





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 2023–2024 financial year, Riverine Plains grew to nearly 500 members and partnered with 29 agribusinesses across north east Victoria and southern New South Wales. Additional partnerships enabled the delivery of feature events, which provided practical and insightful 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 support farmers to 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.

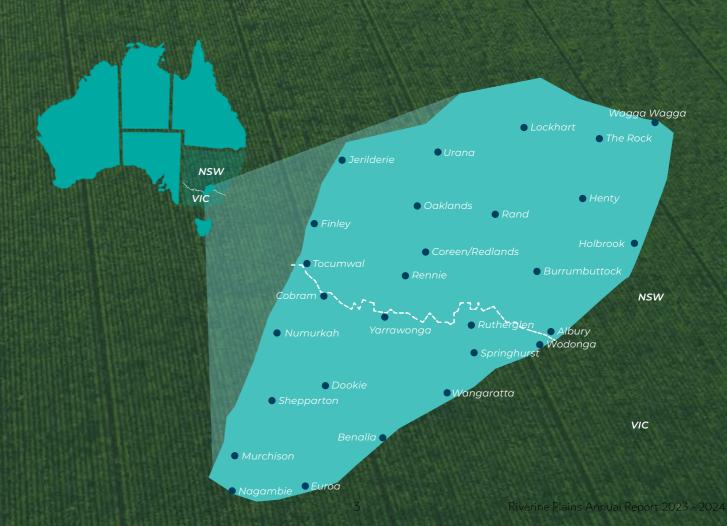
Increasing system sustainability and resilience.

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 more than \$13 million in research, extension and validation projects across our region. Current and completed projects have covered aspects of stubble management, agritech, containment feeding of livestock, water use efficiency, harvest weed seed control, soil health and soil carbon,

weather and climate data, pulse adoption, canola nutrition, nitrogen management, precision agriculture, and improved winter cropping systems.

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

EVENTS







YOUTH IN AG DINNER



RIVERINE PLAINS INNOVATION EXPO



LADIES LUNCH



VALUE OF NEW PROJECTS

\$2.07 MILLION

NEW PROJECTS

CURRENT PROJECTS

COMPLETED PROJECTS



COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS ()





PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FOCUS AREAS



















TRIAL SITES

22

MEMBERS

2023 - 2024

482 MEMBERS



ORGANISATIONAL PARTNERS

EVENT PARTNERS

PREMIER PARTNERS





SIGNATURE PARTNERS





















VALUED PARTNERS





































INNOVATION EXPO PARTNERS 2023

PLATINUM:









SILVER:













STUDENT:



GALA DINNER:



GRANT FUNDING:













LADIES LUNCH:













YOUTH IN AG:















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.

The Bouffler family Lawson Grains

The Brown family Beau and Rebecca Longmire

John and Sarah Bruce The Moll family

The Coulthard family Don Piper

Gus and Sue Campbell Kate and Neville Reilly

Jane and Barry Clarke Craig Reynolds

Nico and Allison Courtney The Sandral family

Adam Feuerherdt and the Bird family The Spence family

Chantelle and Christine Gorman Mitch Stedman

Roy, Leanne and Michael Hamilton Lawson Thomas

Ross Heywood Ian and Melanie Trevethan

Adam and Ingrid Inchbold Tim and Lara Trevethan

The Kellock family Uncle Tobys (Nestle`)

The Marshall family The Webster family

Lee Menhenett The White family

Nathan and Kara Lawless Ian and Kaye Wood

8

CHAIR'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure, gratitude and pride that I present the Riverine Plains Chairs' report for 2023–2024.

It has been a very busy year for the team at Riverine Plains as we continue to grow and deliver on our purpose of building prosperity in our members through enhancing knowledge and skills. Our strategic focus areas this year have been People, Productivity and Business.

On behalf of the Board and our members I would like to thank our CEO, Pip Grant, and the dedicated team at Riverine Plains for the positive and enthusiastic way they address these strategic directions in their day-to-day work.

It would be impossible for me to list all of Riverine Plains successes and achievements for 2024, so I'll instead mention a few that I think are particularly noteworthy:

- I was delighted to see the high level of interaction between the many attendees at Syksey's Buraja Meeting in February. This event, which reviews the season that was and turns our focus to the season to come, continues to be an excellent, not-to-be-missed representation of our motto "farmers inspiring farmers".
- I also find it heartening to witness the growing attendance at our "Youth in Ag" events. It brings me great comfort to see the future of our industry is in such good hands, and to know that our young members are forming skills and networks which will support them as they continue through their careers.
- Our inaugural Ladies Luncheon held at All Saints Estate in Wagunyah in October was extremely successful, with women of all ages coming together to celebrate their involvement in Agriculture in the Riverine Plains.

 The continued growth of the team at Riverine Plains has seen us move to a larger office space on Melbourne St, Mulwala. This new open office space fosters productivity and collaboration and I would like to thank Brooke Sanderson, and her team of local trades people, for creating this great space.

It would be impossible for us to deliver our diverse range of projects and events without our partners. I would like to thank our 2023-2024 Premier Partners IK Caldwell AGnVET and Commonwealth Bank, and all our partners for investing in the ongoing success of our organisation, our members and our community.

At last year's AGM we welcomed two new members to our volunteer Board, Luke Mathews from Corowa, New South Wales, and Anna Toland from Violet Town, Victoria. Luke and Anna have brought a wealth of knowledge and diversity of skills and experience, which has complemented and strengthened the Board's skillset. I thank Luke, Anna, Melissa Brown, Murray Scholz, Ryan Berndt and our very generous Independent Director, Brondwen MacLean, for their friendship, dedication and service to our dynamic organisation. I couldn't think of a better team to work with.

