

Impact Report 2020-2023

The combined impact of bushfires and the pandemic meant emergency food relief was urgently needed to support regional NSW.

Following funding from NSW Government, OzHarvest responded by quickly identifying towns experiencing complex disaster recovery and lock down challenges and created a Mobile Market to deliver fresh food to communities doing it tough.

Project funding was initially for six months, but was extended several times from May 2020 to May 2023, addressing the ongoing need for food in 55 regional communities in that time.

[WATCH ABC NEWS REPORT](#)



BELLATA



BENDEMEER



TALBINGO



NIMMITABEL



GILGANDRA



WARDELL

MORE THAN FOOD RELIEF



OzHarvest worked alongside local charity groups to bring pop-up markets to life in all weather, ensuring that resilience and care remained at the heart of the recovery process.

In some locations direct bulk deliveries were made to charity partners who would distribute food parcels to known vulnerable households. OzHarvest focused on bridging the gap of much needed fresh produce which other aid services could not provide.

Government funding allowed OzHarvest to access remote locations, out of reach for the regular food rescue operations. This meant an added benefit of purchasing food from local producers and businesses.

The success of the Mobile Market was a result of a dedicated team on the road and precious time donated by over 60 regional volunteer organisations. During the height of the pandemic, the OzHarvest team were classified as frontline workers, delivering hampers of fresh produce and pantry staples, connecting communities and creating special bonds with local residents in need.

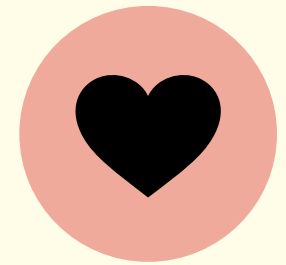
The Mobile Market quickly became a staple support service for many people, offering so much more than food. Social connection, comforting smiles and conversation became a regular part of this unique food relief.



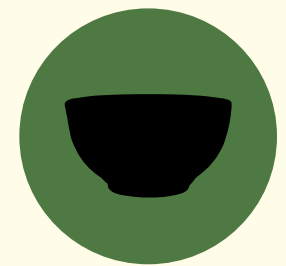
1,360
Pop-up markets



73,024
Grocery bags



60
Regional volunteer organisations supported



55
Towns nourished



401,241
KGs of fresh produce

HOPE AND HELP



MULLALEY

2020-2021

The Mobile Market team predominantly serviced the Sapphire Coast and Snowy Valleys recovering from bushfires. The level of trauma experienced in these areas was unprecedented, as was the will to recover. Many food recipients lived in tents or on couches for years after the bushfires. Mental Health first aid became an essential skill for the team on the road.



NARRANDERA

2021-2022

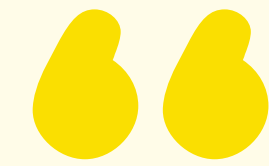
Ever changing public health covid orders and an unforeseen mouse plague placed immense strain on more communities. Whilst continuing to support bushfire regions, the service expanded to the Riverina, Central West, Northern Tablelands and Narrabri Shires providing reprieve where other supply chains failed. The team continually adapted safety procedures to make sure isolated households received nutritious food.



BINGARA



MULLUMBIMBY



From your cheer squad here in Mullumbimby. We simply would not have been able to support our community after the floods without your beautiful fresh produce.

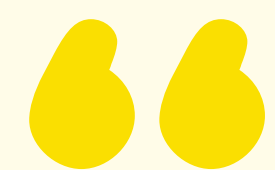
MEL WILLIAMS
Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre

2022-2023

Following the devastating floods of 2022, the Mobile Market relocated to help communities in the Northern Rivers region. Overwhelming messages of thanks from residents confirmed that consistent access to fresh food, along with a friendly face was often the highlight of recovery support for many households.



WARDELL



OzHarvest food provides essential nutritional staples and helps create a sense of normalcy amidst such great disruption to peoples lives.

