

## Locust response - Management

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VERSION 1

AUTHORISED BY (DPI) DDG Biosecurity & Food Safety

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### Policy Statement

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), Local Land Services (LLS) and the Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) support and coordinate monitoring and management of locust populations to reduce impacts caused by locusts.

LLS coordinate locust monitoring and management in their LLS region and ensure that land managers meet their obligations under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*. NSW DPI provides state-wide coordination of monitoring, reporting and control. The APLC is responsible for strategically monitoring and managing locusts across NSW, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia where locusts have the potential to have a cross-jurisdictional impact.

Emergency operation centres (EOCs) may be activated during significant locust outbreaks. EOCs may include a State Coordination Centre (SCC), Local Control Centre (LCC) and Forward Command Post (FCP).

Approved costs incurred by NSW DPI and LLS for locust control can be recovered from the Pest Insect Destruction Fund (PIDF). Money in this fund is collected by the LLS through a levy on land holders. NSW DPI administers the fund on behalf of the Minister.

### Scope

This policy outlines the responsibilities of NSW DPI, LLS and APLC, the activation of emergency operation centres and the costs that can be recovered.

### Requirements

1. LLS are responsible for coordinating locust management at a regional level as part of their normal business.
2. Activation of emergency operations centres
  - a. EOCs may be set up to manage locust control and to coordinate locust monitoring, management and reporting at the local, regional and State level. The need to activate centres depends on the size and complexity of the locust outbreak. NSW DPI in consultation with LLS will determine the need for activation of EOCs.
  - b. EOCs will follow the Incident Control System (ICS) principles, enabling a simultaneous and cohesive multi-agency response. EOCs will be staffed by people with appropriate skills and experience.
  - c. EOCs locations should be planned for in the LLS and NSW DPI Concept of Operations.
  - d. When resources exceed normal LLS business capabilities, a LCC or FCP may be established in consultation with NSW DPI to support management of activities at the local LLS level. LLS resources from outside the local region will be used to support local resources.
  - e. A LCC will be required to coordinate activities across a region where multiple FCPs are activated. When no EOC is activated, LLS provide summary information to NSW DPI and APLC.

- f. A SCC will be activated by the NSW Locust Commissioner to coordinate activities across the State when multiple LLS are actively managing locusts or when LCCs or FCPs are activated.
3. Deactivation of emergency operations centres
    - a. Deactivation of the FCP will occur when activity in the local LLS returns to the local LLS capability as determined by LLS and NSW DPI.
    - b. Deactivation of the LCC will be determined by the SCC and will occur when the FCPs operating in its region are deactivated or responsibility moved to another LCC or SCC.
    - c. Deactivation of the SCC is determined by the NSW Locust Commissioner.
  4. Reimbursement of costs
    - a. A project task code linking to the PIDF will be allocated to an event when a locust incident has been declared by the Locust Commissioner.
    - b. A task request must be approved prior to expenditure and allocation of funds in the NSW Department of Industry finance systems eg SAP By Design and Spend Vision.
    - c. Requests for reimbursements and invoices should be entered within 30 days of incurring the costs.
    - d. Approval for LLS personnel to work outside their normal LLS region on locust control operations must be given by the SCC, and either the Manager Biosecurity and Emergency Services (MBES) or LLS General Manager for that region.
    - e. Reimbursable costs include:
      - i. Directed overtime where the person is engaged at an EOC full time on the emergency response. Overtime is entered and approved on the EM worksheet. Base salaries remain the responsibility of their agency.
      - ii. Motor vehicle operating costs of LLS staff when they are working outside their own LLS region.
      - iii. Accommodation, meals and daily incidental allowance for LLS staff when they are working outside their own LLS region or outside their normal area of operations within their region if approved by MBES and either the Locust Commissioner (if an emergency management structure has not been put in place in NSW) or the SCC.
      - iv. In limited circumstances, additional overhead costs and assets of LLS incurred due to locust control activities.
      - v. In limited circumstances, the costs of staff employed to backfill staff or support the locust response with approval of the SCC.

## Procedures

- Aerial control of locusts
- Ground control of locusts
- Insecticide management of locusts
- Locust emergency operation centres

## Roles and responsibilities

1. *Land manager responsibilities (private and public)*
  - a. Give notice to LLS of the presence on managed land of pest insects;
  - b. Control locusts on managed land; and
  - c. Early notification of LLS of an inability to effectively control locusts on their land.
2. *Local Land Services responsibilities*
  - a. Coordination of monitoring, management and reporting for locusts within the LLS region;
  - b. Encourage and promote land managers notification and control obligations under the *Local Land Services Act 2013* and undertake enforcement measures if required;
  - c. Receiving and confirming locust reports from land managers and forwarding these to the APLC and NSW DPI;
  - d. Coordination and management of ground surveillance and spraying;
  - e. Providing advice on pest insects and their control to land managers;

- f. Issuing insecticide to land managers;
  - g. Conducting communications at a local/regional level;
  - h. Providing support for NSW DPI and APLC operations;
  - i. Set up and resource EOCs as required; and
  - j. Maintaining and monitoring work health and safety of personnel involved in locust activities.
3. *NSW DPI responsibilities*
- a. State-wide coordination of locust monitoring, management and reporting, both ground and aerial;
  - b. Procurement and distribution of insecticide to LLS for issue to land managers;
  - c. Coordination and management of aerial surveillance and spraying;
  - d. Issue of publicity and communications management at a State level;
  - e. Provision of technical advice and support through training, advice and extension materials;
  - f. Activating and managing EOCs, when required including implementation and auditing of procedures;
  - g. Ensuring environmental issues are managed at the state and regional level; and
  - h. Maintaining and monitoring health and safety of personnel involved in the response.
4. *APLC Responsibilities*
- a. Inter-state coordination across member states of Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia of locust monitoring, management and reporting;
  - b. Liaise with state organisations to coordinate on-ground work required to be conducted by LLS/NSW DPI personnel;
  - c. Locust research and forecasting;
  - d. Aerial and ground survey in area of operations;
  - e. Aerial control where there is a threat of interstate impact; and
  - f. Maintaining health and safety of all APLC personnel.

### **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
- Overheads: including telephone calls, gas and electricity, postage and photocopier usage. In the case of utilities, LLS will be required to substantiate overhead costs claimed by providing 2 previous accounts for the similar period to obtain a comparison of additional costs incurred.
- PIDF: Pest Insect Destruction Fund

### **Legislation**

- Local Land Services Act 2013
- Pest Control Order Number 8 (Spur-throated locust)
- Pest Control Order Number 9 (Australian plague locust)
- Pest Control Order Number 10 (Migratory locust)
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

### Related policies

- TI-A-140 Work health and safety policy
- TI-O-113 Emergency management - Use of aviation policy

### Other related documents

- Nil

### Superseded documents

This policy replaces:

- O-046 Locust response - Responsibilities
- O-050 Locust response - Environmental considerations
- O-051 Locust response - Activation of emergency operation centres
- A-086 Reimbursement of costs to LHPAs participating in a plague locust control operation
- O-043 Plague locust compliance and enforcement

### 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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