



# NSW ANIMAL BIOSECURITY & WELFARE STRATEGIC PLAN

July 2015–June 2018

NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Local Land Services

Vision: Animal biosecurity and welfare is a shared responsibility and contributes to the health, wellbeing and prosperity of everybody in NSW.

Working together to implement animal biosecurity and welfare programs that safeguard the NSW economy, environment and community.



## INTRODUCTION

'Animal biosecurity' means protecting the economy, environment and community from negative impacts of diseases and pests that affect animals. In May 2013 the *NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013–2021* was released with the vision of Biosecurity: a shared responsibility. The *NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan* is tightly aligned to this overarching guiding principal document. Government, industry, professional bodies, non-government organisations, research providers, special interest groups, individuals and the community as a whole all have a role in animal biosecurity and welfare.

The *NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan* ('Strategic Plan') guides priority activities to safeguard the economy, environment and community from diseases and pests that affect animals as well as improve animal welfare outcomes.

Currently animal biosecurity priorities in NSW are delivered by Biosecurity NSW in cooperation with Local Land Services (LLS) along with other government, industry and community stakeholders including private veterinarians. The working relationship between NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and LLS ('DPI–LLS Alliance') is particularly critical in the implementation of consistent state and national animal biosecurity and welfare programs.

This Strategic Plan seeks to manage the alliance between DPI–LLS. A workable and productive alliance between DPI and LLS is critical for delivering positive outcomes for animal biosecurity and welfare issues in NSW.

## SCOPE

The Strategic Plan covers:

- animal diseases
- pests of animals
- residues and contaminants associated with animal production
- livestock traceability

- emergencies which impact on animals or animal production and
- animal welfare.

The term animal includes:

- production animals
- wildlife
- companion animals
- animals used for exhibition and research purposes and
- others, like aquatic animals.

DPI represents NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety nationally and provides state level guidance and assistance for managing animal biosecurity and welfare threats. LLS is primarily concerned with biosecurity, flock and herd large scale district surveillance activities and animal welfare issues related to production animals in the field. The two organisations share responsibility for disease surveillance and the investigation of any suspected emergency animal disease regardless of species.

There is also a need for all levels of government, industry and the community to work together to ensure that animal biosecurity and welfare issues relating to wildlife, animals used for exhibition and research purposes, companion and other animals are addressed.

Achievement of the Strategic Plan will be through the implementation of the annual NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan. The Business Plan will provide the operational requirements for individual programs and projects. It will provide clear measures of success which will further guide the development of work plans and provide a basis for evaluation and continuous improvement. In addition, it is envisaged both agencies will develop comprehensive agency specific plans to capture all activities outside the alliance.

The relationship between the Strategic Plan and Business Plan is shown in Figure 1.



