

Biosecurity - Endemic 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 significant endemic pests and diseases of animals.

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 as described for significant endemic animal pests and diseases under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) and *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

Significant endemic pests and diseases of animals include those diseases listed as notifiable under Schedule 1 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 (the Regulation), plus other endemic diseases where assessment demonstrates that government intervention is warranted.

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

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 significant endemic pests and diseases of animals are assessed and managed according to a consistent, robust and systematic decision-making process.

- a. The significance of endemic pests and diseases of animal threats are evaluated and prioritised according to consistent risk criteria
- b. High risk rated endemic animal pests and diseases are declared notifiable and listed under Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Regulation
- c. Resources are allocated to manage endemic animal pest and disease 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 develops a standard risk criteria and decision–making matrix against which animal biosecurity threats are evaluated (4.1a)
- NSW DPI regularly reviews the NSW list of notifiable endemic animal diseases listed under Schedule 1 of the Regulation (4.1b)
- NSW DPI and LLS are responsive to industry-raised concerns about non-notifiable endemic pests and diseases, and consider providing support for industry-led initiatives for management of these diseases according to the standard decision-making matrix. In some circumstances, this could lead to a non- notifiable disease being reclassified as notifiable (4.1c)

4.2 NSW DPI and LLS activities minimise the incidence and impact of significant endemic pests and diseases of animals in NSW.

- a. The impact of notifiable endemic pests and diseases on NSW animal production and welfare is minimised
- b. Investigation and management of notifiable endemic pests and diseases is a priority activity for all government veterinary officers and support staff as set out in the relevant procedures
- c. NSW DPI and LLS develop and lead programs for significant endemic pests and diseases where these are supported by stakeholders. In some circumstances, these programs may be funded by stakeholders.

4.2.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS promote best biosecurity practice guidelines for notifiable endemic pests and diseases, informed by national programs where these exist (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS demonstrate best biosecurity practices in the management of animals or land managed by NSW DPI or LLS (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS manages significant notifiable endemic pests and diseases according to specific procedures developed by NSW DPI and LLS to ensure a consistent and appropriate response across NSW (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS develop and implement surveillance activities for notifiable endemic animal pests and diseases, as per the NSW Surveillance for Animal Pests and Diseases policy and the specific notifiable endemic pests and diseases procedure (4.2b)
- NSW DPI maintains a National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory available for testing of submissions for notifiable endemic pests and diseases of NSW animals (4.2b)
- NSW DPI and LLS are involved in management programs for some significant non-notifiable endemic pests and diseases of animals, determined by a robust risk assessment process which includes cost benefit analysis and evidence of industry commitment as key determinants for participation (4.2c)
- Market drivers for disease management programs are identified and biosecurity plans that link with these market drivers are promoted (4.2c).

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

- a. Stakeholders and other government agencies are well informed, engaged and supported by NSW DPI and LLS to implement best practice biosecurity for endemic pests and diseases of animals
- b. Animal managers and private veterinarians are encouraged to promptly report suspect cases of notifiable endemic pests and diseases.

4.3.1 Activities

- NSW DPI develops and implements an animal biosecurity stakeholder engagement plan that includes endemic pests and diseases of animals (4.3a)
- LLS develop and implement regionally specific animal biosecurity stakeholder engagement plans that include endemic pests and diseases of animals (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS lead a range of activities at the local and regional level to raise stakeholder awareness of and engagement with state biosecurity objectives in the [NSW Biosecurity Strategy](#) (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS encourage animal producers to develop and implement specific risk based biosecurity plans for their own enterprises using nationally available [resources](#) (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS strongly recommend that livestock producers supply and request livestock health statements/declarations whenever livestock are transacted or agisted (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS produce information about notifiable and other endemic disease trends which will be regularly analysed and reported to industry to allow appropriate action to be taken (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS measure and communicate the reduction of impact of notifiable endemic pests and diseases on NSW animal production due to improved biosecurity practices. This will allow industry to assist in creating a driver for greater uptake (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS consider all sectors of industry (e.g. livestock contractors, livestock transporters, agents, saleyards managers) when developing communications strategies for biosecurity (4.3a)
- NSW DPI develops advisory material for stakeholders about their duties relating to endemic pests and diseases of animals under the Act including the general biosecurity duty (4.3a)(4.3b)
- NSW DPI and LLS provide advisory material to stakeholders to raise awareness of notifiable endemic pests and diseases of animals and the duty to notify suspicion of diseases listed under Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Regulation (4.3b)
- NSW DPI partly or wholly funds the laboratory fees for initial diagnostic testing of suspicion for suspected notifiable endemic pests and diseases of animals to encourage livestock managers and nongovernment veterinarians to report notifiable diseases (4.3b).

5. Related procedures

Procedure - *Brucella suis* in dogs

Procedure - Cattle tick: tick fever

Procedure – Cattle Tick

Procedure - *Cysticercus bovis*

Procedure – Virulent footrot

Procedure - Sheep lice

Procedure - Johne's Disease

Procedure - Reporting notifiable pests and diseases of animals

Procedure – Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure if information

Work Instruction - Cattle tick: Investigation of suspected breaches detected by Bordercam
 Work Instruction - Cattle tick: Managing led and tractable stock at Border facilities
 Work Instruction - Cattle tick: Response following detection
 Work Instruction - Cattle tick: Requirements for livestock entering NSW

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 2011
Work Health and Safety Act 2011

8. Other related documents

Policy – Biosecurity - Principles for the management of animal biosecurity in NSW
 Policy – Biosecurity - Prohibited matter exotic pests and diseases of animals
 Policy – Biosecurity - Prohibited matter sporadic 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 (underdevelopment)
 Policy - Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure if information
 Records Management Policy (IND-I-177)
 Information Security Policy (IND-I-197)
 Classified Information Policy (IND-I-196)
 Government Information (Public Access) Policy (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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