Riverine Plains continues to provide high quality services to our partner organisations and to our members. It is in a strong financial and organisational position, with a future-focused strategy to embrace opportunities as they arise in our mission to provide value to our members and partners.

Fiona Marshall Chair, Riverine Plains

Plains. 9 Riverine Plains Annual Report 2023 - 2024



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

It is a privilege to present my first CEO's report for Riverine Plains in the 2023–2024 Annual Report. The last 12 months have flown by, marked by significant milestones for the Riverine Plains team, Board, and our dedicated members. I am both proud of what we've achieved and excited for the opportunities ahead.

Firstly, I want to express my gratitude to the Board, the Riverine Plains team, and our members for their trust and support as I familiarised myself with the organisation and the broader Riverine Plains community. I also want to acknowledge the passion and dedication shown by previous teams and committee members over the past 25 years.

Soon after starting, conversations with the Board, Andrew Russell (Farmer Member, Rutherglen, Victoria), Jan Davis (Farmer Member, Rennie NSW) and Michael Crawford (CEO, Soil CRC) gave me valuable insight into how and why Riverine Plains was founded in 1999. The intent was clear: local farmers wanted to connect with leading-edge science and technology while sharing real-world experiences — both successes and failures — with their peers.

The original vision for Riverine Plains was to be a trusted partner in farming excellence, and this remains our guiding principle today.

This year, we re-examined what it means to be a 'trusted partner in farming excellence'. While technology and practices evolve, the fundamentals of good farming — and good business — remain the same. This year, we defined our Strategic Objectives to focus Riverine Plains' investments in projects and events, as well as other activities designed to support our members. Our Strategic Objectives are grouped in People, Business, and Productivity — the key areas of farming excellence — which are also relevant when reflecting on our organisation.

PEOPLE

Our success starts with great people. During 2023–2024, we recruited eight new team members, enhancing our technical capabilities and diversity, while also nurturing the talent within. By creating leadership pathways and leveraging the experience of long-serving team members, we've built a strong foundation for the future. We'll continue investing in the capabilities of our team, ensuring they're equipped to deliver better outcomes for farmers and ensure Riverine Plains' sustainability.

BUSINESS

Running a sustainable business demands strong systems, financial clarity, and sound governance. This year, we introduced a new project management system that improved transparency, reduced risk, and supported business continuity. Our focus now is on diversifying income streams and accelerating the adoption of innovative science and technology, ensuring our members remain global leaders.

PRODUCTIVITY

In a competitive RD&E funding landscape, it's essential that we focus our resources where we can deliver the greatest impact. Our farmer-centred Strategic Objectives ensure we remain aligned with why Riverine Plains was established and where we can add the most value.

LOOKING AHEAD

The opportunities for groups like Riverine Plains have never been greater. Scientific and technological advancements offer enormous potential, but they're also vital for navigating rising risks, from volatile markets to regulatory demands. Our team is energised to ensure these innovations are fit-for-purpose for our members, helping them remain national leaders. Equally, we'll continue fostering community connections and building new pathways for those in farming across the Riverine Plains.

I am excited for what the coming years will bring for Riverine Plains, and am committed to supporting the vision of being a trusted partner in farming excellence.

Yours sincerely,

Pip Grant
Chief Executive Officer



FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2023–2024 financial year has been one of change for Riverine Plains under the leadership of new CEO, Pip Grant.

The year saw a growth in staff numbers as the group built capacity to support the delivery of current and future projects. This, and a shift to new, larger premises, contributed to increased overall costs, resulting in a modest loss of (\$150,500).

Riverine Plains is continuing to move in the right direction. During 2023–2024, the organisation recorded a considerable jump in income — the highest to date — with the addition of multiple new projects aligned to our strategic direction. The completion of the GRDC infrastructure grant was invaluable in providing muchneeded equipment and offset considerable infrastructure costs, ensuring increased capacity to deliver a greater range of projects.

During the financial year, we saw income increase to almost \$3 million, with a record number of successful projects being completed. Although the group's operations resulted in a slight loss, Riverine Plains is in a strong position for ongoing growth, especially now that our human resource capacity has increased, ensuring our delivery of quality projects that meet the needs of members.

Riverine Plains' income was predominantly derived from publicly funded projects, Research and Development Corporation collaborations, as well as the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, through the Southern NSW and Victoria Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs. This project-based funding enables us to deliver research and extension outcomes to assist members grow their knowledge and support their decision making. Income from commercial research and feature events, such as the Innovation Expo, has also

grown, helping to lift the total income for the organisation. Membership remains an important part of the operating budget and continues to be a key focus, with valuable member-focussed events that are both relevant and well supported.

During 2023–2024, the Audit and Risk Committee, a sub-committee of the Board, met three times over the year to oversee the cash flow budget and financial projections.

Our largest expense remains staffing costs, followed by contractors — both commercial companies and colleagues from other farming systems groups — with whom we collaborate to provide greater benefits to our members.

Our members also make valuable contributions by giving their time and freely sharing their knowledge. Many members host project trials and demonstrations, on-farm events and provide machinery for demonstrations. They also contribute their stories for our communications channels and dedicate their time and expertise to both our Board and Research Advisory Council. We thank them sincerely; their support strengthens the reputation of Riverine Plains as a "safe pair of hands" that the research, government and private sector can trust.

