



## Managing biosecurity and natural disaster emergencies

NUMBER IND-O-205

VERSION 1

AUTHORISED BY A/DDG Biosecurity & Food Safety

AUTHORISED DATE 14/09/2016

ISSUED BY Biosecurity Operations, Biosecurity & Food Safety

EFFECTIVE DATE 14/09/2016

### Policy statement

Managing animal and plant biosecurity and natural disaster emergencies is a whole of department responsibility involving state, regional and local plans supported by policies and procedures that deliver safe and resilient communities.

### Scope

This policy applies to personnel of NSW Department of Industry, government agencies, and participating and supporting organisations engaged in emergency management activities under NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN).

### Requirements

#### *Authority*

1. Under NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is the appointed combat agency for biosecurity (animal and plant) emergencies and also a support agency as the Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area (AASFA) in natural disasters.
2. Participating/supporting organisations are authorised under memorandum of understandings (MoUs) with DPI to conduct emergency management activities as requested by DPI.
3. Local Land Services (LLS) is the primary participating organisation and operates in conjunction with DPI according to the policy Emergency management - DPI/LLS alliance.

#### *Governance*

4. When controlling, organising and managing biosecurity emergency management activities, participating/supporting organisations are performing duties on behalf of DPI.
5. When supporting a combat agency in natural disaster emergency management activities, participating/supporting organisations are performing duties as AASFA (DPI).
6. As the combat agency for animal and plant biosecurity and as a support agency under AASFA in natural disasters, DPI is responsible for the management of the response.
7. Following consultation, DPI may delegate responsibility to another organisation for biosecurity and natural disaster (AASFA) emergency management activities. In delegating responsibility, DPI retains accountability.
8. Expenditure associated with emergency management activities may be recoupable under State and Commonwealth arrangements in accordance with the policy Emergency management - Finance arrangements.
9. Personnel working on behalf of DPI must comply with relevant NSW Department of Industry policies including Work Health and Safety, Records Management and Code of Conduct. A person must comply with their own organisations policies when more restrictive.

#### *Personnel Management*

10. Response personnel operate within an incident control system established by an incident controller.
11. Personnel participating in emergency management activities are trained or competent to perform their roles.

- a. DPI provides access to emergency management training and exercises for Department of Industry and participating/supporting organisation personnel
- b. DPI recognises training and competencies conducted by other jurisdictions and agencies for the purposes of assigning roles
- c. Personnel are recruited into operations in accordance with the policy Emergency management - Recruiting personnel

12. Personnel must comply with the policy Emergency management - Working arrangements.

### Procedures

- Emergency management procedures

### Roles and responsibilities

- Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area Coordinator (DPI):
  - Commands natural disaster emergency management activities.
  - Activates participating and supporting organisations.
- DPI Executive Emergency Management Committee:
  - Maintains oversight of State level emergency policy, response and resource allocation.
- NSW Chief Veterinary Officer:
  - Controls all animal (including aquatic) disease or pest biosecurity emergency response and recovery operations, unless a 'state of emergency' is declared.
  - Activates participating and supporting organisations.
- NSW Chief Plant Protection Officer:
  - Controls all plant disease or pest (includes freshwater weeds) emergency response and recovery operations, unless a 'state of emergency' is declared.
  - Activates participating and supporting organisations.
- Personnel:
  - Comply with emergency management policies and supporting documents
  - Participate in training, exercises, and responses to gain and maintain competency and skills in emergency management role(s)

### Safety considerations

Safety and wellbeing is enhanced by the requirement for personnel to comply with the emergency management policies, supporting documents and attendance at training and exercises.

### Delegations

- Financial delegations - emergency response delegations.

### Definitions

- **Accountability:** means acknowledgment and assumption of responsibility for actions, products, decisions, and policies, and to be answerable for resulting consequences.
- **Biosecurity emergency:** means an emergency due to an actual or imminent occurrence, affecting or threatening to affect, the economy, environment and public health, and associated with pests, animal and plant diseases (not human) and weeds.
- **Combat agency:** means the agency identified in NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) as the agency primarily responsible for controlling the response to a particular emergency.
- **Control:** means the overall direction of the activities, agencies or individuals concerned.
- **Emergency:** means an emergency due to an actual or imminent occurrence which:
  - Endangers, or threatens to endanger, the safety or health of persons or animals in the State; or
  - Destroys or damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, any property in the State, being an emergency which requires a significant and co-ordinated response.
- **Emergency management activities:** means organisation and management of resources for dealing with all aspects of emergencies.
- **Natural disaster:** means bushfires, cyclones, earthquakes, floods and storms including hail. For the purposes of this policy, natural disaster also incorporates technological or human caused emergencies, controlled by a combat agency or emergency operations controller e.g. oil spills.
- **Personnel:** means contingent workers, and personnel of a government agency and participating/supporting organisation, including paid, volunteer and student.

## Legislation

- Local Land Services Act 2013
- State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

## Related policies

- Emergency management - Disaster assessment and declaration
- Emergency management - DPI/LLS alliance
- Emergency management - Finance arrangements
- Emergency management - Recruiting personnel
- Emergency management - Working arrangements
- NSW Department of Industry Code of Conduct
- NSW Department of Industry Records management policy
- NSW Department of Industry Work Health and Safety policy

## Other related documents

- Memorandum of Understanding for participating/supporting organisations
- NSW Animal Biosecurity & Welfare Strategic Plan 2015-2018
- NSW Biosecurity (Animal and Plant) Emergency Sub-Plan
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy, 2013-2021
- NSW State Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area Supporting Plan
- NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN)

## Superseded documents

This policy replaces:

- Nil

## Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1	22/08/2016	For approval	Emergency Management Officer

## Review date

15/09/2019

## Contact

Manager Emergency Operations, Biosecurity and Food Safety, (02) 6391 3771