JOEL ORCHARD
Coordinator, Wardell CORE Hub



WARDELL

OUR IMPACT

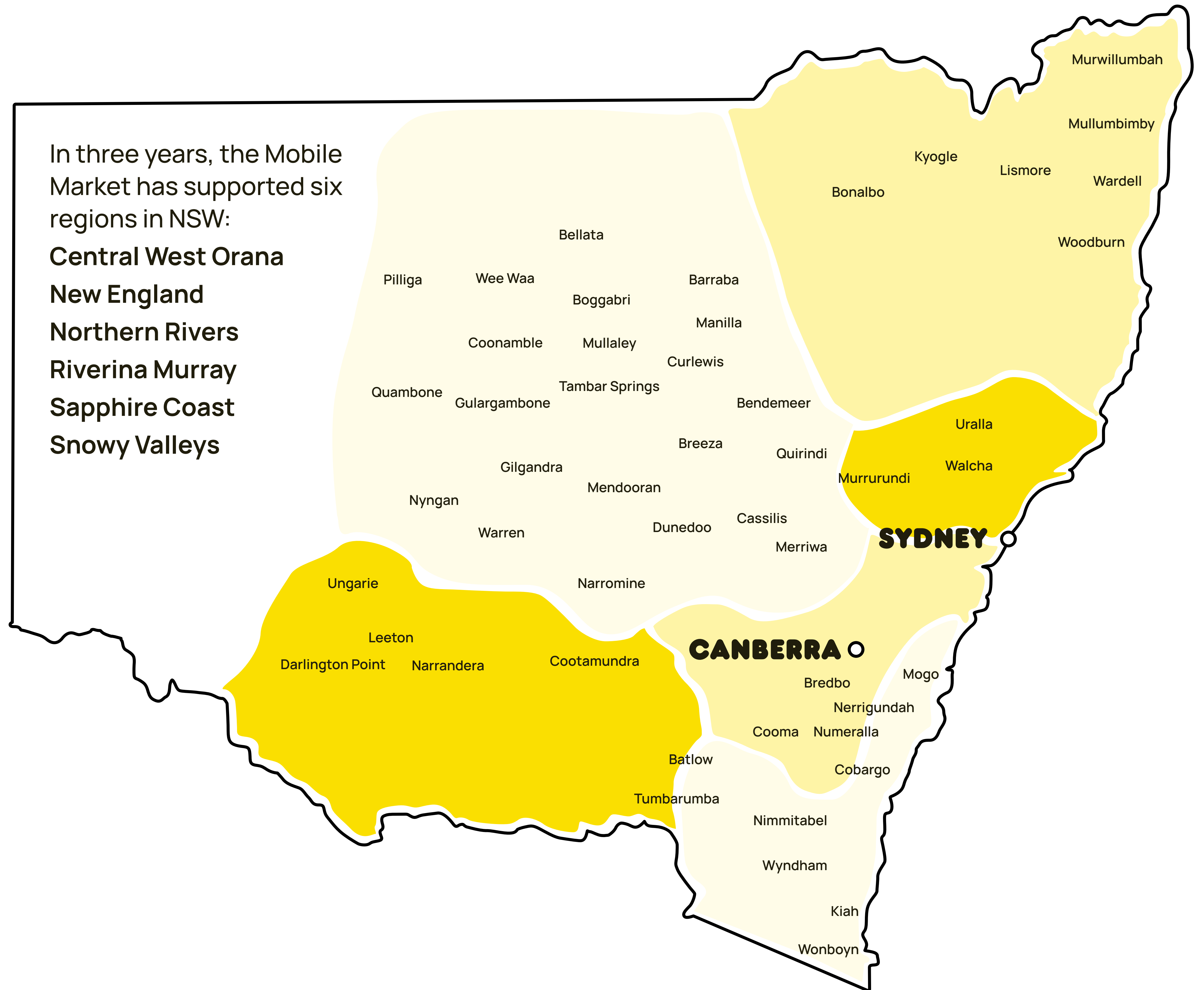


Whilst funding for the Mobile Market has come to an end, volunteer-led OzHarvest chapters will continue to support regional NSW communities with rescued food.



In three years, the Mobile Market has supported six regions in NSW:

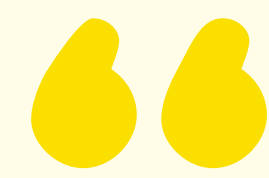
- Central West Orana
- New England
- Northern Rivers
- Riverina Murray
- Sapphire Coast
- Snowy Valleys



STORIES FROM THE ROAD



WYNDHAM

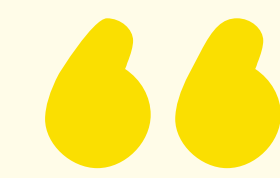


OzHarvest food gave me strength and a reason to get outside as I delivered the goodies to Elders in our community who could not leave their homes.

