



RIVERINE PLAINS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025

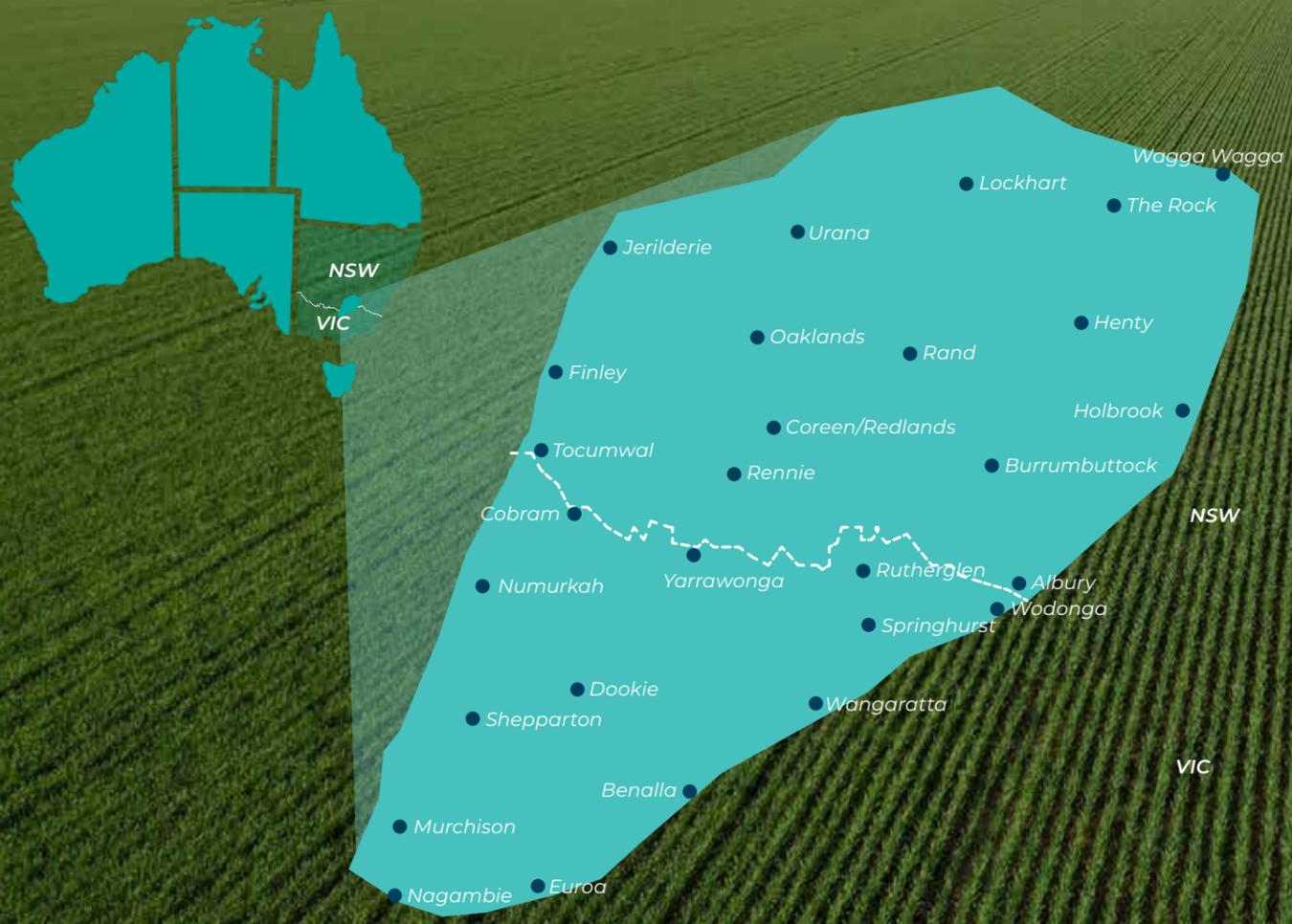
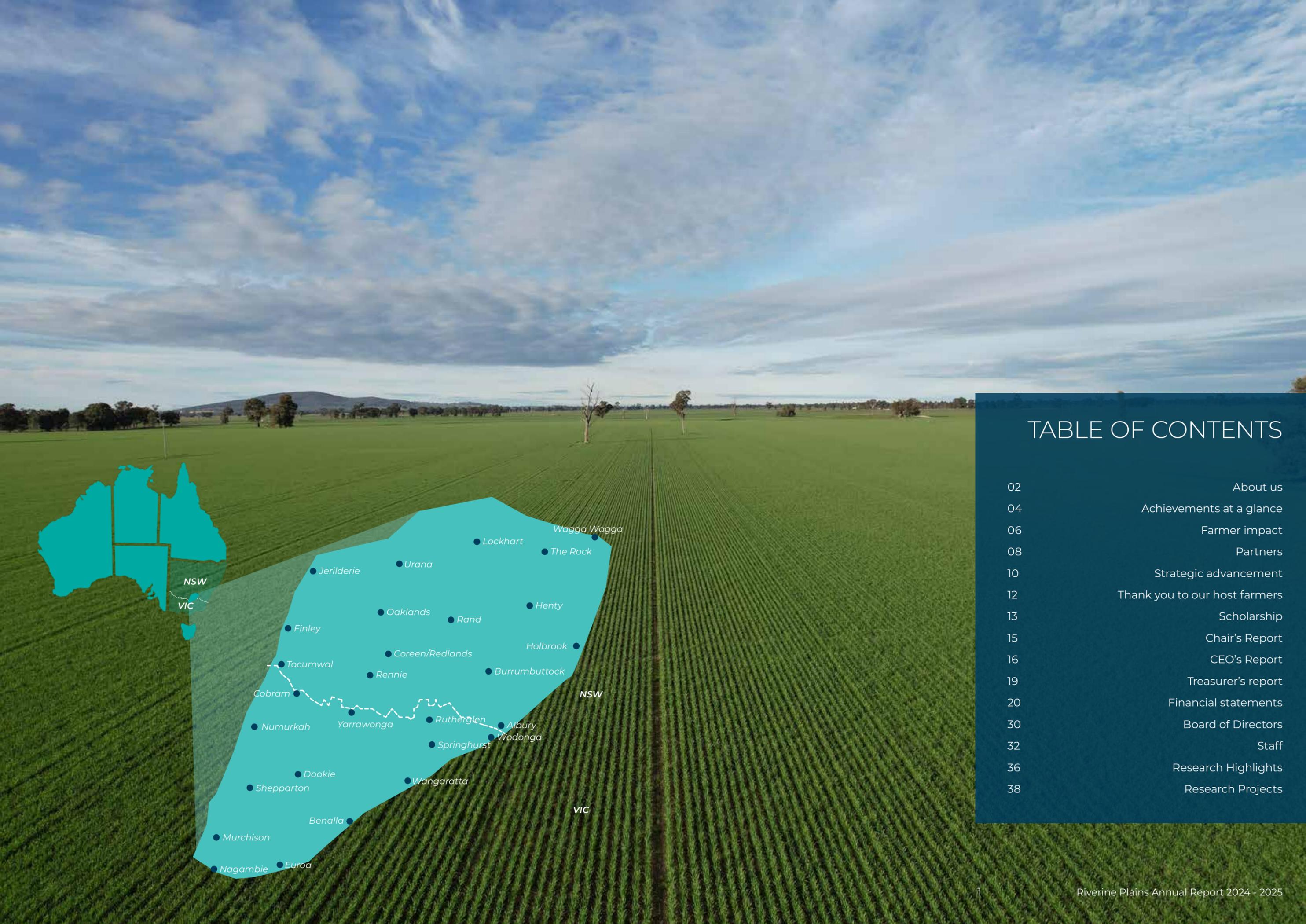


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ABOUT RIVERINE PLAINS

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND BUILDING KNOWLEDGE

VISION

OUR VISION IS TO BE A TRUSTED PARTNER IN FARMING EXCELLENCE FOR THE RIVERINE PLAINS

PURPOSE

WE AIM TO GROW OUR MEMBERS' PROSPERITY BY BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THROUGH RESEARCH PROJECTS, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION.

Established in 1999, Riverine Plains Inc. is an independent, for purpose, Incorporated Association dedicated to improving the prosperity of our members, associates and partners.

During the 2024-2025 financial year, Riverine Plains had nearly 500 members, worked with over 100 research and extension partners and aligned with numerous organisational and program partners to deliver valuable project activities and feature events. Our projects and events have a focus on local issues and support the delivery of practical, timely and relevant content to our members.

Our motto is 'farmers inspiring farmers' and our research and extension activities, events and publications are all designed to improve the prosperity of our members, associates and partners.

Our overall aim is to help farmers run their most efficient systems, access learning opportunities and share ideas.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

PEOPLE

Ensure farming and agricultural businesses can attract and retain a skilled workforce for the Riverine Plains.

Supporting strong and connected agricultural communities across the Riverine Plains catchment and surrounding areas.

BUSINESS

Supporting farmers to manage their farm business efficiently, professionally, and sustainably.

Supporting the awareness farm risk and risk mitigation strategies.

Supporting access to current and future local and global markets.

PRODUCTIVITY

Lowering production risk.

Optimising profitability and production.

Increasing system sustainability and resilience.

By listening to farmers' challenges, identifying technology gaps and creating opportunities for farmers to share their insights with other farmers, Riverine Plains is delivering information relevant to our local farming systems.

To date, we have successfully delivered over \$15.3 million in research, extension and validation projects across our region. Our projects have addressed a range of issues related to our program areas of soils, livestock, climate, grain production, fodder, people, drought, business and sustainability. Summary included in Table 1.