Thanks also to our corporate organisational, event and program partners. Their continued investment allows us to deliver better services to our members, and supports valuable events and programs, including our Youth in Ag and Better Business programs.

Audit was conducted by Moggs Audit + Assurance.

Murray Scholz Treasurer, Riverine Plains

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Board's Report

Riverine Plains Inc For the year ended 30 June 2024

Board's Report

Your board members submit the financial report of Riverine Plains Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Board Members

The names of the Board members as elected at the 2023 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
Murray Scholz	Treasurer	25/02/2021	Farm Management
Ryan Berndt	Board Member	05/10/2022	Farm Management
Melissa Brown	Board Member	25/02/2021	Farm Management
Brondwen MacLean	Independent Board Director	06/10/2021	Research & Governance
Anna Toland	Board Member	27/10/2023	Farm Management
Luke Matthews	Secretary	27/10/2023	Farm Management

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
Murray Scholz	6	5
Ryan Bernt	6	6
Melissa Brown	6	6
Brondwen MacLean	6	6
Anna Toland	4	2
Luke Matthews	4	2

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.

Operating Result

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

The surplus for the financial year ended 30th June 2023 was \$139,053

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 24/ 10/2024

Murray Scholz (Treasurer)

Date 24 / 10 / 2024

Income and Expenditure Statement

Riverine Plains Inc For the year ended 30 June 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
Income			
Revenue	2	2,994,059	2,597,051
Speaking fees		-	1,950
Total Income		2,994,059	2,599,001
Gross Surplus		2,994,059	2,599,001
Expenditure			
Depreciation		219,825	72,997
Operating Expenses		2,846,034	2,386,951
Sampling & Analysis		2,355	·
Health & Safety		2,224	
Knowledge Transfer Website		53,056	
Business Development		12,118	
Governance		8,940	
Meals		8	·
Total Expenditure		3,144,559	2,459,948
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit)		(150,500)	139,054
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)		(150,500)	139,054
Net Current Year Surplus		(150,500)	139,054

Assets and Liabilities Statement

Riverine Plains Inc As at 30 June 2024

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	2,093,154	2,210,127
Trade and Other Receivables	4	310,869	146,359
Total Current Assets		2,404,023	2,356,487
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment	5	79,562	100,943
Other Non-Current Assets		131,026	-
Total Non-Current Assets		210,588	100,943
Total Assets		2,614,611	2,457,430
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	6	265,273	227,456
Funds Received in Advance	8	1,079,118	843,583
Total Current Liabilities		1,344,391	1,071,039
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee Entitlements	7	101,399	72,638
Total Non-Current Liabilities		101,399	72,638
Total Liabilities		1,445,790	1,143,676
Net Assets		1,168,820	1,313,754
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve		1,135,986	1,286,486
Total Member's Funds		1,135,986	1,286,486

Notes to the Financial Statements

Riverine Plains Inc For the year ended 30 June 2024

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. 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 when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

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.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Property, plant and equipment consists of general plant, office equipment and weather stations. All PPE is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

Provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at current amounts and do not take into account the present value of the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Provision for Annual Leave is based on employee leave balances accrued at the end of June and includes superannuation on cost.

Provision for Long Service Leave is accrued for employees who have over five years service and includes superannuation on cost.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of 12 months or less.

Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Leases

Leases of PPE, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset (but not the legal ownership) are transferred to the association, are classified as finance leases.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

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.

23,555 2,970,503 2,994,059 2024 (16,417) 7,901 147 - 1,469,528	5,405
2,970,503 2,994,059 2024 (16,417) 7,901 147	2,587,379 2,597,051 2023 (13,634) 5,405
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(16,417) 7,901 147	(13,634) 5,405
7,901 147 -	(13,634) 5,405
7,901 147 -	5,405
7,901 147 -	5,405
147	
-	3,263
1,469,528	3,263
1,469,528	
	1,602,225
34,909	36,679
41,356	48,920
1,537,425	1,682,860
522,895	500,000
2,060,320	2,182,860
2024	2023
310,869	146,359
310,869	146,359
310,869	146,359
2024	2023
521,175	322,731
(441,612)	(221,787)
79,562	100,943
79,562	100,943
2024	2023
	1,537,425 522,895 2,060,320 2024 310,869 310,869 2024 521,175 (441,612) 79,562 79,562

Accrued Expenses	5,447	65,685
GST	106,480	49,427
Payroll Liabilities	44,829	43,969
Trade Payables	108,517	42,484
Total Trade and Other Payables	265,273	201,564
	2024	2023
7. Employee Entitlements		
Employee entitlements provision	101,399	72,638
Total Employee Entitlements	101,399	72,638
	2024	2023
3. Funds in Advance		
Funds Received in Advance	1,079,118	843,583
Total Funds in Advance	1,079,118	843,583

9. Related Party Transactions

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other persons unless otherwise stated.

10. Subsequent Events

There are no other events since the balance date to the date of this report that would have a material effect on the operations of the entity.

