

Locust response - Control

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VERSION 1

AUTHORISED BY (DPI) DDG Biosecurity & Food Safety

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Policy Statement

In NSW, there are three declared pest insects (Australian plague locust *Chortoicetes terminifera*, Spur-throated locust *Austracris guttulosa* and Migratory locust *Locusta migratoria*) under the *Local Land Services Act 2013* which require control.

Locust control in NSW is the responsibility of the land manager. However, sometimes this is beyond the capability of the land manager and may require control to be coordinated by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and/or Local Land Services (LLS).

Scope

This policy relates to control coordinated by LLS and/or NSW DPI in support of land managers in NSW. It does not relate to ground control undertaken by private or public land managers on their own land, including LLS and NSW DPI land managers.

Requirements

1. *Local Land Services Act 2013* requires public and private land managers to report and control locusts on the land they manage.
2. Land managers are required to conduct control activities on their land to prevent the spread of locusts between properties and across regions. A regional and state coordination program may be conducted when control is beyond land manager capacity to reduce impacts, the length of the program and costs.
3. A risk management approach should be applied on a case-by-case basis assessing the suitability of controlling locusts. It is recommended that control of nymphs and roosting adults should only occur at specified thresholds as described in the procedures *Insecticide management for locusts*, *Ground control of locusts*, and *Aerial control of locusts*.
4. Ground and aerial control must be conducted in accordance with the *Emergency management - Use of Aviation* policy, and aerial and ground control procedures. Ground control of locusts is the preferred control measure as it is safer, more efficient and effective.
5. Aerial control of nymph bands and swarms is coordinated by NSW DPI. Aerial control will only occur if strict criteria are met.
6. Where a land manager cannot undertake ground control of nymph locusts they should engage a contractor to undertake control at their cost. In exceptional circumstances, land managers can request assistance from LLS.
7. Under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*, the Crown, the Minister and other persons are not liable for compensation or damage arising from locust control unless damage or loss is caused wilfully, negligently or maliciously.
8. It is an offence under Section 15 of the *Pesticides Act 1999* to contravene the insecticide label requirements. Potential off-site impacts should be considered when deciding when and where to undertake control. Particular attention should be made to the buffers around environmentally sensitive areas.

9. Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) is responsible for the cost of their own operations in their area of responsibility.
10. APLC undertakes both ground and aerial surveillance, but only aerial control and generally operates west of the Newell Highway. APLC may only conduct operations outside its nominal boundaries at the express invitation of and at agreed costs to the requesting State and with agreement of other Commission States.

Procedures

- [Aerial control of locusts](#)
- [Locust emergency operation centres](#)
- [Ground control of locusts](#)
- [Insecticide management for locusts](#)
- [Surveillance and reporting of locusts](#)

Roles and responsibilities

- Refer to policy Locust response - Management

Safety considerations

Personnel involved in the control of locusts are required to assess risks on a case-by-case basis to reduce the impact of control activities such as aviation operations and insecticide use on other operational personnel, the community, and the environment.

Delegations

- Financial delegations - Emergency response delegations

Definitions

- APLC: Australian Plague Locust Commission
- LLS: Local Land Services
- NSW DPI: NSW Department of Primary Industries

Legislation

- Local Land Services Act 2013
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Pesticides Act 1999
- Pesticides Regulation 2009
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Related policies

- TI-A-140 Work health and safety policy
- TI-O-173 Locust response - Insecticide
- TI-O-172 Locust response - Management
- TI-O-113 Emergency management - Use of aviation policy

Other related documents

- Australian Plague Locust, Landholder Control Strategies for NSW

Superseded documents

This policy replaces:

- O-047 Locust response - Activation of ground control
- O-048 Locust response - Activation of aerial support
- O-050 Locust response - Environmental considerations
- O-101 Locust response - Spur Throated Locust management

Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1	14 May 2015	Combined superseded policies.	Emergency Management Officer

Review date

30 May 2017

Contact

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