Program area	Project topic
Soils	Soil health & resilience, carbon farming, building & quantifying soil carbon, diagnosing and managing soil constraints, characteristics of local soils, assessing water storage, rewarding soil stewardship, liming and lime incorporation, improving water-use efficiency, tools for identifying & managing soil constraints, sub-surface acidity, testing to reduce environmental losses of nitrogen, humus formation.
Livestock	Emissions reduction, stock containment areas, decision making and monitoring tools, electronic identification (eID) technology, grain and graze.
Climate	Climate resilience through weather stations, seasonal soil moisture & nitrogen, soil moisture & nutrient movement, weather stations on farms, soil moisture probes.
Grains	On-farm experimentation, canola establishment through bioelectric technology, legumes for nitrogen supply, slugs, ryegrass management, Fusarium crown rot, de-risking early crops, irrigation discussion groups, summer cover cropping & companion cropping, optimising soils and available water, N-banking, nitrogen decisions, organic fertiliser sources, hyper-yielding crops, hyper-profitable crops, increasing crop diversity, nitrogen fixation in pulses, challenges and opportunities for pulses (Pulse Check), canola nutrition, stubble management, harvest weed seed control, zonal management, broadleaf species, winter cropping systems.
Fodder	Drought resilient pasture systems, fodder production for the dairy industry.
Drought	Drought-resilient farming practices, on-farm water management, preparing communities for drought, farm dams & water capture, strategies to improve drought resilience, silicon ferti-liser for drought resilience.
Business	On-farm decision making, business development & people management.
People	Understanding barriers to technology uptake, enhancing community networks, training & networking (Youth in Ag, Innovation Expo, Ladies Lunch, In-season Update).
Sustainability	Fertiliser technologies to reduce losses, agritech uptake, optical spray technology, emissions monitoring & system efficiency, reducing nitrous oxide emissions, matching land use to capability.

Riverine Plains staff have extensive experience in agriculture, research, field work, communications, business and industry. Along with formal tertiary, graduate and post graduate qualifications, the majority of the team also have extensive practical experience working on farms, providing know-how and capacity to deliver on the Riverine Plains purpose.

ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

MEMBERSHIP & REACH

2024 CALENDAR YEAR
472 MEMBERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AREAS REPRESENTED **16**

STAFF 16

FOCUS AREAS

 SOILS	 LIVESTOCK	 CLIMATE	 GRAINS	 FODDER
 DROUGHT	 BUSINESS	 PEOPLE	 SUSTAINABILITY	

PROJECTS

104 PROJECT DELIVERY PARTNERS	10 NEW PROJECTS	18 CURRENT PROJECTS	16 COMPLETED PROJECTS
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R, D & E DELIVERY & INNOVATION

TRIAL SITES 37	TRIAL TYPE 5	24	8
			
REPLICATED	DEMONSTRATION	MONITOR	

EVENTS

TOTAL EVENTS  29	SYKESY'S BURAJA MEETING 
846 ATTENDEES AT EVENTS 	LADIES LUNCHEON 
	YOUTH IN AG: CULTIVATE & CONNECT 
	IN SEASON UPDATE 

EVENTS JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025

- | | |
|---|---|
| Youth in Ag: Cultivate & Connect | Ri\$kwise workshop |
| Hyper profitable crops Discussion Group, Corowa | Sykesy's Buraja Meeting |
| Dry sowing, stubble and crown rot field walk, Murchison | Ladies Luncheon |
| Rural and Remote First Aid training, Rennie, Walbundrie, Dookie | Harvest wrap-ups, Oaklands, Rutherglen |
| Farm Water Management Workshop Savernake, Henty | Harvest wrap up & farm water planning day, Culcairn |
| Burrachine Field Day | Just the facts on carbon farming, Howlong, Wagga Wagga, Violet Town |
| In-season Update | Every drop counts: Farm water management field day |
| Harvester Set-up Workshop | Every drop counts: Farm webinar series 1 & 2 |
| Evan Moll Gerogery Field Day | Farm succession planning workshop, Talgarno |
| Building soil carbon in the Riverine Plains Webinar | Dry-season workshop, Howlong |
| Irrigation field walk and Hyper-profitable crops discussion | Hyper profitable crops: Farm business workshop |

FARMER IMPACT: WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Across field days, workshops, harvest wrap-ups and community events, our members and stakeholders have been clear. They value practical, regionally relevant information, honest conversations about risk, and opportunities to learn from each other.

Feedback throughout the year reinforced that Riverine Plains' role as a trusted connector between research, practice and people is more important than ever, particularly in seasons shaped by climate variability, cost pressures and rapid decision-making.

Growers want clarity, practicality and relevance. They want research that reflects real paddocks, extension that supports confident decision-making, and forums that recognise both the technical and human sides of farming. This feedback continues to shape how Riverine Plains designs projects, prioritises topics and delivers value back to its members and communities.

Insights from FRRR, FDF and GRDC-supported Young Farmer Survey reinforced these themes, while highlighting the specific pressures facing the next generation. Young farmers consistently identified cash flow, access to capital, cost of land, succession planning and time pressure as the biggest barriers to building successful businesses. There was strong demand for skills development in budgeting, business planning, understanding profit drivers and succession, alongside a clear preference for in-person workshops and peer connection. Encouragingly, many respondents expressed optimism about their future in agriculture, particularly where strong networks, mentoring and practical business support are available.

KEY THEMES FROM GROWERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Soils remain front and centre

- Strong and ongoing interest in soil acidity, particularly subsoil acidity and lime incorporation.
- Many growers acknowledged they underestimated the impact of acidity below the surface.
- Variable rate liming was consistently described as a "low-hanging fruit".
- Clear appetite for long-term data on lime profitability and incorporation methods.

Moisture management matters

- Stored soil moisture and summer groundcover were repeatedly linked to yield resilience.
- Heavy soils and retained stubble consistently performed better in dry and frosty conditions.
- Growers noted stark yield penalties where paddocks were bare over summer.

Nitrogen decisions are under pressure

- Rising nitrogen costs remain a major concern heading into 2025.
- Strong message - don't assume what's in the soil. Deep soil nitrogen (DSN) testing is critical.
- Interest in understanding where nitrogen sits in the profile and timing applications accordingly.

Crop choice and variety selection

- Barley stood out across regions for yield and economics in a challenging season.
- Growers value side-by-side, local comparisons over headline trial results.
- Strong interest in understanding varietal disease packages, frost recovery and maturity ratings.
- Frustration noted around seed availability, particularly in canola.

Pests, weeds and disease remain persistent

- Slugs, ryegrass and disease pressure continue despite dry seasons.
- Interest in targeted slug management (mapping, variable baiting, non-chemical strategies).
- Recognition that dry years can expose issues hidden by wet seasons.

Decision-making under uncertainty

- Growers emphasised the importance of not chasing fads, backing systems and long-term averages.
- Frost damage reinforced the value of patience, objective assessment and using data to guide decisions.
- Cash flow planning and budgeting were highlighted as essential tools, especially where seasonal outcomes varied widely.

Value of connection and community

- Strong appreciation for events that combine research results, practical discussion and peer learning.
- Women-focused events highlighted the importance of community, advocacy, succession planning and mental health.
- Attendees consistently valued opportunities to reconnect, share experiences and learn from others facing similar challenges.

STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENT

Collaboration continues to be at the centre of how Riverine Plains delivers impact for our region. In 2024/25, we worked alongside more than 100 partner organisations, including farming systems groups and Landcare networks, two Drought Resilience Adoption & Innovation Hubs, multiple RDCs, universities, local and state government agencies, and a growing number of agritech and consulting partners. This collective capability allows us to deliver projects that are practical, regionally relevant and scalable across diverse farming systems.

A major highlight for the year was the Hyper profitable crops (HPC) project, which is bringing growers, advisers and farming systems groups together to benchmark agronomic and financial performance. The cross-regional approach enables shared learnings across soil types, climates and management systems, strengthening productivity outcomes for participating growers.

Our participation in RiskWi\$e, a national initiative exploring how growers make decisions under uncertainty, has further connected Riverine Plains with researchers, behavioural specialists and advisors. This work is improving our understanding of how information, experience and risk tolerances shape on-farm decision-making.

A key addition to our collaborative portfolio is the On-Farm Experimentation (OFE) project, which strengthens our role in farmer-led innovation. The OFE initiative supports growers to test management options within their own paddocks using comparable protocols, data standards and extension pathways. Working alongside multiple farming systems groups, advisers and researchers, this project is building capability in on-farm trials and accelerating local adoption of proven practices.

This year also marked the commencement of Climate-Smart Flock Management, a new collaborative project designed to test climate-resilient livestock strategies and technologies across multiple sites and partner organisations. The network will provide farmers with practical, regionally relevant insights as demonstrations progress over the coming years.

Alongside these major programs, Riverine Plains also contributed to Future Drought Fund Communities initiatives, regional weather

monitoring expansion, and behavioural research under the "Thinking Slow" project. Each of these is strengthened by partnerships across NSW and Victoria.

Collectively, these flagship projects highlight the depth of Riverine Plains' partnerships and our commitment to working closely with growers and industry to deliver meaningful, practical and widely shared outcomes.

AG INNOVATION COLLECTIVE

The Ag Innovation Collective is a collaboration between farmer-led research and extension organisations that significantly extends Riverine Plains' reach, capability and impact. Through the Collective, we are connected to millions of hectares of mixed farming, grazing and irrigated systems across NSW and Victoria, spanning low, medium and high rainfall environments and a broad range of soil types and enterprises.

Participating organisations include Riverine Plains, Central West Farming Systems, Southern Growers, AMPS Research, Holbrook Landcare Network, FarmLink, Monaro Farming Systems, Tablelands Farming Systems, the Irrigation Farmers Network and the Irrigation Research & Extension Committee.

The Collective brings together a deep and complementary skillset: applied agronomy, soils, pastures and livestock, irrigation and water management, digital agriculture, statistics and data analysis, project management, behavioural and social research, communications and event delivery. This allows projects to be co-designed, trialled and tested in real farming systems, with robust trial design, data integrity and strong extension pathways built in from the outset.

For Riverine Plains, the Ag Innovation Collective provides a practical mechanism to share protocols, align trials, access specialist expertise and rapidly move insights between regions. It also strengthens succession and workforce capability across groups, by creating opportunities for staff at different career stages to work together. Ultimately, the Collective helps ensure that innovation remains farmer-led, regionally relevant and scalable, delivering benefits well beyond any single organisation's footprint



RIVERINE PLAINS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



MARCUS ATTARD

Growing up in both Western Sydney and the Southern Tablelands, Marcus had the opportunity to experience both life in the country and the inner city, with weekends spent working on the family farm giving him an appreciation of the work farmers put into producing food and textiles,

These experiences led Marcus to pursue a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science at the University of Sydney, majoring in Resource Economics. Marcus hopes that by understanding the future for Australian agricultural production, he can help farmers stay at the forefront of global markets and reap the rewards of being some of the highest quality producers anywhere in the world.

Marcus said he was extremely grateful to Riverine Plains and AgriFutures Australia for the opportunity to participate in the Horizon scholars program and was looking forward to taking the next step in his career, while continuing to learn about the markets and supply chains that play a crucial role in Australian agriculture.