Movements in Equity

Riverine Plains Inc For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Equity		
Opening Balance	1,286,486	1,147,433
Surplus	(150,500)	139,054
Total Equity	1,135,986	1,286,486

Statement of Cash Flows

Riverine Plains Inc For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Operating Activities		
Cash receipts from Operating activities	3,174,613	3,187,265
Interest Received	23,555	9,672
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(2,988,208)	(2,382,965)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	209,961	813,973
Investing Activities		
Payment for Property, Plant and Equipment	(201,476)	(59,643)
Other Cash Items From Investing Activities		
Accounts Receivable New	-	(540)
Leasehold Improvements	(131,026)	-
Total Other Cash Items From Investing Activities	(131,026)	(540)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(332,502)	(60,183)
Net Cash Flows	(122,540)	753,790
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	2,182,860	1,429,070
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	2,060,320	2,182,860
Net change in cash for period	(122,540)	753,790

True and Fair Position

Riverine Plains Inc For the year ended 30 June 2024

Annual Statements Give True and Fair View of Financial Position and Performance of the Association

We, Fiona Marshall and Murray Scholz, being members of the committee of Riverine Plains Inc, certify that -

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Riverine Plains Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2024. Signed: There Meslua

Dated: 24 / 10/2024

Certificate By Members of the Board

Riverine Plains Inc For the year ended 30 June 2024

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

- 1. I attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 9/(0/2024)
- The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 were submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Dated: 9 / 10 / 2024



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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 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Riverine Plains Inc (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30th June 2024, 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 2024, 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 IncRiverine 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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Page 15 of 15

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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

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023–2024 financial year marked several significant milestones for Riverine Plains. These include:

- The commencement of four new Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) National Grower Network (NGN) projects addressing locally relevant issues for our farmer members.
- Completion of several Australian Government Future Drought Fund projects, delivering crucial information about community resilience and technology innovations in mixed farming systems.
- Continued focus on high-profile extension events such as our Ladies Luncheon, Youth in Ag, and Innovation Expo.
- Securing a GRDC infrastructure grant to significantly enhance our field and laboratory capacity for managing risks in project delivery.

The 2023-2024 financial year represented a consolidation of our field and extension activities. Return-business from GRDC, the Australian Government, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Research, and the Soil Cooperative Research Centre, secured an additional 25 new projects for the organisation. This represents new project investment of more than \$2 million, highlighting our ability to attract ongoing investment in local trials, innovation, and capacity building, and delivering real

impact for our farmer members and the wider community. It is also increasing the return-on-investment from R&D levies and is helping build national and global innovation, contributing to prosperous farming communities in the Riverine Plains

Despite facing challenges caused by a wet finish to the 2023 season, our ability to manage trials with appropriate inputs, herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides led to excellent yields across pure cropping and mixed farming enterprises in the Riverine Plains region. The successful establishment of our 2024 summer and winter field trials was aided by the additional resourcing and capacity provided by several new staff members. This, in combination with favourable early growing conditions, saw field trials establish and progress well though the early part of the season, with trials continuing to develop well despite drier conditions leading into spring.

Riverine Plains has presented the results of both last year's and current season trials at a number of our member-based and industry events across the course of the year. We continue to attract high-calibre speakers to events, ensuring our members and partners can maximise the return from their investments of time and energy in attending such events. 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.

RESEARCH SITES ACROSS RIVERINE PLAINS REGION

- De-risking early or dry sown crops
- Small farm dam suitability assessment
- On-farm water management
- Link between cereal stubble, subsurface acidity and crown rot
- Best practice liming
- Drought resilient pasture systems
- Optimising soils and available water to improve drought resilience
- Organic fertilisers for crop nutrition
- Companion cropping legumes for lower cost nitrogen supply in farming systems
- Silicon fertiliser for drought resilience in broadacre cropping
- Optimising slug management
- Building soil resilience and carbon through plant diversity
- Soil extension activities
- Ryegrass control strategies
- Assessing soil water storage



DIRECTORS

BOARD OF Riverine Plains is overseen by a voluntary board of six Member Directors and one Independent Director.

MEMBER DIRECTORS



FIONA MARSHALL (Chair, appointed October 2022)

Fiona and her husband Craig own and manage a mixed enterprise farm in the Rennie area, consisting of both dryland grain and a prime lamb business.

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.



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 managment with Elders, Hi Fert, Impact, Viterra, Ruralco and Nutrien.



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. Melissa has a Bachelor of Agriculture and is passionate about improving her community and promoting agriculture as a career pathway.



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.



MURRAY SCHOLZ (Treasurer, appointed February 2021)

Murray runs his family farming business producing grain, oilseeds, beef, and lamb in the eastern Riverina and has been a member of Riverine Plains for over

15 years. Murray is an experienced Board Director with over 10 years of commercial and not-for-profit experience. Murray is a nationally recognised innovator and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



ANNA TOLAND (Board Member, appointed October 2023)

Anna Toland is a thirdgeneration 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

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. Currently, Brondwen is undertaking a number of consultancies in areas of biosecurity, governance and structural reforms. Brondwen is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Research Advisory Council was chaired by Riverine Plains Board Member Melissa Brown (Miepoll, Victoria) and facilitated by Riverine Plains Chief Operating Officer, (2021 - 2024) Dr Sara Hely.

MEMBERS

Melissa Brown - Chair (Miepoll, Vic)

Scott Bartlett (Kialla, Vic)

Dr. (Paul) Long Cheng (Dookie, Vic)

David Gooden (Lockhart, NSW)

Rob Inglis (Wagga Wagga, NSW)

David Leah (Gerogery, NSW)

Angus Malmo (Yerong Creek, NSW)

Tom Marriott (Barooga, NSW)

Craig Marshall (Rennie, NSW)

Dr. Madeline Mitchell (Melbourne, Vic)

Eric Nankivell (Albury, NSW)

Rhiannon Sandford (Yea, Vic)

Dr. Cassandra Schefe (Rutherglen, Vic)

Corey Uebergang (Peechelba East, Vic)

John Bruce (Barooga, NSW)

STAFF

At the end of the 2023-2024 financial year there were 18 team members employed at Riverine Plains, with a number of new faces joining the team, while others moved on to new opportunities.

