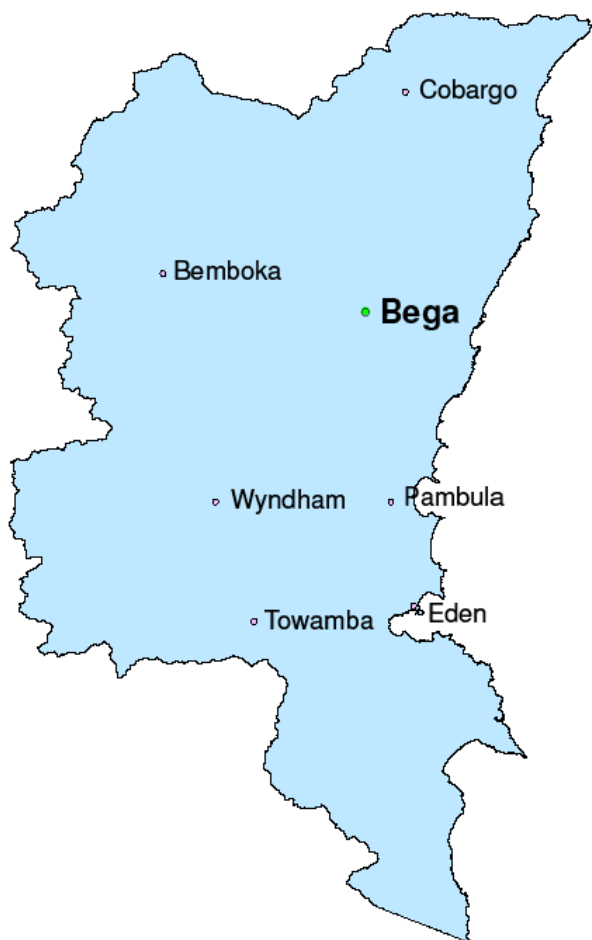




Bega Dairy Partnerships Program



Project Summary: This program aims to improve the environmental sustainability of dairy operations in the Bega River catchment. The 2007/08 financial year sees Bega Cheese and SRCMA working cooperatively with farmers on a voluntary basis to implement a diverse range of initiatives including a 20 per cent increase in dairy effluent management and reuse; 15,000 hectares of soil sampling with a view to 60 per cent adoption of whole farm nutrient budgeting; extensive wetland and river fencing; an innovative catchment metering project for Bemboka irrigators; increased adoption of irrigation scheduling practices; and strategic laneway and stream crossing upgrades. Key environmental benefits include improved river health via enhanced water quality, environmental flows and habitat restoration. Benefits to farmers include financial gains through improved soil health, water use efficiency and pasture productivity.

To date, more than 85 per cent of Bega Cheese suppliers are participating in at least one aspect of the Bega Cheese Environmental Management System initiative. Initial works include:

- Soil testing and nutrient budgeting for over 90 properties covering approximately 20,000 hectares grazing land.
- 35 kilometres of fencing erected to protect river and wetland values.
- 40 dairy effluent management plans and more than 20 dairy effluent management upgrades preventing up to 455 mega-litres (455 Olympic swimming pools) of effluent entering priority waterways.
- 19 erosion control sites, including dairy laneways and gullies, reducing sediment inputs into priority waterways by 1,220 tonnes.
- 44 hectares river, wetland and gully revegetation.
- Installation of 170 alternate watering points.

Construction of 8 stock crossings on priority waterways.

Partners: Bega Cheese, NSW Department of Primary Industries, NSW Department of Water and Energy, Bega Valley Shire Council and local dairy farmers.

Funding: Commonwealth and NSW Governments, Bega Cheese and local dairy farmers.

Value of Project: \$2,275,000



Addressing Introduced Marine Pests in Twofold Bay, Eden

Project Summary: The project will address the problem of introduced marine pests in Twofold Bay, Eden, in particular the European Green Shore Crab (*Carcinus maenus*) and the European Fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*). In partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and University of Wollongong, the Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre will coordinate community volunteers to remove these species and collect data to provide ongoing monitoring of pest populations.

Partners: Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre, NSW DPI (Fisheries), University of Wollongong and community volunteers.

Funding: \$5,700

Value of Project: \$26,000



Community Seedbank (Regional Program)

Project Summary: This project aims to provide support for biodiversity conservation in the Far South Coast region of NSW – from Narooma in the north to the Victorian border in the south and from the coast inland to the Monaro. The Community Seedbank provides seed for direct seeding and nursery propagation. Seed is collected from native vegetation throughout the area and stored in the Seedbank at Bega. The Seedbank project officers provide a plant identification service and training in plant identification, seed collection and storage and aspects of land rehabilitation relating to vegetation. Assistance is provided with project planning, development, implementation and advice on vegetation management.

Partners: Far South Coast Landcare Association, local community groups and local landholders.

Funding: Commonwealth and NSW Governments and seed sales from the Seedbank.

Value of Project: \$70,000 per annum



Working with local people to achieve healthy, natural ecosystems and sustainable productive landuse.