THANK YOU TO OUR HOST FARMERS

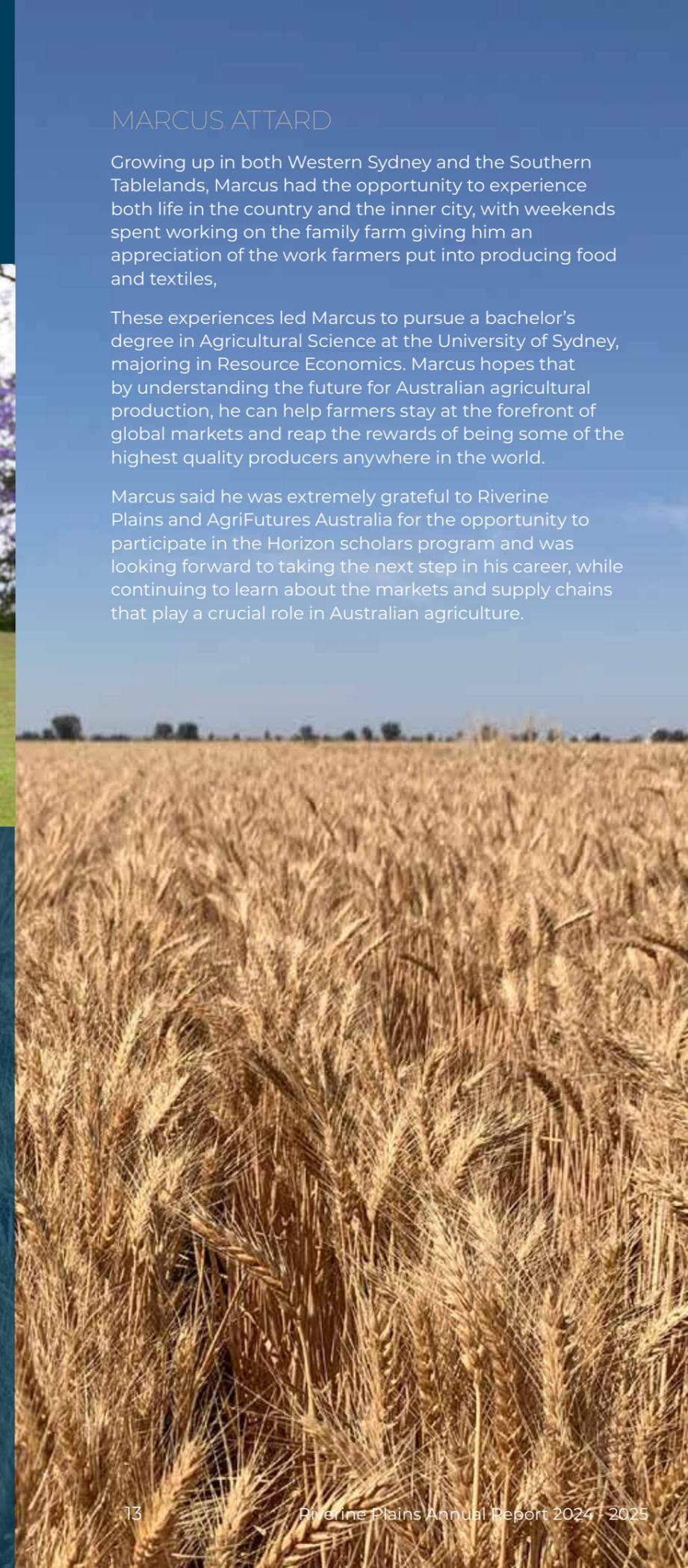
Thank you to the members who very generously donated their time, paddocks and experience to enable Riverine Plains to undertake research, extension and validation locally. Your contribution to our region is very much appreciated.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Adam Feuerherdt and the Bird family | Beau and Rebecca Longmire |
| The Brown family | The Moll family |
| John and Sarah Bruce | James and Andrew Nixon |
| Joe & Andrew Corrigin | Don Piper |
| The Coulthard family | Kate and Neville Reilly |
| Gus and Sue Campbell | Andrew and Sue Russell |
| Jane and Barry Clarke | The Sandral family |
| Nico and Allison Courtney | Damien and Carissa Schneider |
| Anna Dye | Murk Schoen |
| Ben Goldsworthy | Zac Smith |
| Roy, Leanne and Michael Hamilton | The Spence family |
| Simon Lavis | Bronwyn Thomas |
| Nathan and Kara Lawless | Peter Tressider |
| The Marshall family | Tim and Lara Trevethan |
| Luke Matthews | Uncle Tobys (Nestle`) |
| Lee Menhennett | The Webster family |
| Pat Molloy | Rhys Wolfenden |
| Lawson Grains | Ian and Kaye Wood |

In 2024, Riverine Plains began a review of its scholarship program to ensure students were receiving not only financial support, but critical support entering careers in agriculture. As a result, Riverine Plains is partnering with the well-established and highly regarded AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship, to deliver a door-opening, relevant and rewarding scholarship experience for students from the Riverine Plains or looking to work in aligned areas to the Riverine Plains.

Riverine Plains is proud to sponsor Marcus Attard, who's studying a BAgSc (Resource Economics) at the University of Sydney, through the AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship Program.

Marcus is receiving a \$10,000 bursary over two years, professional development opportunities, and an industry placement with Riverine Plains, tailored to his career aspirations.



CHAIR'S REPORT

It is an honour to present the 2025 Annual Chair's Report on behalf of the Board of Riverine Plains Inc.

The past year has been both productive and significant for Riverine Plains, as we remained steadfast in our mission to build prosperity for our members through the enhancement of knowledge and skills. Our strategic pillars of People, Productivity, and Business have continued to provide a clear framework for all initiatives, ensuring that members remain central to the design and delivery of our programs.

During the reporting period, Riverine Plains achieved several key milestones in research, extension, and events, reinforcing our role as a trusted source of knowledge and innovation in the agricultural sector. Membership growth further highlights the value our organisation continues to deliver.

Our achievements would not be possible without the valuable contributions of our partners. I would like to extend our appreciation to Alvan Blanch Australia, our Premier Partner, alongside all partners who invest in the prosperity of our members and the wider agricultural community. Their ongoing support underpins much of the impact we are able to generate.

At last year's Annual General Meeting we welcomed Steve Thomas as an independent director. His extensive knowledge and broad industry experience have already proven to

be invaluable additions to our governance capability. I also acknowledge and thank my fellow Board members—Brondwyn MacLean and Steve Thomas (Independent Directors), Ryan Berndt, Anna Toland, Luke Matthews (Company Secretary), Melissa Brown (Deputy Chair), and Murray Scholz (Treasurer)—for their dedication, sound counsel, and commitment to the stewardship of this organisation.

Riverine Plains remains in a strong financial and organisational position, supported by a strategy that is both forward-looking and member-focused. Investment in technical expertise, staff capability, and leadership development has strengthened our organisational resilience and ensured continuity in the delivery of quality outcomes. Enhancements in governance practices, risk management frameworks, and project oversight have further embedded a culture of transparency and continuous improvement.

Finally, I wish to formally acknowledge the exceptional contribution of our Chief Executive Officer, Pip Grant, and the Riverine Plains team. Their dedication and professionalism continue to elevate the reputation of our organisation and our region, positioning Riverine Plains as a partner of choice within the agricultural industry. Their work in attracting research, innovation, and opportunities underpins lasting value for members, partners, and the broader community.

Fiona Marshall
Chair, Riverine Plains

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

This year has been one of growth, learning, and possibility for Riverine Plains.

Across our region, farmers, partners, and our dedicated team have come together to deliver meaningful research, share knowledge, and build capability to support farmer businesses across the Riverine Plains.

Guided by the commitment of our members, partners, staff and Board, we have continued to strengthen Riverine Plains' 26-year legacy as a trusted partner in farming excellence, while positioning the organisation to embrace the opportunities and address the challenges of farming, now and into the future.

DELIVERING VALUE FOR FARMERS

At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to delivering value for farmers.

This year alone, Riverine Plains hosted 29 events attracting over 840 farmer participants, launched 10 new projects, and delivered 16 completed research and extension initiatives across increased productivity, soils, climate resilience, agritech adoption, and farm business management.

Through hundreds of conversations, surveys, and on-ground projects, we have continued to identify and respond to the key risks and opportunities shaping the future of farming in our region.

A RISING TIDE FLOATS ALL BOATS

We recognise that Riverine Plains is one of many organisations working to create positive impact for farmers.

Strategic planning with the Ag Innovation Collective, which comprises the 10 NSW based farming systems groups and collaboration with national farmer-led organisations, have resulted in greater alignment of research priorities and new, co-invested opportunities

Securing RD&E funding remains challenging across the sector, particularly for farmer-led priorities. Over the past 18 months, we have worked to address this by building programs, partnerships, and infrastructure that align funding more closely with needs identified by farmers, ensuring our efforts deliver tangible, long-term benefits on the ground.

By continuing to work with these other aligned organisations, we all hope to be able to advocate for farmer priorities and attract the investment to address these in real farming conditions, businesses, and communities.

Ongoing support from our funding partners has been instrumental in strengthening our organisational capability, attracting and retaining skilled staff, and delivering projects that create lasting impact. Key funders in 2024–25 included:

- Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (DAFF) – including through their Climate-Smart, Future Drought Fund (FDF), and Victorian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub investments
- Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC)
- Department of Climate Change, the Environment, and Water (DCCEW)
- Soil CRC

Together, these investments contributed over \$3 million to applied research, extension, and farmer and community engagement across the Riverine Plains.

PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER

Behind every achievement is a dedicated and high-performing team.

Riverine Plains now employs 16 skilled staff across research, extension, communications, and operations. Their expertise, combined with the collaboration of more than 100 project delivery partners and numerous host farmers, enables us to drive agricultural innovation across 15 local government areas.

We are grateful for the continued support of our Premier Partner, Alvan Blanch Australia, along with our many organisational, program, and commercial partners. These relationships not only enhance the quality of our research and extension work but also expand its impact across our farming communities.

This year, we were proud to participate in the AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship Program, increasing mentoring and practical experience opportunities for recipients of the Riverine Plains Scholarship Fund. We were delighted to welcome Marcus Attard as our Riverine Plains Scholar, and to strengthen our connection with this inspiring network of future agricultural leaders.

LOOKING AHEAD

Riverine Plains is stepping into its next phase with renewed ambition and focus.

