



# Annual Disbursement of Funds to Local Land Services to Support Wild Dog Management

POLICY NUMBER	IND-O-211	VERSION	1.0
AUTHORISED BY	(B&FS) DDG Biosecurity & Food Safety	AUTHORISED DATE	04/04/2017
AUTHORISED BY	(LLS) Executive Manager LLS	AUTHORISED DATE	18/04/2017
ISSUED BY	Biosecurity NSW and Local Land Services	EFFECTIVE DATE	18/04/2017
		REVIEW DATE:	18/04/2020

## 1. Purpose

Wild dogs are a declared pest animal throughout NSW under the Local Land Services (Wild Dogs) Pest Control Order 2015 (PCO). Effective wild dog management requires a strategic and proactive approach whereby private and public land managers use a cross-tenure planning process. Local Land Services (LLS) helps landholders by providing advice and assistance in managing wild dogs and NSW Treasury provides an annual grant to subsidise some of the costs of wild dog management in NSW.

This policy describes how an annual disbursement of wild dog management funds from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to the LLS will be managed. NSW DPI is an office of the NSW Department of Industry. The policy describes the eligible activities LLS may allocate the funds to, and outlines reporting requirements to ensure consistency with the LLS (Wild Dogs) Pest Control Order 2015, the Pesticide Control (PAPP) Order 2016, the Pesticide Control (1080 Liquid Concentrate and Bait Products) Order 2016 and the National Wild Dog Action Plan metrics.

## 2. Scope

This policy covers the disbursement of annual funds from DPI to LLS to support wild dog management and updates the original policy (Circular NO: AI 2001/12), including: the administration of the grant; the collection and reporting of metrics; and the provision of more flexibility for the LLS in the use of the grant monies. The updated policy is consistent with the intent of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* in promoting shared responsibility for biosecurity and improved reporting of biosecurity outcomes with respect to the management of wild dogs.

## 3. Policy outcomes

- DPI defines eligible activities and expenses that LLS can allocate annual funds towards.
- DPI and LLS collaborate to ensure inter-agency collection, sharing and reporting of data on wild dog management.
- DPI and LLS collaborate to ensure transparency and consistency in the allocation of grant money for the management of wild dogs.
- Full and accurate records and information relating to the disbursement of funds are captured into the appropriate business system. These should be able to withstand independent scrutiny if required.

## 4. Collection, storage and sharing of wild dog management metrics

Data relating to wild dog activity and wild dog management is centrally stored in a database accessible by DPI and LLS. This ensures consistency in reporting and facilitates state-wide monitoring of wild dog predation and pesticide use. LLS regions that routinely collect and record

wild dog data will be eligible to receive a portion of the available grant funding. The following wild dog activity and management metrics are to be routinely collected and recorded by LLS in the FARMS database where possible:

- a. Wild dog observations and / or predation details (time / date of observation, property holding number, latitude / longitude coordinates of observations where available), relevant Wild Dog Management Plan (WDMP) for area, livestock species impacted, number of livestock injured or killed and total livestock holdings on affected property) (3b)
- b. Report of Authorised Officer inspection and follow up (education / compliance activities) (3b)
- c. Pesticide issued to specific holding recorded within 24 hours of pesticide preparation (3b)
- d. Landholder / Wild Dog Action Group (or equivalent) management activities (baiting, trapping, shooting etc.) (3b)

In addition to the information recorded in FARMS, the following wild dog management planning, budgeting and expense information is to be routinely collected and recorded by LLS:

- a. High quality WDMP spatial data, centrally stored and accessible by DPI and LLS: WDMPs and associated spatial data for management programs coordinated by LLS will be saved into a folder of the nominated records management system (Hewlett Packard RM8) which is able to be accessed by DPI and LLS. An indication of whether a WDMP is local, regional, current, expired but still active or a baited area with no signed plan must be provided and quality control by LLS is required to ensure that Plan areas align without overlap (3b, 3c)
- b. Budgeted and actual wild dog management costs (3b, 3c)

DPI will provide reports to the NSW Government on wild dog management based on the above information.

#### **5. Reporting of wild dog management metrics:**

LLS will provide annual summary reports to DPI related to LLS-coordinated wild dog management activities for the previous calendar year.

- a. By 1 March each year, a nominated LLS Coordinator will confirm that the data collection and reporting requirements outlined in clause 4 of this policy have been completed and that the data accurately represents wild dog predation and management activities for each LLS (3b, 3c).
- b. When DPI has received the above data / reporting confirmation and expenditure proposal, it will provide a single payment of \$60,000 for subsequent allocation by LLS Executive Support Unit to state-wide projects and / or LLS regions that have complied with the requirements of this policy (3b, 3c). The payment will be made prior to 30 June each year.

#### **6. Allocation of grant funds for wild dog management**

By 1 March each year, a nominated LLS Coordinator will submit to DPI a proposal for the allocation of the grant funds in the *current* calendar year.

##### **6.1 Funds from the annual grant are able to be used to cover the following wild dog related management areas/activities (3a):**

- a. Planning processes (e.g. costs associated with holding wild dog management group meetings or communicating with groups).
- b. Reporting systems (local, regional and state-wide).
- c. Minor infrastructure to support wild dog management (such as cameras, bait freezers, traps, canid pest ejectors).
- d. Wild dog management operational costs (landholder education and training events, helicopter hire/fuel and pilot accommodation).

## 6.2 Funds from the annual grant are unable to be used to cover the following areas/activities (3a):

- a. LLS staff wages
- b. Fencing instalment or repairs

## 7. Related Procedures

Expired policy Circular NO: AI 2001/12 – Policy for disbursement of wild dog grants to Rural Lands Protection Boards

## 8. Definitions and Acronyms

- DPI: NSW Department of Primary Industries. An office of the NSW Department of Industry
- LLS: Local Land Services
- WDMP: Wild Dog Management Plan

## 9. Legislation

- Local Land Services (Wild Dogs) Pest Control Order 2015
- NSW Vertebrate Pesticide Control Orders

## 10. Other Related Documents

- NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy
- National Wild Dog Action Plan

## 11. Revision History

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	17/05/ 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new policy replaces Circular NO: AI 2001/12 – Policy for disbursement of wild dog grants to Rural Lands Protection Boards.</li> <li>• The new policy updates the administration of the annual \$60,000 grant to include:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Collection and reporting of metrics</li> <li>b) Provision of more flexibility for the LLS in the use of the grant monies</li> <li>c) Consistency with the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i></li> </ol> </li> </ul>	Manager Invasive Species Strategy and Planning

## 13. Contact

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