

Biosecurity - Principles for management of animal biosecurity and welfare in New South Wales

POLICY NUMBER: IND-O-224	VERSION: 1.0
AUTHORISED BY: Group Director, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare	AUTHORISED DATE: 02/06/2017
ISSUED BY: Biosecurity & Food Safety	EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/07/2017
CATEGORY: Operations and Industry	REVIEW DATE: 01/07/2018

1. Purpose

This policy describes the overarching principles for the New South Wales Government activities to manage the risks posed to the economy, environment and community of New South Wales by significant animal biosecurity and welfare threats.

2. Scope

This policy applies to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), an office within the NSW Department of Industry, and Local Land Services (LLS) implementing activities in their roles as authorised officers under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) as well as roles under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*, the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*, the *Animal Research Act 1985*, and the administration of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA) and the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*.

This policy informs the seven policy areas, which are:

- Prohibited matter exotic pests and diseases of animals
- Prohibited matter sporadic pests and diseases of animals
- Endemic pests and diseases of animals
- Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals
- Aquatic biosecurity pests and diseases
- Chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food
- Animal welfare (Under development).

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 are identified, assessed and managed according to a consistent, robust and systematic decision-making process

- a. Situational awareness about emerging animal biosecurity and welfare threats is maintained by NSW DPI and LLS

- b. The significance of animal biosecurity and welfare threats are evaluated and prioritised, according to consistent risk criteria
- c. Resources are allocated to manage animal biosecurity and welfare threats in accordance with NSW DPI and LLS organisational objectives drawn from the NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013 -2021, the LLS Strategic Plan, the NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan and the supporting annual NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan ('Business Plan')
- d. NSW effectively contributes to the development of national animal biosecurity and welfare policies, programs and plans
- e. Management of animal biosecurity and welfare threats is enhanced by bilateral agreements, harmonised legislation and cooperation between NSW and other Australian jurisdictions
- f. Animal biosecurity and welfare legislation in NSW is reviewed regularly, remains contemporary, and red tape is reduced in accordance with the Better Regulation Principles of the [NSW Better Regulation Office](#)
- g. NSW is guided by international standards as informed by the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes
- h. Quality assurance principles are applied to support continual improvement in the management of animal biosecurity and welfare threats in NSW.

4.1.1 Activities

- The NSW DPI Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Group Director establishes a team tasked with identifying and prioritising animal biosecurity and welfare threats, including emerging threats, and recommending management options and allocation of resources (4.1a)
- NSW DPI develops a standard risk criteria and decision –making matrix against which animal biosecurity and welfare threats are evaluated (4.1b)
- NSW DPI and LLS considers management options for identified threats. These options include: prevention, eradication, containment, control, education, research, accept the risk (such as monitor, or take no action) (4.1c)
- NSW DPI plays a significant role in national animal biosecurity and welfare committees and in its role as a member of Animal Health Australia. These committees include various subcommittees under the National Biosecurity Committee such as the national Animal Health Committee and the Marine Pest Sectoral Committee (4.1d) (4.1e)
- NSW DPI and LLS cooperate with other Australian jurisdictions and, where appropriate, develops harmonised legislation and adhere to Memoranda of Understanding with other jurisdictions (4.1e)
- NSW DPI effectively administers, and both NSW DPI and LLS enforce the Act (4.1f)
- NSW DPI and LLS management ensure that staff members are trained in how to apply the principles and implement the regulatory tools under the Act, including the application of the general biosecurity duty (4.1f)
- NSW DPI effectively administers the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*. Implementation of this Act is the responsibility of the Veterinary Practitioners Board of NSW (4.1f)
- NSW DPI effectively administers and enforces the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* and the *Animal Research Act 1985*, effectively administers the POCTA. POCTA is enforced by the RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League NSW and NSW Police Force (4.1f)
- NSW DPI and LLS apply the standards of animal disease diagnosis, surveillance, notification and quality of veterinary services as informed by the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes (4.1g)
- NSW DPI and LLS have an internal audit system, for example, by periodically verifying the results of the key performance indicators in the Business Plan (4.1h).