Our strategic priorities for the coming year include:

- Scaling on-farm innovation through programs like SCOUT, helping farmers evaluate and adopt new technologies with confidence.
- Driving climate resilience through long-term research in soil health, water management, and emissions reduction.
- Expanding access to professional development and training via workshops and peer-to-peer learning in areas such as business performance, digital tools, and farm management.
- Attracting new forms of investment to support more agile and responsive innovation cycles based on farmer consultation and need.

Agriculture faces rising complexity, from climate and market volatility to evolving regulatory frameworks. Yet, within this complexity lies immense opportunity. Riverine Plains' role is to ensure our members maintain a competitive advantage through access to leading research, technology, and professional development - driving productivity, sustainability, and profitability.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I extend my sincere thanks to our Board, led by Chair Fiona Marshall, for their trust and strategic leadership; our staff for their professionalism and passion; to our partners, for their support, collaboration and investment; and above all, our members, whose willingness to share insights, support research, and engage with our work continues to strengthen our collective impact.

Together, we are shaping a future where Riverine Plains farmers continue to lead Australia in innovation adoption, resilience, and farming excellence.

Pip Grant
Chief Executive Officer
Riverine Plains Inc.



TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2024-25 financial year has been one of continued growth for Riverine Plains. Income grew by 10 percent to \$3.29 million, and we recorded a net profit of \$268,489. Our revenue this year has pushed us into the 'large charity' classification by the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission.

As we've matured into a larger not for profit organisation, we've invested in internal systems, finance and governance resources to provide the organisational governance practices that our members and investors expect.

We're strongly focused on diversifying our income stream for ongoing financial sustainability. Our SCOUT and philanthropic strategies, along with procurement tenders and increasing trial work with commercial partners is proving successful thanks to the sustained efforts of our CEO, New Initiatives Manager and senior staff.

We have continued to prioritise attracting and retaining skilled and passionate staff to deliver our vision of being a trusted partner in farming excellence for the Riverine Plains. Staffing costs remain our largest expense, followed by expert service providers, including other Farming Systems Groups.

We are in a privileged position of having a relationship of trust with our members, who contribute their time, knowledge and farming assets to enable us to deliver research and extension outcomes to support profitable decision making. I thank each member for trusting us as we work in partnership towards farming excellence by sharing new knowledge and skills through research projects, education and communication.

I see the 2025-26 financial year as a year of consolidation and reorientation away from predominantly publicly funded projects and look forward to new partnerships and opportunities that will benefit our members and communities.

Murray Scholz
Treasurer, Riverine Plains

Board's Report

Riverine Plains Inc
For the year ended 30 June 2025

Board's Report

Your board members submit the financial report of Riverine Plains Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

Board Members

The names of the Board members as elected at the 2024 AGM and at the date of this report are as follows:

Board Member	Position	Date Started	Experience
Fiona Marshall	Chairperson	25/02/2021	Farm Management
Melissa Brown	Vice Chairperson	25/02/2021	Farm Management
Murray Scholz	Treasurer	25/02/2021	Farm Management
Luke Matthews	Secretary	27/10/2023	Farm Management
Ryan Berndt	Board Member	05/10/2022	Farm Management
Brondwen MacLean	Independent Board Director	06/10/2021	Research & Governance
Anna Toland	Board Member	27/10/2023	Farm Management
Stephen Thomas	Board Member	09/10/2024	R&D, Strategy and Policy Development

Meetings of Board Members

During the financial year, a number of board meetings were held. Attendances by each of committee member during the year were as follows:

Committee Members Name	Number Eligible to Attend	Number Attended
Fiona Marshall	6	6
Melissa Brown	6	5
Murray Scholz	6	5
Luke Matthews	6	5
Ryan Berndt	6	5
Brondwen MacLean	6	6
Anna Toland	6	5
Stephen Thomas	4	4

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association are:

- to deliver, lead and/or conduct quality and relevant agricultural research initiatives and projects.
- to advance, promote and protect the interests of members, primary producers and agribusiness in the Riverine Plains region.

Significant Changes

There has been no significant change to the principle activities of the association during the financial year.

Comparatives

During the 2025 financial year, it was identified that depreciation expense amounting to \$4,390 relating to the 2022 financial year had not been recorded. This omission has been corrected by restating the comparative figures for the year ended 30 June 2024.

As a result of this correction, the following adjustments were made to the comparative figures in the financial statements:

- Accumulated Depreciation as at 30 June 2024 has increased by \$4,389.
- Retained Earnings as at 1 July 2024 has decreased by \$4,389.

This adjustment has no impact on the current year's surplus/(deficit), cash flows, or net assets as at 30 June 2025.

Operating Result

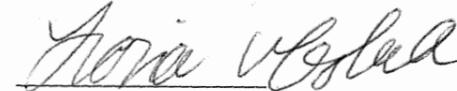
The surplus for the financial year ended 30th June 2025 was \$268,489.

The deficit for the financial year ended 30th June 2024 was \$150,500

Going Concern

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The ability of the association to continue to operate as a going concern is dependent upon the ability of the association to generate sufficient cashflows from operations to meet its liabilities. The members of the association believe that the going concern assumption is appropriate.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board on:



Fiona Marshall (Chairperson)

Date 01/10/2025



Murray Scholz (Treasurer)

Date 01/10/2025

Income and Expenditure Statement

Riverine Plains Inc
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	NOTES	2025	2024
Income			
Revenue	2	3,290,985	2,994,059
Total Income		3,290,985	2,994,059
Gross Surplus			
		3,290,985	2,994,059
Expenditure			
Accounting & Legal		25,680	30,995
Depreciation		33,212	219,825
Employee Expenses		1,564,478	1,419,529
Operating Expenses		1,399,126	1,474,210
Total Expenditure		3,022,496	3,144,559
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit)		268,489	(150,500)

Assets and Liabilities Statement

Riverine Plains Inc
As at 30 June 2025

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	932,597	2,060,320
Trade and Other Receivables	4	574,813	310,869
Total Current Assets		1,507,411	2,371,189
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment	5	46,007	75,172
Other Non-Current Assets		131,026	131,026
Total Non-Current Assets		177,033	206,198
Total Assets		1,684,443	2,577,386
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	6	104,039	265,273
Funds Received in Advance	8	85,865	1,079,118
Employee Entitlements	7	94,455	101,399
Total Current Liabilities		284,359	1,445,790
Total Liabilities		284,359	1,445,790
Net Assets		1,400,085	1,131,596
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve		1,400,085	1,131,596
Total Member's Funds		1,400,085	1,131,596

Notes to the Financial Statements

Riverine Plains Inc
For the year ended 30 June 2025

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised in accordance with AASB 10158 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* or AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* depending on the nature of the arrangement.

- Unrestricted grants and donations, where there are no enforceable agreements or specific performance obligations, are recognised as revenue when the funds are received, as control is obtained at that point.
- Where a grant is subject to enforceable agreements and includes sufficiently specific performance obligations, the income is recognised progressively as the obligations are satisfied, in accordance with AASB 15. Until the performance obligations are met, the funds received are recorded as a liability (Funds in Advance) in the statement of financial position.
- Grant income is only deferred when there are conditions that are enforceable, sufficiently specific, and the funding is callable if obligations are not fulfilled.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Div50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Riverine Plains Inc. is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and is endorsed as being income tax exempt.

Financial Assets

Investments in financial assets are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value, which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.

The only financial assets held by the association are cash and cash equivalents and trade debtors.

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

	2025	2024
2. Revenue		
Interest Income	30,474	23,555
Membership Income	36,938	37,224
Project Income	2,790,077	2,690,958
Other Income	433,496	242,322
Total Revenue	3,290,985	2,994,059
	2025	2024
3. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank		
ANZ AU CC 456480XXXXX8906	(20,990)	(16,417)
ANZ AU 013945 433666801	7,980	7,901
Stripe AUD	162	147
ANZ Riverine Plains Inc Everyday	345,648	1,469,528
John Hanrahan Scholarship Fund	32,409	34,909
ANZ RP Scholarship Fund 013945 433667054	31,699	41,356
Total Cash at Bank	396,908	1,537,425
Term Deposits	535,689	522,895
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	932,597	2,060,320
	2025	2024
4. Trade and Other Receivables		
Trade Receivables		
Accrued Interest	17,259	-
Accounts Receivable New	557,554	310,869
Total Trade Receivables	574,813	310,869
Total Trade and Other Receivables	574,813	310,869

Movements in Equity

Riverine Plains Inc

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Equity		
Opening Balance	1,131,596	1,282,096
Surplus	268,489	(150,500)
Total Equity	1,400,085	1,131,596

Statement of Cash Flows

Riverine Plains Inc

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Operating Activities		
Cash receipts from Operating activities	2,019,847	3,174,613
Interest Received	30,474	23,555
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(3,156,738)	(2,988,208)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(1,106,416)	209,961
Investing Activities		
Payment for Property, Plant and Equipment	(4,047)	(201,476)
Other Cash Items From Investing Activities		
Leasehold Improvements	-	(131,026)
Accrued Interest	(17,259)	-
Total Other Cash Items From Investing Activities	(17,259)	(131,026)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(21,307)	(332,502)
Net Cash Flows	(1,127,723)	(122,540)
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	2,060,320	2,182,860
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	932,597	2,060,320
Net change in cash for period	(1,127,723)	(122,540)

Responsible Persons Declaration

Riverine Plains Inc

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Financial declaration for Responsible Person

per section 60.15 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022

The Responsible People declare that in the Responsible People's opinion:

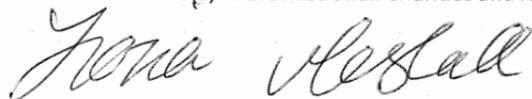
(a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and

(b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

Fiona Marshall

Dated: 01/10/2025



Murray Scholz

Dated: 01/10/2025



Certificate By Members of the Board

Riverine Plains Inc

For the year ended 30 June 2025

I, Fiona Marshall of MULWALA, NSW, 2647 certify that:

1. I attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 01/10/2025
2. The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 were submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Dated: 01/10/2025



Fiona Marshall
Chair Person



40-44 High Street, Cobram VIC 3644
PO Box 101, Cobram VIC 3644
(03) 5872 1955

130 Murray Street, Finley NSW 2713
PO Box 105, Finley NSW 2713
(03) 5883 2366

481 Townsend Street, Albury NSW 2640
PO Box 105, Albury NSW 2640
(02) 6021 0335

60 Skene Street, Shepparton VIC 3632
PO Box 753, Shepparton VIC 3632
(03) 5822 1348

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Riverine Plains Inc
For the year ended 30th June 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Riverine Plains Inc (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30th June 2025, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and managements' assertion statement/ Committees' assertion statement.