During the year there was a focus on building the team's project design and delivery capabilities, as well as on developing technical skills to enable the organisation to continue to deliver leading science, research, and technologies to the Riverine Plains farming community.

The team is largely based out of the head office in Mulwala, however many staff also work from other location in the Riverine Plains catchment, including Balldale, Barooga, Holbrook, 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.

This was Pip's first year as Riverine Plains CEO and she brought a focus on strategic alignment of the organisation to meet the needs of Riverine Plains members.



DR SARA HELY
Chief Operating Officer
(2021-2024)

Sara has worked in agricultural science and rural industries for 20 years, holding management roles in agricultural research in

state and federal government, as well as large investors in rural research, development and extension

As Chief Operating Officer, Sara was responsible for overseeing operations of the organisation, across both the research, communications, marketing areas of the organisation, and ensuring Riverine Plains met expectations and organisational growth.

Sara has moved to the Victoria Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub in the role of Director.



BROOKE SANDERSON **Business Operations Manager**(2022 – present)

Brooke oversees the day-today 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 also coordinates the organisation's HR activities, including training and development, as well as recruitment.

This year, Brooke coordinated the recruitment of eight new team members, along with the delivery of significant work, health, and safety training across the whole team. Brooke also managed the relocation to new premises, along with the implementation of a new governance and project management system.



KATE COFFEY

Senior Project Manager (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.

This year Kate continued to lead significant multi-stakeholder projects, including the Robust Weather Station & Soil Moisture Network, which was completely upgraded to ensure continuity and increased access to reliable local weather data.



LYNN MACAULAY

Member Engagement Officer
(2022 – present)

Lynn leads Riverine Plains' member engagement through the design and delivery of member-focussed events

and activities, along with regular member consultation to ensure the organisation is aligned to member needs.

With a degree in Agriculture Business
Management and experience working on
broadacre cropping farms across Australia and
in the United Kingdom, Lynn is passionate about
farming and has a keen interest in innovation,
diversification and technology in agriculture.

This year Lynn led member engagement activities and developed new activities to respond to member needs and feedback. Lynn also played a key role in the development and launch of the new Riverine Plains website, with a focus on content that delivers increased value to Riverine Plains farmers.



JANE MCINNES
Senior Project Manager
(2019 – present)

Jane specialises in soils and manages a number of soilsrelated projects, including those focused on managing subsoil

acidity and soil health. Jane has a background in surface water modelling and gully erosion research and brings strong mapping and computing skills to the team.

This year Jane took over leadership of the organisation's Field Trial & Agronomy activities, with a focus on delivering high-integrity in-field research and experiments. This included the adoption of precision agriculture technologies and the engagement of leading technical specialists to drive targeted projects addressing the critical needs of Riverine Plains farmers.



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

Lynnette has extensive experience in working collaboratively across communities, government and business, with significant

experience in regional development, local government, vocational education and training.

Previously holding General Manager, CEO, and Director roles in local and state government, and vocational education and training across regional and remote mining areas of Western Australia, Lynnette provides financial management, governance, and system support to Riverine Plains.

This year Lynette has been instrumental in reviewing the organisations risk, compliance, and financial management processes, along with supporting the implementation of a new governance and project management system.



MICHELLE PARDY

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.

This year saw Michelle led the design, development, and launch of the new Riverine Plains website, with the goal of connecting farmers with relevant information when they need it. Michelle again coordinated and produced the Riverine Plains Trial Book, along with driving other organisational and project communications.





RHIANNAN MCPHEE Project Manager (2022-2024)

Rhiannan brought significant agronomy experience to the Riverine Plains team across horticultural and broadacre

cropping systems, including both irrigated and dryland situations.

In her role as Project Manager, Rhiannan took on a number of project extension roles within Riverine Plains, including those related to soils, weed management and the application of technology-based solutions in agriculture.

Rhiannan is passionate about encouraging young people in agriculture and was a driving force behind the establishment of the Riverine Plains Youth in Ag Program.

Rhiannan has moved to the Victoria Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub in the role of Adoption Coordinator.



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

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.



CLAUDIA PATTINSON

Communications Manager
(2022 – present)

Claudia manages Riverine Plains' communications channels as well as engagement with Riverine Plains' Partners. Claudia's role

is to ensure that there is an effective strategy in place to manage both internal and external communications.

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.

This year Claudia was a key driver of partner engagement and the Youth in Ag Graze event. She also welcomed her first child.



SAYRA SAMUDIO Extension Officer (2024 – present)

Sayra has a background in regenerative agriculture projects in both Paraguay and Argentina, and her interest lies in the

development of agricultural systems that are productive and environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

Sayra 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 various Riverine Plains projects and events, with a focus on those related to carbon farming and sustainability. This year Sayra also took on the On-Farm Stock Water Management project. She is also developing strategies to globally scan for relevant knowledge and technologies that have potential to deliver value to Riverine Plains' farmers.



SABITA DUWAL

Project Support Officer
(2024 – present)

Sabita plays an important role across multiple projects, working closely with farmers while also providing technical support to

assist 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 leading farmer consultation to better understand regional challenges with slugs and monitoring their prevalence under different seasonal conditions and management practices.



JUAN ORTIZ FIORIO
Field Officer
(2024 – present)

As a veterinarian graduated from the National University of Asuncion, Juan has extensive experience in farm management

and animal health and nutrition.

Juan is passionate about agribusiness and animal genetics. As a Field Officer, he is committed to working closely with farmers to build a future where productivity, sustainability and animal welfare go hand in hand.

