

Biosecurity - Prohibited matter - sporadic pests and diseases of animals

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1. Purpose

This policy describes what the New South Wales Government will do to manage the risks posed to the economy, community and environment of New South Wales by sporadic endemic pests and diseases of animals that are listed as prohibited matter under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act).

2. Scope

This policy applies to NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), an office with the NSW Department of Industry, and Local Land Services (LLS) implementing activities in their roles as authorised officers under the Act and the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the overarching policy 'Principles for management of animal biosecurity and welfare in NSW' and the policy 'Surveillance for Pests and Diseases of Animals'.

Prohibited matter sporadic pests and diseases of animals (these pests and diseases) are sporadically occurring endemic pests and diseases of animals listed as prohibited matter under the Act. At the time of writing this policy, these diseases are Hendra virus infection (other than in flying foxes), anthrax and Australian bat lyssavirus.

3. Safety Requirements

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* places an obligation on the agency (NSW DPI and LLS) as a person conducting a business or undertaking and workers to provide a safe and healthy workplace. Safe Work Method Statements that support activities included in this policy must be used in identifying, assessing and controlling risks.

NSW DPI and LLS will work together to create a safe and supportive work environment when undertaking any activities for this policy.

4. Outcomes

4.1 Threats to animal biosecurity and welfare in NSW from prohibited matter sporadic pests and diseases of animals are assessed and managed according to a consistent, robust and systematic decision-making process

- a. National response plans, cost-sharing arrangements and surveillance programs for work well for stakeholders in NSW
- b. Legislation and procedures are contemporary and fit-for-purpose

- c. Resources are allocated to manage threats in accordance with NSW DPI and LLS organisational objectives drawn from the NSW Biosecurity Strategy and the annual NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan.

4.1.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS ensure that the interests of stakeholders in NSW are considered in national emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities including AUSVETPLAN review groups, Animal Health Committee working groups and national exercises for these pests and diseases (4.1a)
- NSW DPI regularly review the list of endemic pests and diseases of animals which are listed as prohibited matter (4.1b)
- NSW DPI and LLS management support staff members in understanding how to use the regulatory tools under the Act to manage these pests and diseases (4.1b)(4.1c)
- NSW DPI and LLS ensure that prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities are documented in the annual Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan (4.1c)
- NSW DPI and LLS jointly develop operational procedures for managing and responding to these pests and diseases supported by a risk analysis (4.1c).

4.2 NSW DPI and LLS activities minimise the incidence and impact of prohibited matter sporadic pests and diseases of animals in NSW.

- a. NSW is prepared and resourced to rapidly detect and respond effectively to these pests and diseases incident or outbreak
- b. NSW DPI engages with other government agencies such as NSW Health, Office of Environment and Heritage to facilitate a whole of government response to incidents as appropriate.

4.2.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS implement effective surveillance and reporting systems for these diseases as per the NSW Surveillance Policy: Surveillance for Pests and Diseases of Animals (4.2a)
- NSW DPI maintains a National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory available for testing of submissions for notifiable diseases from NSW animals (4.2a)
- NSW DPI manages the Emergency Animal Diseases Watch Hotline in NSW to facilitate prompt notification of these pests and diseases and LLS will assist where appropriate in rapid investigation, as per the surveillance policy 'Surveillance for Pests and Diseases of Animals' (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS implement programs raising stakeholder awareness about how to minimise the risk of these pests and diseases occurring e.g. preventive vaccination for anthrax in grazing livestock, or vaccination for Hendra virus in horses in high risk conditions (4.2a)
- NSW DPI work with the NSW DPI Communications team to develop and implement a community engagement plan to raise stakeholder awareness and also considers possible trade sensitivities (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS recognise the potential human health risks from these pests and diseases and manage them in partnership with NSW Health. NSW Health will be responsible for providing human health advice to the public and managing the public health risks associated with an incident or outbreak of a zoonotic prohibited matter sporadic pests and diseases of animals (4.2b).

4.3 Stakeholders are empowered to implement best practice animal biosecurity and welfare practices to minimise the incidence and impact of these pests and diseases of animals in NSW.

- a. Stakeholders are aware of the likely entry pathways of these pests and diseases and their affect to industries
- b. Stakeholders notify authorised officers of suspected incidence of these pests and diseases without delay
- c. Industries implement biosecurity plans and standard operating procedures to minimise the likelihood of introduction or spread of these pests and diseases.

4.3.1 Activities

- NSW DPI develops and implements an animal biosecurity stakeholder engagement plan that includes these pests and diseases (4.3a)
- LLS develop and implement regionally specific stakeholder engagement plans that include these pests and diseases (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS develop advisory material for stakeholders about these pests and diseases, including how to minimise the likelihood of an incursion (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS develop advisory material for stakeholders about their duties relating to prohibited matter under the Act including the duty to notify and the general biosecurity duty (4.3b)
- NSW DPI and LLS encourage animal managers and private veterinarians to report suspect cases of all notifiable diseases (4.3b)
- NSW DPI and LLS encourage and assist industry to develop emergency response plans for their enterprises such as horse event emergency response plans for Hendra (4.3c).

5. Related procedures

Procedure – Prohibited matter pests and diseases of animals – investigation and alert phase

Procedure - Reporting notifiable pests and diseases of animals

Procedure - Hendra virus: investigation and management

Procedure - Australian bat lyssavirus

Procedure - Anthrax management

Procedure – Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure if information

6. Definitions and acronyms

LLS	NSW Local Land Services
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia
NSW DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries

7. Legislation

Animal Research Act 1985

Biosecurity Act 2015

Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Government Sector Employment Act 2013

Local Land Services Act 2013

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979

State Records Act 1998

Veterinary Practice Act 2003

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

8. Other related documents

Policy – Biosecurity - Principles for management of animal biosecurity and welfare in NSW

Policy – Biosecurity - Prohibited matter exotic pests and diseases of animals
 Policy – Biosecurity - Endemic pests and diseases of animals
 Policy – Biosecurity - Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals
 Policy – Biosecurity - Chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food
 Policy – Biosecurity - Animal welfare (under development)
 Policy - Managing biosecurity and natural disaster emergencies (IND-O-205)
 Policy - Emergency management – NSW DPI/LLS alliance (IND-O-201)
 Policy – Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure if information
 Policy - Records Management (IND-I-177)
 Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)
 Policy - Classified Information (IND-I-196)
 Policy - Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)

9. Revision History

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	01/07/2017	New policy developed in response to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .	Animal Biosecurity and Welfare

10. Contact

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