In our opinion, the financial report of Riverine Plains Inc has been prepared in accordance with *Div 60 (Reporting) of Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 / Part 5 of Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the financial position of Riverine Plains Inc as at 30th June 2025, and (of) its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note X and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.
- Riverine Plains Inc has kept sufficient financial records to enable a financial report to be prepared and audited and has provided us with all information, explanation and assistance necessary for the conduct of the audit; and
- Riverine Plains Inc has kept other records as required by Part 3-2 (Record keeping and reporting) of the ACNC Act.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter – basis of accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Riverine Plains Inc to meet the requirements of the applicable legislation. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the applicable legislation and the needs of the members. The Management's responsibility also

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includes such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entity's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the responsible entities regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Mogg
Director
Moggs Audit + Assurance

Date: 1 October 2025



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Riverine Plains is overseen by a voluntary board of six Member Directors and two Independent Directors.

MEMBER DIRECTORS



FIONA MARSHALL (Chair, appointed October 2022)

Fiona farms with her husband Craig in the Rennie area, north of Mulwala. They are broadacre, dryland grain growers, and operate a prime lamb enterprise.

Fiona has a background in applied science and education and is striving to improve the profile and profitability of Australian agriculture, with a particular focus on women in the industry. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the NFF Diversity in Ag Leadership Program, the Grains Social Leadership Program and has also served on the GRDC Southern Panel.



MELISSA BROWN (Deputy Chair, appointed October 2022)

Melissa is a partner in a family-run mixed farming business near Murchison, Victoria. Melissa currently works for BASF Agricultural Solutions and has extensive field trial experience and understanding of agronomic systems across Australia.

She has a Bachelor of Agriculture, is an Australian Rural Leadership Foundation Alumni and is passionate about improving her community and promoting agriculture as a career pathway.



MURRAY SCHOLZ (Treasurer, appointed February 2021)

Murray Scholz runs his family farming business producing grain, oilseeds, beef, and lamb in the eastern Riverina. Murray is a highly accomplished Board Director with commercial and not-for-profit experience. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has served as a director of Nuffield Australia, Queensland Crop Research and Holbrook Landcare.

Murray is currently a director of Regional Development Australia Murray Region, sits on the NSW Rural Assistance Authority Disaster Assistance Grants Appeals Panel, the Industry Advisory Panel of the Graham Centre (Charles Sturt University & NSW DPI) and is a GRDC Northern Panelist.



RYAN BERNDT (Public Officer, appointed October 2022)

Ryan farms with his wife Stephanie in the Strathmerton area of Victoria, as well as in southern NSW. They are irrigated and dryland winter crop growers, and also trade sheep. Prior to returning home to the farm in 2022, Ryan spent 18 years in corporate Agribusiness, holding numerous roles in agronomy and fertiliser management with Elders, Hi Fert, Impact, Viterra, Ruralco and Nutrien.



LUKE MATTHEWS (Secretary, appointed October 2023)

Luke joined the family farm at Corowa in March 2020 after nearly two decades in corporate agribusiness, commodity research and marketing, and agricultural policy and advocacy roles. The farm produces dryland and irrigated crops, lucerne hay, beef cattle, wool and includes the Borambil Merino and Poll Merino Stud.

Luke is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



ANNA TOLAND (Board Member, appointed October 2023)

Anna Toland is a third-generation farmer who owns and operates Toland Poll Merino Stud at Violet Town, Victoria, working alongside husband Simon and father, Phil. After completing a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Anna undertook further studies in wool science before returning to the farm in 2008. Toland Poll has used eIDs since 2007, collecting roughly 60 traits over the lifetime of a ewe.

INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS



BRONDWEN MACLEAN (Appointed 2021)

Brondwen MacLean is a Director of Pivotal Management Consulting. Brondwen worked for 20 years at the GRDC, retiring as General Manager of Research Programs in 2019.

She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has been a mentor in several programs, including NFF's Diversity in Agricultural Leadership Program. Since retiring, Brondwen has consulted for the CRC for Developing Northern Australia, undertaken company governance and structural reviews, for both the public and private sector and assisted AgriFutures Australia in their establishment of the growAG platform and more broadly across the business.



STEPHEN THOMAS (Appointed 2024)

Steve Thomas has a degree in Agricultural Science, a PhD focussed on plant molecular biology and an Executive Masters in Public Administration.

Steve's passion is assisting farmers to be profitable and sustainable in the challenging Australian environment. He has led NSW Department of Primary Industries biotechnology programs and was heavily involved in policy development for the commercial release of GM canola, before transitioning to R&D management and policy development.



STAFF

Riverine Plains' activities were supported by 16 team members during the 2024–2025 financial year.

There was a continued focus on project design and delivery capabilities, as well as on developing skills to enable the organisation to continue to deliver and communicate leading science, research, and technologies.

The team is largely based out of the head office in Mulwala, however many staff also work from other locations in the Riverine Plains catchment, including Balldale, Wagga Wagga, and Walla Walla.



PIP GRANT
Chief Executive Officer
(2023 – present)

Pip is an agricultural innovation and technology adoption specialist, with a focus on identifying new science,

technology and practices to increase farm productivity, resilience, and sustainability.

With over 15 years' experience designing and implementing programs to benefit regional, rural and remote communities, Pip is passionate about supporting increased knowledge, capacity and connectivity of those working in rural industries and locations.

Pip continues to focus on strategic alignment of the organisation to meet the needs of Riverine Plains members, while also working to grow the organisation through strategic partnerships and project opportunities.



BROOKE SANDERSON
Business Operations Manager
(2022 – present)

Brooke oversees the day-to-day business operations of the group, driving strong governance, compliance, and financial

management practices across the organisation's operations and projects.

Brooke brings extensive experience in logistics, bookkeeping, and project management, and coordinates the organisation's HR activities, including training and development, as well as recruitment.

Brooke also coordinates the delivery of work, health, and safety training across the whole team, along with the administration of governance and project management systems.



KATE COFFEY
Head of farmer engagement
(2013 – present)

Kate has been working with local farm businesses for over 20-years, with extensive experience in agricultural economics, in-field

research and project management.

An expert in extension and adoption, Kate leads the Farmer and Community Engagement activities across the organisation and has a focus on ensuring local farm business have access to critical and timely information, knowledge, and technologies.

Kate continues to lead significant multi-stakeholder projects, including the Victoria Drought Resilience, Adoption and Innovation Hub project and the Riskwi\$e projects, delivering benefits for members and the wider farming community.



JANE MCINNES
Senior Manager, On-farm experimentation
(2019 – present)

Jane leads Riverine Plains' Field Trial & Agronomy program, working directly with farmers and

agronomists to deliver high-quality, practical research in all areas of farming systems. With experience in surface water modelling, gully erosion research and spatial analysis, Jane combines strong technical skills with hands-on project delivery to tackle key challenges such as subsoil acidity and soil health.

Jane is committed to ensuring that field trials and demonstrations are both scientifically robust and relevant to farm businesses. This includes adopting precision agriculture technologies and working alongside leading technical specialists to design and deliver projects that provide farmers with reliable, solutions-focused outcomes.



LYNNETTE O'REILLY
Finance and Governance Manager
(2023 – 2025)

During her time at Riverine Plains, Lynnette played a pivotal role in managing the organisation's risk, compliance,

and financial management processes, including audits. She played an instrumental role in the implementation of a new governance and project management system, significantly enhancing the structure and efficiency of project delivery and reporting.

Lynnette retired at the end of the 2025 financial year, and we wish her all the best for the future.



LYNN MACAULAY
Member Engagement Officer
(2022 – present)

Lynn is the go-to for all things member-related. Her priority is ensuring members are heard and supported, while also making

sure the organisation is aligned with member needs. Whether she's chatting to farmers out in the field, designing and delivering key events, or shaping project outcomes, Lynn's focus helps ensure Riverine Plains' activities are high-quality, practical and timely.

Lynn also plays an important role in keeping Riverine Plains' project and member communications running smoothly by managing our social media channels, writing blogs and articles, and creating website content. She also leads the Hyper profitable crops project for young farmers.

Renowned for her ability to juggle many tasks at once, Lynn brings energy, practicality, and a healthy dose of humour to the team.



MICHELLE PARDY
Senior Communications Manager
(2016 – present)

Michelle has over 20 years' experience working in agriculture and communications, and has held roles in government,

corporate agribusiness and not-for-profit sectors. With a background in grain production, and extensive experience in agricultural communications and extension, Michelle is passionate about supporting farmers to access the timely and relevant information that can improve the profitability and sustainability of their businesses.

Michelle coordinates and produces the Riverine Plains Trial Book, Annual Report and Newsletter, along with driving other organisational and project communications.



SOPHIE HANNA
Project Manager – Livestock
(2023 – present)

Sophie has a background in livestock production and is particularly interested in livestock production, soil science and genetics. Sophie is also passionate about improving farm productivity and efficiency.

Since joining Riverine Plains, Sophie has led a number of livestock-related projects, including projects focussed on using eID technology to collect data and improve livestock management, pasture establishment and management, as well as the effective use of stock containment areas. Sophie has also been involved in an international project capturing livestock emissions data in Fiji.



CLAUDIA PATTINSON
Communications Manager
(2022 – present)

Claudia manages communications for the SCOUT for Australian farmers and On-farm experimentation projects, as well as delivering other project content for the Riverine Plains website, newsletter and our suite of social channels.

Since returning from maternity leave, Claudia has explored a range of new communications platforms, broadening her skills and interest areas to create interesting and timely content for our members.

Claudia has a family farming background, which has given her a connection to and a love of country life. Claudia holds a Bachelor of Media and Communications from the University of New England.



SAYRA SAMUDIO
Sustainable Practices & Farmer Engagement Manager
(2024 – present)

Sayra has a background in regenerative agriculture projects in both Paraguay and Argentina, and her interest lies in developing agricultural systems where productivity and sustainability go hand in hand.

She holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Engineering from the National University of Asuncion and a Masters in Agricultural Sciences with a focus on sustainable food production from the University of Melbourne.