This year Juan added much needed capacity to the organisations in-field activities, along with delivering an extensive review of grain related R,D & E projects to better inform new project development for coming years.



LAURA O'RIORDAN

Community Engagement

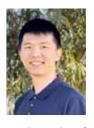
Manager (2024 – present)

Laura is responsible for developing strategies to support membership growth and engagement and is leading the

delivery of key showcase events. With deep roots in farming and a strong connection to the region, Laura is known for her passion and drive.

Bringing extensive marketing and events experience to the organisation, along with a keen understanding of the local farming community, Laura 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 events including Youth in Ag Cultivate & Connect, along with rolling out Riverine Plains' refreshed brand and supporting the launch of the new Riverine Plains website.



PETER CHEN

Digital Project Officer
(2024 - present)

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

In the role of 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.

This year Peter provided extensive support for the transition of the Robust Weather & Soil Moisture Network to a more sustainable model, including reviewing strategies, supporting the transfer of historical data, and engaging with members.



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 onfarm experimentation while ensuring the least disruption to their farm businesses.

This year Matt has taken over many in-field project functions, along with conducting an extensive review of existing and emerging precision agriculture technologies. This aims to increase the organisation's trial capabilities, along with better understanding the tools which have the potential to deliver value back to Riverine Plains' farmers.



CAMILLA PLUNKETT Communications and Events Officer (2024)

With a degree in Television Production, Camilla has worked in major metropolitan television networks and as a media

producer in the agricultural space.

Camilla is passionate about telling the story of the land and its people, and supported the development of farmer focused content across various platforms and to enhance farmer engagement.

This year Camilla embarked on creating the Riverine Plains podcast and trialled new ways to make information and local farmer stories more accessible to Riverine Plains members.



KATHERINE SEDDON Corporate Communications Manager (2022-2024)

Katherine brought over 20 years' communications experience in the not-for-profit, education and research sectors and has a

passion for soil health and farming.

During her time at Riverine Plains, Katherine managed all corporate communications and special projects for Riverine Plains. She was responsible for flagship publications, as well as the running of showcase events such as the Innovation Expo.

Katherine led the Riverine Plains brand refresh and kicked off the new development of the new Riverine Plains website before departing for a new role at the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.



ANNA LONERGAN Project Support Officer (2022-2024)

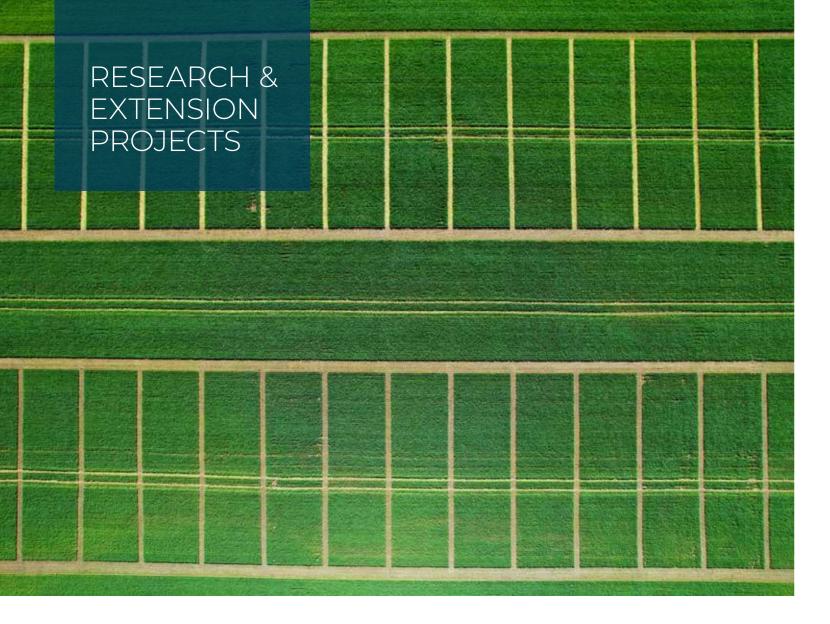
As Project Support Officer for two years, Anna provided important administration and project management support

of our research and extension projects. Anna also provided field support for Field and Project Officers with new and existing projects and

Anna's background in environmental science and management, and strong passion for sustainable agriculture, research and development, and the conservation of native ecosystems, brought new insights and perspectives to Riverine Plains.

Anna finished up with Riverine Plains during March 2024, taking up the opportunity to explore new ecosystems internationally.





NEW PROJECTS IN 2023-2024

LONG-TERM TRIALS OF DROUGHT 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 in Victoria and Tasmania. 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.

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

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.

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

EVALUATING NOVEL APPROACHES FOR DROUGHT RESILIENCE - COVER CROPS & SOIL AMENDMENTS

Term Date: 2023-2028

This project is continuing to investigate how novel practices for drought resilience, such as cover crops and soil amendments, can affect soil water storage, crop water use efficiency and crop yield variability. Data collected from the longterm trial (LTT) site at Burramine in north east Victoria, and other project sites in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, is being used to develop models that will help quantify how these practices can help mitigate long-term financial risk for farmers.

This project is funded by the Cooperative Research Centre for High Performance Soils (Soil CRC) through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

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.

BUILDING SOIL CARBON THROUGH LAND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Term Date: 2024-2025

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

The focus of the project is 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 is 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.

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.

SCOUT RAINSTICK - IMPROVING CANOLA ESTABLISHMENT

Term Date: 2024-2025

Riverine Plains is supporting novel bioelectrical technology startup, Rainstick, through earlystage 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, with their key technology, the Variable Electric Field (VEF) treatment, mimicking the natural effects of lightning, which has been traditionally associated with boosting plant growth.

