

Biosecurity - Prohibited matter - exotic 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 exotic animal pests and diseases 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 within 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 animal pests and diseases’.

Prohibited matter exotic pests and diseases of animals (‘these pests and diseases’) are not present in NSW and have the potential to cause major adverse impacts. Most of these pests and diseases have been categorised under the [Emergency Animal Diseases Response Agreement \(EADRA\)](#).

NSW DPI and LLS will minimise the risks posed by these pests and diseases in NSW by leading stakeholders in implementing measures to prevent entry, rapidly detect and respond to any incursion, and facilitate return to normal conditions as soon as possible after a response.

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

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

4.1.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS collaborate with other stakeholders, and ensure that the interests of stakeholders in NSW are considered, in national and state emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities including reviews of the EADRA, the

AUSVETPLAN Technical Review Group, Animal Health Committee task groups and national exercises (4.1a)

- NSW DPI periodically reviews the list of exotic pests and diseases of animals which are listed as prohibited matter and the duties in relation to prohibited matter in the Act (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)
- NSW DPI prepares a high risk priority list of these pests and diseases and ensures response preparedness activities for each are documented in the annual Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan (4.1c).

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

- a. Rapid detection of these pests and diseases and a response consistent with national plans is implemented rapidly and effectively.
- b. NSW DPI fulfils its role as lead agency for animal health emergencies, as per the [NSW Emergency Management Arrangements](#) and supports other agencies in managing the risks to human health, safety and well-being caused by these pests and diseases.
- c. NSW DPI and LLS staff are trained, prepared, and have the capacity to effectively respond to an incursion of one of these pests and diseases.

4.2.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS implement effective surveillance and reporting systems for these pests and diseases, as per the policy 'Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals'(4.2a)
- NSW DPI manages the Emergency Animal Diseases Watch Hotline in NSW to facilitate prompt notification of these pests and diseases and rapid investigation, as per the policy 'Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals' (4.2b)
- LLS assist where appropriate in the rapid investigation of these pests and diseases, as per the policy 'Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals' (4.2b)
- 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 (4.2b)
- NSW DPI and LLS encourage and assist industry to develop emergency response plans for their enterprises e.g. individual saleyard emergency response plans (4.2b)
- NSW DPI and LLS participate in responses to these pests and diseases as a priority activity (4.2b)
- NSW DPI support NSW Health to manage human health aspects of a zoonotic incident caused by these pests and diseases by providing supporting information about animal disease risks (4.2b)
- NSW DPI and LLS staff participate in training and exercises for these pests and diseases which are documented annually in the Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan (4.2c)
- NSW DPI and LLS produce draft NSW response plans for these pests and diseases, for example, a generic Emergency Animal Disease Response Plan for priority pests and diseases (4.2c)
- NSW DPI and LLS response planning includes recovery planning and considers the impacts to community well-being, with the aim of facilitating return to normal conditions as soon as possible (4.2c).

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

- a. Stakeholders are aware of the potential entry pathways of the exotic pests and diseases most likely to affect their industries.
- b. Stakeholders notify authorised officers of suspected incidences 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 implement an animal biosecurity stakeholder engagement plan that includes these pests and diseases (4.3a)
- LLS develop and implement regionally specific animal biosecurity stakeholder engagement plans that include these pests and diseases (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS develop advisory material and implement programs to raise stakeholder awareness about their duties under the Act of high risk entry pathways of these pests and diseases. For example, Feeding of prohibited pig feed and ruminant animal materials (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS develop advisory material for stakeholders about their general biosecurity duty under the Act, which includes information about how to minimise the likelihood of an incursion of these pests and diseases (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS develop advisory material for stakeholders about their duty to notify the presence or suspected presence of these pests or diseases under the Act (4.3b)
- NSW DPI and LLS encourage livestock managers and private veterinarians to report suspect cases of all notifiable diseases including these pests and diseases (4.3b)
- NSW DPI partly or wholly fund the laboratory fees for initial diagnostic testing of suspicion for suspected notifiable animal diseases to encourage livestock managers and private veterinarians to report notifiable diseases (4.3b)
- NSW DPI and LLS work with key stakeholders to develop and implement industry led biosecurity plans and standard operating procedures to minimise the likelihood of introduction or spread of these pests and diseases, using national resources where available (4.3c)
- NSW DPI and LLS encourage and assist stakeholders to develop emergency response plans for their enterprises (4.3c).

5. Related procedures

Procedure – Reporting notifiable pests and diseases of animals

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

Procedure - Avian influenza surveillance during an outbreak

Procedure - Highly pathogenic avian influenza

Procedure - Prohibited pig feed

Procedure - Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Freedom Assurance Program

Procedure - Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure if information

6. Definitions and acronyms

EADRA A contractual arrangement between Australia's governments and industry groups to collectively reduce the risk of disease incursions and manage a response if an outbreak occurs, managed by Animal Health Australia.

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 in NSW
Policy – Biosecurity - Prohibited matter sporadic 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 – 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)
Resource – Animal Health Australia AUSVETPLAN
Resource – Animal Health Australia Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement
Primefact – Prohibited matter emergency pests and diseases of animals

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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