MARY
Walhallow



NUMERALLA

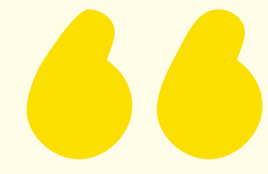


Our town is so far from grocery stores, so delivering the fresh produce to local households gave me great peace of mind that kids would have something nutritious in their tummies for at least a few days.

PILIGA RESIDENT



WOODBURN

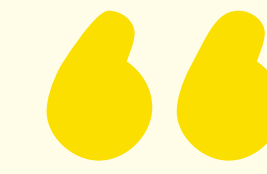


Having this service during times of isolation helped our clients feel like they weren't alone. The care was almost more important to people's mental health than the food provided.

MARYANN SEYMOUR
CEO Dyrri-Bang-Gu Aboriginal Corporation
Aged Care Services, Griffith



WOLLONGBAR

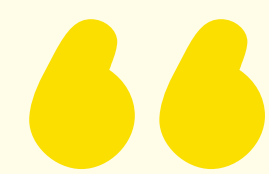


The efforts from OzHarvest have not gone unnoticed in our small town. It provided many families with a healthy and nutritious meal and the community with regular gathering to have a chat and share stories.

SAMANTHA
Curlewis



NARRABRI

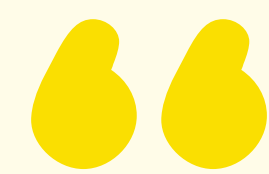


OzHarvest helped reunite our community after the fires.

MOGO RESIDENT



URALLA

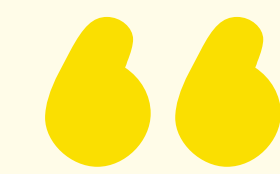


Local resident John was the catalyst for a support network of remote neighbours living with trauma after fires devastated the local Wyndham area. He regularly travelled long distances to deliver OzHarvest produce, along with a cuppa and a conversation to reconnect with people in need. Thank you John!

GAB & MARK
OzHarvest Mobile Market Team



LISMORE



OzHarvest deliveries took the pressure off many flood-fatigued families who were displaced for 10 months in emergency accommodation, often without cooking facilities or access to fresh food.

JESS WILKES
Program Coordinator, Uniting Wardell Cabbage
Tree Island village

SPECIAL THANKS



We are forever grateful to the vast number of inspiring volunteers and organisations who assisted OzHarvest on this remarkable journey.

♥ Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Government for providing emergency food relief funding for three years.

♥ Chill for providing the much-loved refrigerated vehicles.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Anglicare Snowy Valley / Boggabri HACC / Boomerang Meeting Place Mogo / Cassilis Post Office / Cobargo Community Access and Bushfire Relief Centre / Community Pantries: Eden, Bonalbo, Quirindi / Cootamundra Community Soup Kitchen / Coraki Recovery Hub / CWA Bellata, Bendemeer, Bodalla, Curlewis, Quirindi, Nimmitabel, Narrandera / Doing It For Our Farmers Murrurundi / Eurobodalla Council / Fairway Motor Inn Pambula / Koori Mail Lismore / Karinga Motel Lismore / Katungal Aboriginal Regional Health and Community Services / Kyogle Family Support Services / Kyogle Together / Local Aboriginal Land Council: Gulargambone, Gilgandra, Warren, Narromine & Nyngan / MacKillop Family Services Coonamble / Mission Australia Nyngan, Narrandera, Cooma / Monaro Milk / Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre / Murwillumbah Community Centre / OzHarvest Volunteers Sapphire Coast South, Sapphire Coast North, Wagga Wagga / Pilliga Public School / Quambone General Store and School / Red Cross Cootamundra and Nyngan / Rocky Hall Pre-school / Royal Flying Doctors Dubbo / RSL Batlow / Rural Fire Service Bodalla and Nerrigundah / Salvation Army Leeton / Shared Table Community Kitchen Narrabri / Snowy Valleys Council / South Coast Health & Sustainability Alliance / Ungarie Town Advancement / Wardell CORE / Woodburn Recovery Hub

FOOD SUPPORT

Bidders Farm Helensburgh / Edens Landing Fruit and Vegetables Mullumbimby / Farmer and Son / Farmer Bob's Tamworth / Farmer Charlie's Lismore / Go Troppo Fruit Market Canberra / IGA Batlow, Coonabarabran, Kyogle and Quirindi / Pambula Fruit Market / Paradise Fresh Narrabri / Southlands Fruit and Vegetables Moruya / Vinnie's Fruitz Narrandera

For more information contact sydney.info@ozharvest.org