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

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 Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

OPTIMISING SLUG MANAGEMENT

Term Date: 2023-2026

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.

NON-CHEMICAL SLUG CONTROL

Term Date: 2024

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

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

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.

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

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

DEMONSTRATING RYEGRASS CONTROL STRATEGIES

Term Date: 2023-2025

38

Cereals form a key part of the rotation for growers in the Riverine Plains region, with reports of increased ryegrass numbers 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 is evaluating diverse ryegrass management strategies, with the aim of enhancing crop yield and combating herbicide resistance.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

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.

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.

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 CRC for High Performance Soils Limited (Soil CRC).

IRRIGATION DISCUSSION GROUPS

Term Date: 2023-2025

This project aims to link 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 follows on from the Facilitated Action Learning Groups to support profitable irrigated farming project.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

FARM DATA: LOCAL WEATHER DATA FOR IMPROVED DECISION MAKING

Term Date: 2024-2025

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

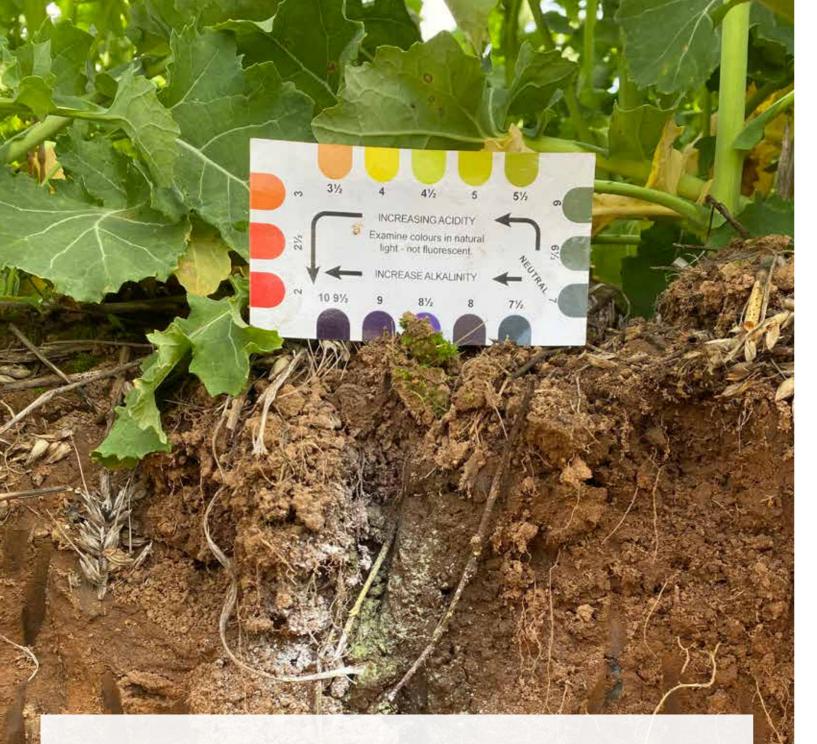
ENHANCING THE ADOPTION OF IMPROVED SOIL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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.



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.

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.

CURRENT PROJECTS

ORGANIC FERTILISERS FOR CROP NUTRITION

Term Date: 2022-2024

In partnership with FAR Australia, this two-year pilot 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.

HELPING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES PREPARE FOR DROUGHT – GOULBURN COORDINATION

Term Date: 2023-2025

This project is strengthening drought preparedness and driving local action in the Goulburn region through the coordination of Community Impact Program activities and evaluation administration.

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

RIVERINE PLAINS INNOVATION EXPO EVENTS

Term Date: 2023-2025

This project aims 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 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 Date: 2023-2025

This project aims to build 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 2024. The lunches align with International Rural Women's Day, reducing social isolation and building local networks and social supports for women in this remote region.

This project is 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 Date: 2023-2025

This project aims to build 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 is 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 Yarrawonga, Elders Albury.

BEST PRACTICE LIMING

Term Date: 2021-2025

This project aims 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 involves a replicated lime treatment field trial at Lilliput, Victoria, which aims to demonstrate 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.

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.

ASSESSING SOIL WATER STORAGE

Term Date: 2022- 2025

This project aims to improve the understanding of crop access to water and resources. Through installation of field sensors, the project is quantifying 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 is allowing the development of tools supporting soil management for increased access to soil water and give a better understanding of the competition for water and resources between mixed species cover crops and impacts on soil water availability.

This project is funded by the Soil CRC.

SILICON FERTILISER FOR DROUGHT RESILIENCE IN BROADACRE CROPPING

Term Date: 2022-2024

This project is led by The University of Melbourne and is hosted on large plot demonstration or evaluation sites at four locations across northern Victoria.

Around fifty small-scale replicated research trials are being used to evaluate a broader set of varieties and management options, including silicon fertiliser application for drought mitigation in broadacre cropping. In this project, granular silicon fertiliser is being applied below the seed at sowing for wheat and faba beans, while foliar silicon fertiliser is being applied throughout the season.

The potential role of legumes in the standard cropping rotation and dual-purpose wheat options are also being demonstrated, as well as an evaluation of indigenous plant species.

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

SMALL FARM DAM SUITABILITY ASSESMENT

Term Date: 2022-2024

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.