4.2 NSW DPI and LLS activities minimise the incidence and impact of animal biosecurity threats in NSW.

- a. Optimal animal biosecurity and welfare outcomes are delivered for industry and the community in NSW through the partnership between NSW DPI and LLS
- b. The Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Unit works within a clearly defined scope of activities for programs which span various units within the NSW DPI and/or NSW Department of Industry
- c. NSW DPI work within clearly defined scope of activities within programs which span various NSW government agencies, such as the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), NSW Health and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- d. NSW DPI and LLS maintain a capable and competent workforce
- e. A safe and supportive work environment is maintained, with workplace health and safety recognised as a priority
- f. Capacity and capability is underpinned by continually improving systems, such as technological, reporting, and project management systems.

4.2.1 Activities

- NSW DPI optimises its partnership with LLS through the Strategic Animal Biosecurity Alliance (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS annually develop the NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan which guides planning, reporting and operational activities to achieve state priorities in animal biosecurity and welfare (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS jointly undertake risk analyses to underpin animal biosecurity and welfare policies and procedures (4.2a)
- NSW DPI staff members in leadership positions work with their counterparts in other NSW DPI units and branches to define NSW DPI AB&W responsibilities and how we work together to deliver outcomes under the [NSW DPI Strategic Plan](#). These responsibilities are clearly communicated to staff members (4.2b)
- NSW DPI defines its role in the management of wildlife biosecurity issues in accordance with an agreement with other agencies. These other agencies are LLS, the OEH, the EPA, NSW Health, Wildlife Health Australia and the Registry of Wildlife Health (4.2b)
- NSW DPI supports NSW Health by providing supporting information about animal disease status in the case of a zoonotic disease incident (4.2c)
- NSW DPI and LLS staff members in leadership positions will:
 - develop workforce plans to support training, progression and succession planning for their staff (4.2d)
 - build a positive team culture by modelling and promoting the NSW Government values – Integrity, Trust, Service and Accountability (4.2e)
 - model and promote a safe and supportive work environment (4.2e).
- NSW DPI and LLS staff will:
 - embrace training opportunities to improve their capabilities under the [NSW Public Sector Capability Framework](#), and to improve their technical skills and competencies (4.2d)
 - embrace the NSW Government values (4.2e)
 - work together to create a safe and supportive work environment (4.2e)
 - work collaboratively with other units to continually improve systems such as technological, reporting and project management systems (4.2f).

4.3 Stakeholders are empowered to promote and implement best animal biosecurity and welfare practices.

- a. Biosecurity as a shared responsibility is proactively promoted by key stakeholders such as peak industry bodies and animal interest groups
- b. Stakeholders understand how to discharge their duties under the Act, including their general biosecurity duty, and their duty to notify the presence or suspected presence of Prohibited Matter and other notifiable pests and diseases of animals
- c. NSW DPI and LLS communicate effectively with the media and stakeholders about how to prevent and manage animal biosecurity and welfare threats in NSW
- d. A process to measure and improve stakeholder engagement levels in NSW is developed and implemented.

4.3.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS work with key stakeholders to develop industry-led improved animal biosecurity and welfare practices such as biosecurity plans for farms, saleyards (4.3a)
- NSW DPI develops an animal biosecurity communications plan and information for stakeholders about their duties under the Act (4.3b)
- LLS provide targeted advice for stakeholders in their region about their duties under the Act (4.3b)
- NSW DPI develops a media engagement plan to guide staff on how to raise stakeholder awareness of significant animal biosecurity and welfare threats whilst being mindful of trade sensitivities and community concerns (4.3c)
- NSW DPI and LLS proactively seek to better understand stakeholder engagement with animal biosecurity and welfare issues (4.3d).

5. Related procedures

Note that all of the animal biosecurity and welfare procedures sit under the seven specific policy areas which are informed by this overarching policy (see section 2 – scope).

Procedure: Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information

6. Definitions and acronyms

DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
LLS	NSW Local Land Services
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
NSW DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
POCTA	<i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979</i>

7. Legislation

Animal Research Act 1985
Biosecurity Act 2015
Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986
Fisheries Management Act 1994
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 - Prohibited matter exotic pests and diseases of animals
Policy - Prohibited matter sporadic pests and diseases of animals
Policy - Endemic pests and diseases of animals
Policy - Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals
Policy - Aquatic biosecurity - pests and diseases
Policy - Chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food
Policy - Animal welfare (Under development)
Policy - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information
Policy - Emergency management – DPI/LLS alliance (IND-O-201)
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)
Policy - Work Health and Safety (IND-P-185)
Policy - Code of Conduct (IND-P-184)
NSW Department of Industry Corporate Plan 2015-2019
NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021
NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan July 2013 – June 2018

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

Biosecurity NSW – General Enquires
1800 808 095
biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au