: What do you believe are the main outcomes of the Cross Property project to date? (% of land holders)