OPTIMISING SOILS AND AVAILABLE WATER TO IMPROVE DROUGHT RESILIENCE

Term Date: 2022-2024

This project has established 12 demonstration sites across southern NSW and north east Victoria, covering a range of soil types, environments, and land uses. The project will demonstrate 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 is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes Grants Program, and is co-funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

TECHNOLOGY UPTAKE PROGRAM

Term Date:2023-2024

The agritech space is complex and continually evolving. This means it can be difficult for farmers to work out which technology provides the best solution when solving a problem on farm. The Technology uptake program is helping farmers in the Riverine Plains region understand the types of agritech that are available, and how it can benefit their farming operation through a series of workshops, field tours, and case studies.

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

This project is funded by AgriFutures Australia.

SUPPORTING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH WEATHER STATIONS

Term Date: 2022-2024

The project is investigating the feasibility of bringing together five networks of weather stations and moisture probes across southern Australia into a single, standardised platform to inform key stakeholders on a series of localised climatic information to assist with disaster planning.

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government through the Preparing Australian Communities Program.

VISUALISING AUSTRALASIA'S SOILS

Term Dates: 2023-2024

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



COMPLETED PROJECTS

DROUGHT RESILIENT PASTURE SYSTEMS

Term Date: 2022-2024

This project, led by Holbrook Landcare Network, aimed to use the latest research on species and management to increase the use of perennial pasture species within farming landscapes and increase resilience in dry seasons.

The project supported farmers to improve their pasture base, either by using practices to enhance favourable species already present, or to establish new pastures. This helped address feed-base management and farmer concerns around its impact on drought resilience.

This project was supported by the Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

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 wase funded by the Australian Government through the National Landcare Program Smart Farms Small Grants initiative. This project is co-funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

HYPER YIELDING CROPS

Term Date: 2020-2024

This project aimed to close the yield gap of wheat, barley and canola in the high rainfall zone. Riverine Plains established annual focus farm sites at various locations in support of the NSW Centre of Excellence at Wallendbeen.

Riverine Plains also established Discussion Groups to link local growers with the focus farm paddock trials at these sites.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

DIAGNOSIS FRAMEWORKS FOR MULTIPLE AND COMPLEX SOIL CONSTRAINTS

Term Dates: 2021-2024

The productivity of 77% of Australian agricultural soils is limited by one or more soil constraints, however, efficiently ameliorating constrained soils often requires an accurate diagnosis.

This project developed and validated diagnostic methodologies to diagnose soil constraints from the data that producers already have access to (e.g., crop yields, surface soil tests), in combination with information in the public domain. This aimed to reduce the cost associated with detailed soil sampling.

This project was funded by the Soil CRC.

IRRIGATION DISCUSSION GROUP

Term Date: 2019-2023

This project was led by the Irrigated Cropping Council and assisted the formation of the Riverine Plains Irrigation Discussion Group.
This group aimed to link new and innovative irrigated cropping research investments by the Grains Research and Development Corporation with local farmer-driven groups and to tie these research projects more closely with farmer needs.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

SAVING SOIL DURING DROUGHT

Term date: 2022-2023

Soils that are exposed due to loss of groundcover often become dry and powdery, making them vulnerable to wind and water erosion.

Appropriate management of livestock during drought is critical to the resilience capacity of soils, vegetation and farming enterprises.

This project demonstrated best practice application of Stock Containment Areas (SCA), supported by a suite of tools, materials and information to provide producers with knowledge and confidence to adopt SCAs for maximum benefit.

This project was delivered through the Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, supported by Local Land Services, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

COOL SOIL INITIATIVE

Term Date: 2018-2023

The Cool Soils Initiative aims to increase the long-term sustainability and yield stability of southern New South Wales and northeast Victoria grain-producing regions, by adopting innovative agronomic strategies to improve soil health and related function.

Riverine Plains' involvement in this project sought to create a platform for the food industry to support grain farmers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, leading to increased long-term sustainability.

The project was funded by Mars Petcare, Kellogg's, Manildra Group, Corson and Allied Pinnacle, in partnership with Charles Sturt University and the Food Agility Cooperative Research Centre, with support from the Sustainable Food Lab.

GRDC INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

Term Date: 2023

This project allowed Riverine Plains to purchase of several key items that provide significant improvements in overall operational capacity.

This included two large drying ovens that enhance our efficiency in processing soil and plant samples, and two additional Toyota Hilux utes to enable staff to complete their fieldwork. The project also provided for the purchase of a BBQ trailer for events, as well as a tandem trailer to transport equipment to our trial sites. The addition of a Minibatt grain thresher also helps streamline sample collection during harvest.

Riverine Plains also purchased a ute spray setup, with a 200L tank and a 6m boom, and made improvements to video conferencing facilities in our new office.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

CLOSING THE YIELD GAP IN FABA BEAN WITH IMPROVED DISEASE MANAGEMENT, NUTRITION AND CANOPY MANIPULATION

Term: 2021-2024

This project, led by FAR Australia, was designed to deliver local development and extension to maximise farming benefits from grain legume production. This was achieved through grower-driven grain legume validation and demonstration trials across the region.

This project is an investment of the GRDC.

STOCK CONTAINMENT FEEDING TO BOOST RESILIENCE AND PERFORMANCE

Term Dates: 2023-2024

Containment feeding of livestock can lead to improved productivity, reproductive performance, and enhanced landscape and pasture management, as well as greater drought resilience and profitability.

This project aimed to boost the adoption of containment systems on farms by training and assembling a network of containment adoption advisors connected to farming systems groups from across Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. The delivery of small group producer workshops and follow-up 1:1 advice provided tailored support to producers at all stages of implementing containment feeding systems.

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





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