Sayra is involved in a range of projects and events, particularly those connected to carbon farming and sustainability, and has also taken on a project looking at emissions reduction in livestock. She is also currently working on a project to assess the transferability of sustainability strategies in agricultural systems, with the goal of bringing relevant knowledge and technologies to Riverine Plains' farmers.



SABITA DUWAL
Project Officer
(2024 – present)

Sabita plays an important role across multiple projects, working closely with farmers while also providing technical support to Riverine Plains' project teams.

With a Master of Science degree in plant pathology and valuable experience in soil science gained from Western Sydney University, Sabita has a keen interest in plant microbes and their interactions with soil and plants.

This year Sabita has been delivering many in-field projects, including the Companion cropping legumes for nitrogen supply, Optimising slug management and Link between stubble, subsurface acidity and crown rot projects.



JUAN ORTIZ FIORIO
Field Officer
(2024 – 2025)

Juan joined Riverine Plains as a Field Officer in early 2024. As a veterinarian graduated from the National University of Asuncion, Juan brought extensive experience in farm management, animal health and nutrition.

Juan applied his analytical skills to his work, adding much needed capacity to the organisation's in-field activities. He was heavily involved in our trials, conducting countless slug, weed, growth stage, biomass and harvest measurements, learning much about Australian farming in the process. Juan also delivered an extensive review of grain related R,D & E projects to better inform new project development for coming years.

We wish Juan all the best for his new venture back in Paraguay.



LAURA O'RIORDAN
Community Engagement Manager
(2024 – 2025)

Laura is responsible for developing strategies to support membership growth and engagement and is leading the delivery of key showcase events. She is re-thinking how we engage with farmers effectively and is developing new strategies to transfer knowledge and increase community connectivity.

This year, Laura delivered flagship events including Youth in Ag Cultivate & Connect, In-season Update and Ladies Lunch, along with the continued roll out of Riverine Plains' refreshed brand.



PETER CHEN
Digital Project Officer
(2024 – present)

Peter is passionate about leveraging technology to enhance productivity, sustainability and resilience in agricultural systems.

As Digital Project Officer, Peter is working with new technologies, while also managing and interpreting data to provide useful insights for farmers.

Peter has a background in agricultural extension projects in Taiwan and holds a Bachelor of Agronomy from National Chiayi University and a Master's in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Melbourne.

Peter is involved with several SCOUT projects, including Rainstick and the Weather Forecast Accuracy project, as well as trialling digital tools such as time-lapse cameras, a canopy cover assessment app, and updating rainfall deciles and yield forecasts.



MATTHEW DE ROOS
Field Trial Manager
(2024 – present)

As Field Trial Manager, Matt's role is to oversee on-farm trials and projects, communicating and collaborating with farmers and stakeholders to achieve results that will benefit and improve agricultural practices.

Matt has extensive on-and-off-farm experience from previous roles in Australia and Canada, and is passionate about engaging farmers in on-farm experimentation while ensuring trial efficiency aligns with farm businesses.

This year, Matt has taken over many in-field project functions, including the Ryegrass control strategies project and the management of all our project trial sites.



TASMIN KELLY
New Initiatives Manager
(2024 - present)

Tas is the New Initiatives Manager, focusing on developing and implementing innovative programs and initiatives that support the needs of Riverine Plains farmers.

With a Bachelor of Business Management from Charles Sturt University, Tas is passionate about improving farming business practices and driving innovation within the agricultural sector.

Growing up on a mixed sheep and cropping farm in the Riverina, Tas has a strong personal connection to farming and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the industry.

With experience in agricultural research, Tas brings a business-minded approach to the development of new initiatives at Riverine Plains, ensuring that each program aligns with both current industry trends and the evolving needs of members.

RESEARCH & EXTENSION HIGHLIGHTS



The 2024-2025 financial year was another milestone year for Riverine Plains, marked by growth, innovation and impact. Some of the significant achievements include:

- The commencement of a major new GRDC project, focussed on methods to improve the quality of data from on-farm trials using commercial-scale precision agriculture machinery and software.
- The commencement of several new soils-focussed projects, the SCOUT for Australian Farmers Initiative and a project looking at the potential to reduce livestock emissions using commercial feed additives.
- The establishment of a dedicated trial site near Rennie, allowing Riverine Plains to explore new technologies for the region.
- Completion of 16 research, extension and engagement projects across our core program areas, providing insights on soils, canola

establishment, soil carbon, slugs, water management, irrigated systems, ryegrass management, liming, community resilience and technology innovations.

- Strengthening drought resilience through our involvement with the Southern NSW and Victoria Drought Resilience and Adoption Hubs, along with the role out of long-term trials in both states.
- Hosting high-profile flagship events, including our Ladies Luncheon, Youth in Ag, and In-season Update to bring people, ideas and connection together.

The 2024-2025 financial year saw Riverine Plains expand its trials and monitoring program to 37 sites across the region — including replicated, demonstration and monitor sites — giving farmers access to more region-specific sites than ever before. The new, dedicated site at Rennie, is also acting as a hub for testing and showcasing innovations for their adaptation to the region.

New funding from GRDC, Soil CRC, the Australian Government's National Heritage Trust: Climate-smart Agriculture Program and the Future Drought Fund through the Victoria and Southern NSW Drought Resilience and Adoption Hubs, saw 10 projects, initiated across the region. This highlights our ongoing capacity to attract investment in local trials, innovation, social connection and capacity building, delivering real impact for our farmer members and the wider community.

These investments are increasing the return-on-investment from R&D levies, helping build national and global innovation and contributing to prosperous farming communities in the Riverine Plains.

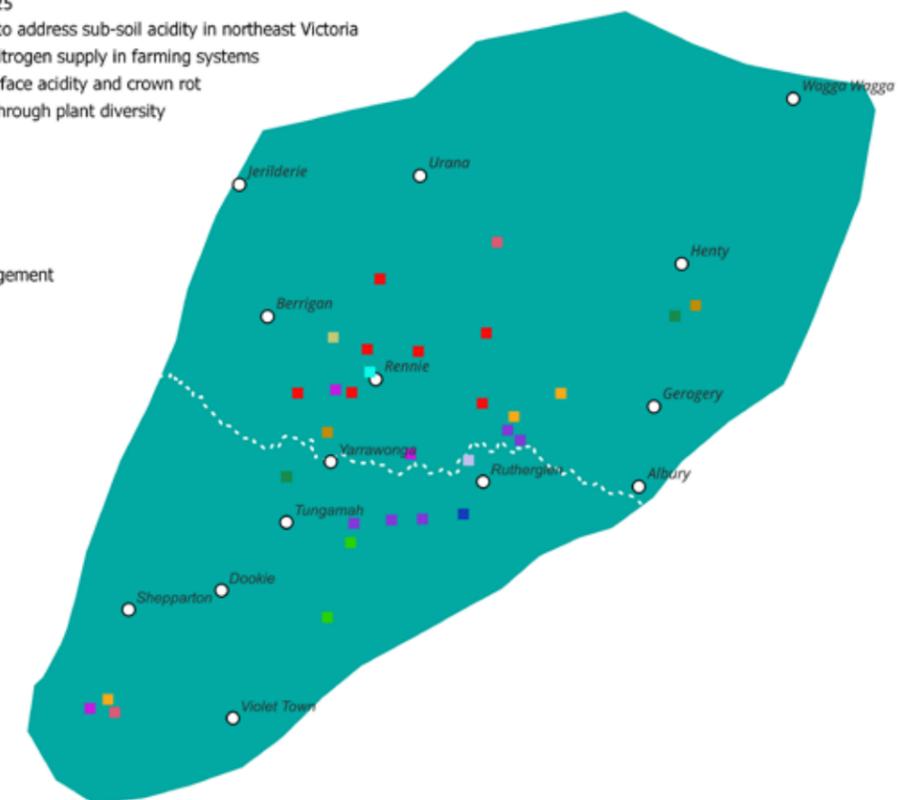
Although dry conditions and a wet finish to 2024 created challenging conditions across our trial sites, our ability to manage trials with appropriate inputs helped achieve excellent insights from our cropping and mixed farming trials. Similarly, early, dry conditions impacted the establishment of our 2025 summer and winter field trials, however they have progressed well leading into spring under the careful management of Riverine Plains project staff.

Riverine Plains has shared results from both 2024 and 2025 growing season trials at our member-based and industry events, including GRDC-hosted NGN and Update events, our member-only harvest wrap ups, our In-season Update and project-based field days. Publications such as the Riverine Plains Newsletter, Trial Book blogs and social channels, support the extension of these results beyond the traditional events format. We also express our gratitude to our research and extension project partners, who make the field trials and extension events as valuable, useful and accessible to farmers as possible.

We also continue to attract high-calibre speakers to events such as the Ladies Lunch, In-season Update and Field days, ensuring our members and partners can get maximum value for their investment of time, energy and trust in Riverine Plains.

TRIAL AND DEMO LOCATIONS 2024-2025

- Best practice liming demonstration to address sub-soil acidity in northeast Victoria
- Companion cropping for alternate nitrogen supply in farming systems
- Link between cereal stubble, subsurface acidity and crown rot
- Building soil resilience and carbon through plant diversity
- De-risking early or dry sown crops
- Assessing farm dam suitability
- On farm water management
- Organic fertilisers for crop nutrition
- Optimising slug management
- Next generation tools for soil management
- Ryegrass control strategies
- Riverine Plains SCOUT Centre
- Hyperprofitable Crops
- FDF Long Term Trials





RESEARCH & EXTENSION PROJECTS

NEW PROJECTS IN 2024–2025

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDISED ON FARM EXPERIMENTATION APPROACHES IN THE NORTHERN REGION

Term Date: 2025–2028

This project aims to develop methods that can improve the quality of data from on-farm trials, using commercial-scale precision agriculture machinery and software to capture variability across paddocks and seasons. The project is establishing standardised approaches, validating them at paddock scale, and building the skills of growers, advisors and industry groups to design, deliver and interpret on-farm experiments, enabling confident adoption and scaling of effective farming practices.

This project is an investment of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

EVALUATING NOVEL APPROACHES FOR DROUGHT RESILIENCE THROUGH CAPITALISING ON AN ESTABLISHED NETWORK OF LONG-TERM TRIALS

Term Date: 2024–2028

Addressing subsoil constraints often requires considerable time to change key soil properties including organic matter, infiltration rates and water holding capacity. This project supports a long-term replicated field trial originally established at Burramine, near Yarrawonga in Victoria, in 2020 through the Building resilient soils and enhancing carbon stocks in cropping systems through plant diversity and Plant based solutions to improve soil performance through rhizosphere modification initiative by Soil CRC, with the aim of improving soil health and soil water storage outcomes.

