



## Large feline sightings response

NUMBER TI-O-145

VERSION 1.0

AUTHORISED BY Director General Primary Industries

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ISSUED BY Primary Industries

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### Policy statement

DPI will respond to reported sightings of large felines by referring the report to either the NSW Police, the land manager or to the relevant Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) as appropriate.

### Scope

This policy applies to staff of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA) including their Board and staff, and land managers.

### Requirements

1. *Response to sightings of large felines and reports of attacks on livestock:*
  - a. Where the public are concerned for their safety, DPI will refer reported sightings to the NSW Police, or the land manager, for investigation as they deem appropriate.
  - b. Any reports of attacks on livestock will be referred to the Livestock Health and Pest Authority for investigation where appropriate, of the possible presence of wild dogs.
  - c. Where reports are submitted to the Department, advice will be given that follow up has to be done at a local level by the most appropriate local authority (as outlined in *a.* and *b.*). The person making the report will be informed accordingly.

### Procedures

- None

### Roles and responsibilities

#### DPI staff

- refer reports of sightings of large felines to the appropriate body

#### Livestock Health and Pest Authorities:

- provide local advice in response to reported attacks on livestock.
- enforce the control of wild dogs, as a declared pest, under the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998*.

#### Land managers

- investigate reported large feline sightings, as appropriate

### Safety considerations

Clarification of roles and responsibilities will improve responses to reported sightings and hence better protect community and staff health, safety and welfare.

### Delegations

- NA

**Definitions**

*Large feline* means members of the Felidae family which includes subfamilies: Pantherinae (lions, tigers, leopards), and Felinae (puma, cougars, lynxes, domestic cats). These are also referred to as big cats, black cats, alien big cats, phantom cats, black panthers, and as the Blue Mountains, Emmaville, Lithgow and Richmond panther.

*Land manager* includes the agency, authority, business or person or persons responsible for the management of the land on which the sighting was made.

**Legislation**

- *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998*
- *Non-indigenous Animals Act 1987*

**Related policies**

- Non-indigenous animals regulatory activity policy, TI-O-110
- Media policy TI-G-137

**Other related documents**

- None

**Superseded documents**

This policy replaces:

- None

**Revision history**

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	1/03/2013	New policy in response to identified issue	Manager Invasive Species Programs

**Review date**

1/03/2018

**Contact**

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