This project is funded by the Cooperative Research Centre for High Performance Soils (Soil CRC) and is an activity of the Long-term Trials of Drought Resilient Farming Practices program, funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

NEXT GENERATION TOOLS TO SUPPORT HIGHER PERFORMING SOILS

Term Date: 2024–2027

This project is focused on developing a suite of novel decision support tools designed to assist farmers and advisors in soil amelioration decisions. The tools are based on models and algorithms developed in previous research conducted by the CRC for High Performance Soils (Soil CRC). Riverine Plains is involved in validation and testing, via an existing trial site at Rand, and will also be involved in workshop participation, to ensure tools are easy to use.

This project is funded through the Soil CRC.

LONG-TERM TRIALS OF DROUGHT RESILIENT FARMING PRACTICES IN VICTORIA

Term Date: 2024–2026

This project is investigating innovative cropping, grazing and mixed farming practices through the lens of drought resilience and associated risk management. The project supports the trialing and demonstration of practices that have the potential to contribute to drought resilience related to on-farm productivity and natural capital. As part of this project Riverine Plains has established a trial site at Murchison, Victoria.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, through the Victoria Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.

LONG-TERM TRIALS OF DROUGHT RESILIENT FARMING PRACTICES IN NSW

Term Date: 2024–2026

This project is investigating innovative farming practices that support drought resilience and associated risk management in New South Wales. The project supports the trialing and demonstration of practices that have the potential to contribute to drought resilience related to on-farm productivity and natural

capital, with sites established at Corowa and Burrumbuttock in NSW.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, through the Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.

EXTENDING RESULTS FROM THE SOIL CRC PLANT DIVERSITY PROJECT

Term Date: 2025

This project builds upon the Building Resilient Soils and Enhancing Carbon Stocks in Cropping Systems through Plant Diversity initiative by Soil CRC.

It aims to support farmers in adopting land management practices that protect soils and enhance soil moisture retention, to improve overall resilience to drought. By providing local insights into cover cropping and intercropping, the project is supporting farmers to make informed decisions about their role in the Riverine Plains, based on both trial results and practical, real-world considerations.

This project of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning program is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Victorian Government.

SCOUT FOR AUSTRALIAN FARMERS

Term Date: 2025–ongoing

SCOUT for Australian farmers is a capacity building program, led by Riverine Plains, that supports farmers and their advisors to identify local technology and innovation gaps, scout for relevant solutions and opportunities and trial them in local, real-world conditions.

Leveraging Australia's trusted farming system group network, SCOUT builds the capacity of those already delivering on-farm trials to validate the new technologies that will support the prosperity of Australia agriculture in the future.

RAINSTICK SMALL PLOT VALIDATION

Term Date: 2025–2026

This project builds on Riverine Plain's previous work with Rainstick's bioelectrical seed treatment technology, which involved early-stage problem and market validation via farmer consultation, connecting with breeders, and ensuring locally adapted canola varieties were validated in the lab under the project SCOUT: Rainstick – improving canola establishment.

This new project delivers a replicated small plot trial at Rennie, NSW, to evaluate the technology in the field. The trial aims to move technology validation from the lab to the small plot stage gate by assessing agronomic performance and early crop development benefits of two seed treatments applied to canola. The aim is to generate data to inform decision-making regarding seed treatment compatibility, variety performance, and early plant vigour under commercial conditions.

This project is supported by funding from Rainstick, Riverine Plains and the Victoria Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.

INNOVATIVE SOIL TECHNOLOGIES TO FOSTER RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE SMART CROP PRODUCTION IN AUSTRALIA

Term Date: 2024–2028

This national project is investigating the application of innovative soil amendments and amelioration techniques across a range of soils and climates, with a specific focus on those that can enhance soil properties, root growth and crop yield. As part of this project, Riverine Plains is delivering a field trial to investigate the impact of a range of soil amendments, to support climate-smart and sustainable on-farm practices.

This project is funded through the Australian Government's National Heritage Trust: Climate-smart Agriculture Program (Partnerships and Innovation).

PRODUCER AND CONSUMER TESTED SOLUTIONS FOR EMISSIONS REDUCTION IN LIVESTOCK

Term Date: 2024–2027

Riverine Plains, in collaboration with the University of Melbourne, is conducting a six-month feeding trial on a commercial sheep property to evaluate two feed additives—Agolin and Polygain—both individually and in combination.

The trial will assess impacts on enteric methane emissions, lamb growth rates and productivity, on-farm management implications and the potential for carbon project participation. Data will be collected using innovative technologies including in-paddock weight monitoring and methane measurement tools.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Industry, Science and Resources, through the Methane Emissions Reduction in Livestock (MERiL) Program and is led by The University of Melbourne.



CURRENT PROJECTS

CARBON FARMING OUTREACH PROGRAM

Term Date: 2024–2026

The Carbon Farming Outreach Program is a national initiative providing independent information to farmers and land managers about carbon farming strategies. This project is supporting Riverine staff to deliver workshops to increase knowledge and skills on farm and land emissions, as well as carbon storage.

This project is funded by the Grower Group Alliance of Western Australia (GGA Inc) through the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

COMPANION CROPPING LEGUMES FOR LOWER COST NITROGEN SUPPLY IN FARMING SYSTEMS

Term Date: 2024–2027

Grain growers are increasingly reliant on inorganic fertiliser nitrogen for crop production and are looking at innovative ways of reducing synthetic nitrogen inputs. Incorporating legumes can help farmers add nitrogen to the soil that can be taken up by subsequent non-leguminous crops.

This project is testing nitrogen fixation in companion cropping scenarios at different desiccation timings, to establish the impact on the impact on the non-leguminous crop. It is also testing the nitrogen-fixating contribution to the farming system, as well as the costs associated with sowing and desiccation.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

OPTIMISING SLUG MANAGEMENT

Term Date: 2024–2026

Slugs are becoming an increasingly difficult to manage problem across the Riverine Plains. This project involves the monthly monitoring of slug populations in dryland and irrigated paddocks located in NSW and Victoria, as well as the design and establishment of annual spring baiting trials, including non-chemical treatments, in collaboration with SARDI. Extension events and activities will support

farmers in better understanding and managing their slug populations

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

HYPER PROFITABLE CROPS

Term Date: 2024–2027

The Hyper profitable props (HPC) project initiative aims to boost on-farm profitability for wheat and barley growers in Australia's high rainfall zones by bridging the gap between current crop yields and their full profitability potential.

The project builds on the successes of previous GRDC Hyper yielding crops and Hyper yielding cereals work. Its focus is on closing the yield gap through informed decisions on variety selection, sowing dates, fertiliser use, and disease management.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

FARM DATA: LOCAL WEATHER DATA FOR IMPROVED DECISION MAKING

Term Date: 2024–2026

This project is exploring how farm weather and soil moisture data can support improved decision making on-farm, increasing farm business resilience and farmers' ability to prepare and adapt to changing climate conditions.

This project received funding through the Victoria Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.

RISKWI\$E: ENTERPRISE FINANCIAL DECISIONS

Term Date: 2024–2028

Grain growers are continually making decisions, ranging from strategic, to tactical, to the day-to-day. Decisions are made within a continually changing operating environment and this project is helping to better understand the processes, considerations, distractions and stresses that can manifest during the decision-making process

This project is an investment of the GRDC and is part of the larger GRDC RiskWi\$e program, which aims to increasing farmers' confidence in

managing risks inherent to decision making in their businesses.

SUPPORTING GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES AND LIVESTOCK DATA DEVELOPMENT IN FIJI

Term Date: 2023–2025

Riverine Plains is supporting the delivery of an international research project in Fiji, funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). This project is the first of its kind for Riverine Plains and is focused on National Inventory (greenhouse-gas accounting) and livestock data development in Fiji.

The project aims to co-develop an improved measurement, reporting and verification system for livestock in Fiji. This project is one way Australia is supporting Pacific Island Countries meet the larger commitment of 'Net-Zero by 2050' under the Paris Agreement.

LINK BETWEEN CEREAL STUBBLE, SUBSURFACE ACIDITY AND CROWN ROT

Term Date: 2023–2026

Sampling conducted as part of a previous project identified high levels of Fusarium crown rot at sites with high stubble loads and subsurface acidity across the Riverine Plains. The build-up of Fusarium crown rot has likely been favoured by recent consecutive good seasons, along with stubble retention and tight cereal rotations in the region.

This project is investigating the potential link between Fusarium crown rot, subsoil acidity and stubble management techniques through demonstrations, surveys and trials to help farmers mitigate yield loss.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

PACKAGING SOIL CRC TOOLS TO ENHANCE THE ADOPTION OF IMPROVED SOIL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Term Date: 2023–2026

The Soil CRC has delivered learnings and outcomes that support grower groups, advisors and extension officers to extend soil management information to farmers.

As part of this project, Riverine Plains and other grower groups are designing and testing extension packages that improve project delivery, resulting in better engagement and improved adoption of outcomes from all Soil CRC projects.

This project is funded by the Soil CRC.

MACHINE LEARNING FOR MANAGING SOIL CONSTRAINTS

Term Date: 2023–2025

This project aims to find the best ways to manage multiple soil constraints such as sodicity, acidity, and salinity to help farmers make informed soil management decisions to maximise productivity and profitability.

The project uses data and a computer-based approach to predict which management and amelioration practices will work best for a particular soil, to enhance soil productivity and profitability for farmers.

This project is funded by the Soil CRC.

DE-RISKING EARLY SOWN CROPS

Term Date: 2023–2025

Dry and early sowing of cereal crops is a practice commonly used by farmers in southern Australia to combat erratic and late opening season rainfall, and to effectively manage the sowing program on increasingly large farms.

This collaborative project aims to enhance the adoption of strategic dry sowing crop management techniques to help farmers reduce their production risk and better manage increasingly large sowing programs.

This project is supported by Ag Excellence Alliance Inc, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

ORGANIC FERTILISERS FOR CROP NUTRITION

Term Date: 2022–2026

In partnership with FAR Australia, this project is looking at the value of faba bean stubble with and without organic manures in restoring fertility and increasing yield in the following wheat crop. The impact of two different timings of nitrogen application on the faba crop in the subsequent wheat crop will also be assessed.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

REWARDING SOIL STEWARDSHIP

Term Date: 2022–2025

This project, led by Charles Sturt University, is configuring, trialing and evaluating novel financial mechanisms to reward soil stewardship.

The project is working to improve connections among soil scientists, growers and the finance sectors and review the benefits, costs and uncertainties related to different soil stewardship practices, as well as the available returns from different markets/sources.

This project is funded by the Soil CRC.

BUILDING SOIL RESILIENCE AND CARBON THROUGH PLANT DIVERSITY

Term Date: 2023–2026

This project, led by Southern Cross University, follows on from the 'Plant based solutions to improve soil performance' project. The project continues to investigate changes in soil function, resilience and carbon stocks under a range of agronomic practices that incorporate plant diversity in cropping systems.

The project also investigates how much carbon from rhizo-deposits from cover crop and intercrop species is stabilised in soil and its contribution to soil aggregation.

This project is funded by the Soil CRC.

COMMERCIALISING THE PENETROMETER

Term Date: 2023–2026

A previous Soil CRC Smart Soil Sensors project led to the development of the 'Smart Penetrometer'. Once completed, this farm-ready tool will be able to simultaneously measure soil moisture, penetration resistance (compaction) and salinity while being driven into the soil.

Riverine Plains is providing technical guidance to the project and will participate in the testing of this tool, once ready.

This project is funded by the Soil CRC.

SMALL FARM DAM SUITABILITY ASSESMENT

Term Date: 2022–2025

This project is led by Southern Farming Systems and aims to create a spatial tool to rapidly calculate the likely runoff (frequency and volume

under current future climate scenarios) into existing farm dams to help prepare, cope, and recover from drought. This type of calculator does not exist, with current approaches designed for flood rather than drought planning.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

VICTORIA DROUGHT RESILIENCE ADOPTION AND INNOVATION HUB

Term Date: 2021–2026

The Victoria Drought Resilience, Adoption, and Innovation Hub is led by the University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus and is conducted in association with Deakin, La Trobe, and Federation University and Agriculture Victoria.

Riverine Plains leads the Northeast Victoria "Node", consulting the agricultural industry through farmers, councils, businesses, health organisations, and community groups in their region about building drought resilience at the local level. This process has led to the development of pilot projects to address specific knowledge or technical skill gaps identified through the hubs, capacity building and the brokering of knowledge between nodes.

This project is funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

SOUTHERN NSW DROUGHT RESILIENCE ADOPTION AND INNOVATION HUB

Term Date: 2022–2026

The Southern NSW Drought Resilience, Adoption, and Innovation Hub is a consortium of nine regional partners including primary producers, Indigenous, industry and community groups, researchers, entrepreneurs, education institutions, resource management practitioners and government agencies.

Riverine Plains has appointed a part-time knowledge broker who is assisting to gather and share knowledge to southern NSW members and their communities. The outcome of this partnership is user-driven innovation, research and adoption and the facilitation of transformational change through the co-design of research, development, extension, adoption, and commercialisation activities.

This project is funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

ASSESSING SOIL WATER STORAGE

Term Date: 2022–2025

This project aimed to improve the understanding of crop access to water and resources. Through installation of field sensors, the project quantified changes in soil water infiltration, storage, drainage, and crop interaction, due to the diagnosis and management of soil constraints at an existing Soil CRC project site at Burramine. This allowed the development of tools supporting soil management for increased access to soil water and gave a better understanding of the competition for water and resources between mixed species cover crops and impacts on soil water availability.

This project was funded by the Soil CRC.

SCOUT: RAINSTICK – IMPROVING CANOLA ESTABLISHMENT

Term Date: 2024–2025

Riverine Plains supported novel bioelectrical technology startup, Rainstick, through early-stage problem and market validation. This technology has the potential to increase crop resilience through increasingly variable climate conditions, including unfavorable sowing conditions.

Rainstick merges First Nations knowledge with modern bioelectrics to enhance sustainable agriculture. The company focuses on using electricity to improve crop yield. Their key technology, the Variable Electric Field (VEF) treatment, mimics the natural effects of lightning, which has been traditionally associated with boosting plant growth.

This project was funded by the Victorian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub and the Riverine Plains SCOUT program.

BUILDING SOIL CARBON THROUGH LAND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Term Date: 2024–2025

This project supported NSW farmers in the Riverine Plains to explore their soil carbon potential and showcased eligible land management practices best suited for potential soil carbon projects.

The focus of the project was on understanding soil carbon in the Riverine Plains region and supporting farmers to develop strategies to increase or maintain soil carbon through effective land management techniques.

This project was supported by the Soil CRC as part of the Soil Carbon Capacity Building Resources for Farmers and Advisors project, supported by the NSW Government as part of the Primary Industries Productivity and Abatement Program.

NON-CHEMICAL SLUG CONTROL

Term Date: 2024–2025

This project provided information on key trends in the presence or absence of slugs on-farm, to inform future projects. The project aimed to understand the potential for non-chemical strategies for slug control, to help farmers avoid the significant costs associated with chemical control. In doing so, the project also aimed to increase business and system resilience, as well as sustainability.

This project was funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, through the Victoria Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.

ON FARM WATER MANAGEMENT

Term Date: 2023–2025

Managing water effectively can minimise the impacts of drought on livestock, pastures, soil health, and natural assets, ultimately improving production during and after drought.

This project supported farmers in developing farm water management strategies to improve water quality, maintain livestock health, and preserve soil and natural assets. The project also supported landholders in developing farm water management plans to ensure their dams, tanks and waterways meet stock and domestic needs, especially during drought.

This was a Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub project, funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

IRRIGATION DISCUSSION GROUPS

Term Date: 2023–2025

This project linked new and innovative research investments by GRDC with local farmer-driven groups to improve the adoption of practices that improve the efficiency and sustainability of irrigated crop production.

The project followed on from the Facilitated Action Learning Groups to support profitable irrigated farming project.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

DEMONSTRATING RYEGRASS CONTROL STRATEGIES

Term Date: 2023–2025

Cereals form a key part of the rotation for growers in the Riverine Plains region, with increased ryegrass numbers being observed in this phase due to limited control options. This has been exacerbated by poor trafficability in wet and waterlogged paddocks over recent years, with excessively wet conditions also impacting pre-emergent weed control for some product uses.

This GRDC National Grower Network project evaluated diverse ryegrass management strategies, with the aim of enhancing crop yield and combating herbicide resistance.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

HELPING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES PREPARE FOR DROUGHT – GOULBURN COORDINATION

Term Dates: 2023–2025

This project helped strengthen drought preparedness and drove local action in the Goulburn region through the coordination of Community Impact Program activities and evaluation administration.

This project was supported by FRRR through funding from through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

RIVERINE PLAINS INNOVATION EXPO EVENTS

Term Dates: 2023–2025

This project aimed to build depth of social connection and increase skills, knowledge and understanding of the risks posed by drought and climate change by delivering Innovation Expo and In-season Update events, awareness and education activities from 2023-2025.

This project was supported by FRRR through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund. The Riverine Plains 2023 Innovation Expo was also supported by; Alvan Blanch Australia, Uncle Tobys, Bayer Crop Science, New Edge Microbials, GRDC, Australian Grain Technologies, ANZ, Thera Capital Management, Wiesners, Goldacres, AgriFutures Australia, Agriculture Victoria and Moira Shire.

LADIES' LUNCHEON

Term Dates: 2023–2025

This project built depth of social connection, a shared sense of purpose and longer-term community belonging that can be drawn upon in future drought by hosting Ladies' Lunches in 2023 and 2025. The lunches celebrated the role and achievements of rural women in the Riverine Plains region, reducing social isolation and building local networks and social supports for women in this remote region.

This project was supported by FRRR through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund. The 2023 Ladies Luncheon was also supported by Riverine Plains Project Partner, Grain Growers.

YOUTH IN AG

Term: 2023–2025

This project built depth of social connection, a shared sense of purpose and longer-term community belonging that can be drawn upon in future drought through the facilitation of two mentoring and networking events for youth in the region and two 'Youth in Ag' dinner events.

This project was supported by FRRR through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund. The 2023 and 2024 Youth in Ag Program was also supported by Riverine Plains Youth in Ag Program partners, Corteva Agriscience and Elders Rural Services, Elders Shepparton, Elders Yarrowonga, Elders Albury.

BEST PRACTICE LIMING

Term Date: 2021–2025

This project aimed to increase awareness of the speed of acidification and stratification of soils in the region and the availability of tools to assist in the management decision process.

It involved a replicated lime treatment field trial at Lilliput, Victoria, which demonstrated best practice liming methods and how the incorporation of top-dressed lime can improve its distribution down the soil profile, lessening the impacts of soil acidity on subsequent crops.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

VISUALISING AUSTRALASIA'S SOILS

Term Date: 2023–2024

This project aimed to increase the soils data and related information that can be discovered through the Visualising Australian Soils portal, to sustain a soil knowledge system that is inherently useful for research, development, extension and adoption.

This project was led by Federation University and funded by the Soil CRC.

TECHNOLOGY UPTAKE PROGRAM

Term Date: 2023–2024

The agtech space is complex and continually evolving, making it difficult for farmers to work out which technology provides the best solution for on-farm problems. The Technology uptake program supported farmers in the Riverine Plains region to understand the types of agtech available, and how it can benefit their farming operation through a series of workshops, field tours, and case studies.

This project followed on from Riverine Plains Producer technology uptake program, which involved online technology workshops and case studies of local farmers adopting new technology.

This project was funded by AgriFutures Australia.

OPTIMISING SOILS AND AVAILABLE WATER TO IMPROVE DROUGHT RESILIENCE

Term Date: 2022–2024

This project established 12 demonstration sites across southern NSW and north east Victoria, covering a range of soil types, environments, and land uses. The project demonstrated three proven strategies that improve drought resilience compared to conventional farming, including diverse legume rotations, early sowing of slower-maturing crops and measuring residual nitrogen in the soil.

This project was supported through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes Grants Program, and was co-funded by GRDC.

SOIL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Term Date: 2023–2025

The project aimed to give farmers a better understanding of their soils and how soils can be managed to improve production and water retention. This project supported land managers by promoting the benefits of increased frequency of extensive soil sampling and testing to inform soil management decisions and take action to improve soil health.

This project was funded by the Australian Government through the National Landcare Program Smart Farms Small Grants initiative. This project was co-funded by the GRDC.



RIVERINE PLAINS

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