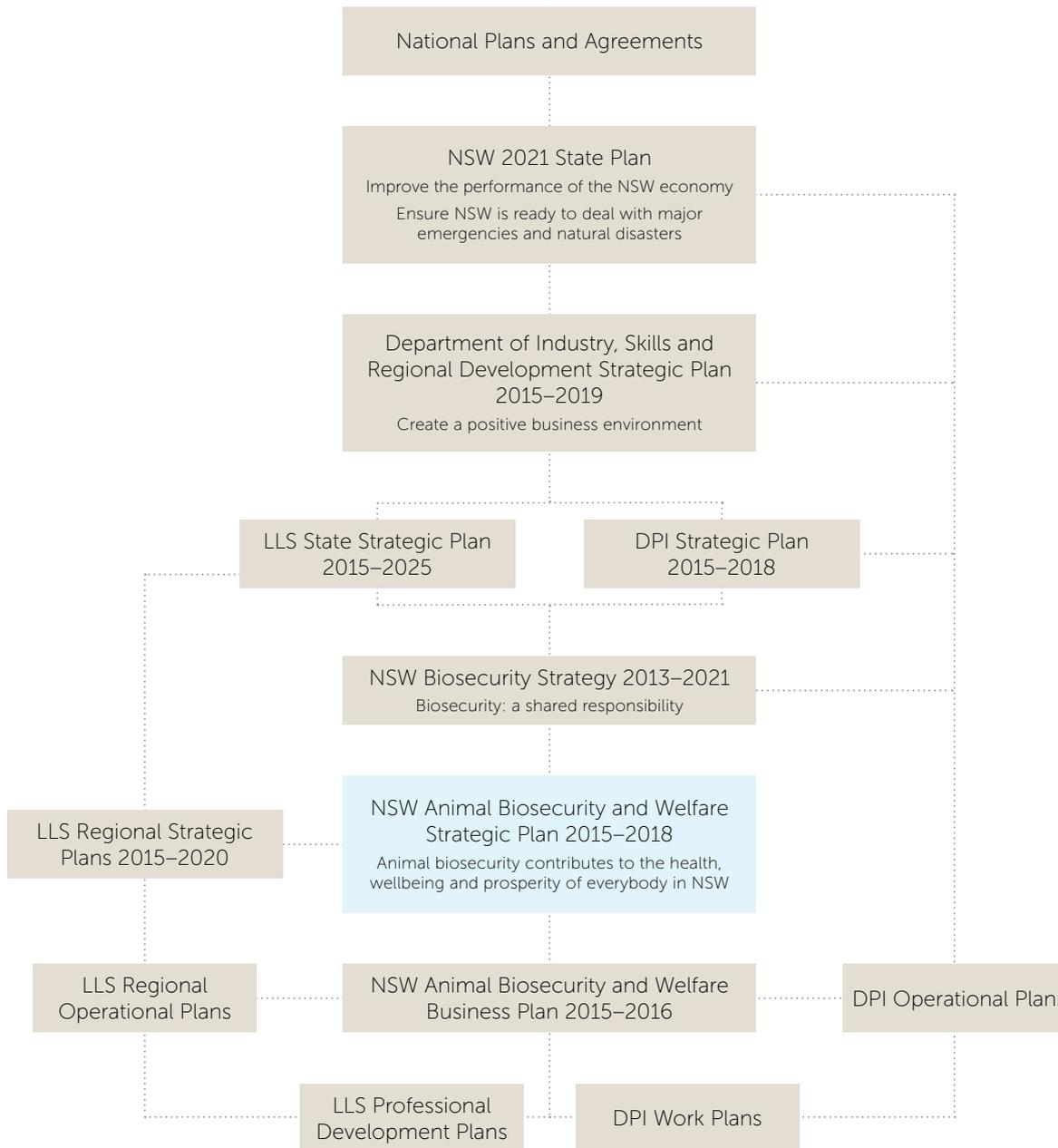


Figure 1: Where the NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan sits in a state context



## AIMS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan aims to reduce the impact of animal biosecurity and welfare issues on the economy, environment and community by concentrating on the following priorities:

- Emergency animal disease management and eradication
- Control and containment of priority animal diseases already established in NSW
- Surveillance for diseases and residues to underpin market access
- Tracing and identification systems to reduce the impact of disease outbreaks and food safety incidents and improve market access for NSW livestock and products
- Animal welfare programs that protect the welfare of animals and meet market and community requirements
- Protection of consumers and the community from residue or contaminant risks in livestock production, and significant risks to human health from animal disease (i.e. zoonoses)

The Strategic Plan also aims to highlight that if NSW is to contribute to national animal biosecurity initiatives and fulfil agreements there is a need for all levels of government, industry and the community to work together.

The following tables identify the key priority areas for animal biosecurity and welfare, as well as the Guiding Principles that must be undertaken if these priorities are to be achieved. For each priority and guiding principle there are details about the strategies that will be employed to achieve the goals. These strategies guide the development of activities in the annual Business Plan which are measured as key performance indicators to evaluate performance and guide continuous improvement for animal biosecurity and welfare in NSW.

The final table highlights the links between the 7 priorities of the Strategic Plan and their contribution to broader *NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013–2021* outcomes.



## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### 1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Outcome: The Guiding Principles are critical supporting capabilities that apply across all strategic priority areas of the Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan

| GUIDING PRINCIPLES (GP) STRATEGIES  | NSW BIOSECURITY STRATEGY OUTCOME                                     |
|---|--|
| GP1: Improve community and industry awareness and adoption of biosecurity practices by addressing social factors in the design and delivery of targeted education and information programs  | 1.1, 1.2, 1.5  |
| GP2: Ensure animal biosecurity is a shared responsibility between Local Land Services and NSW Department of Primary Industries  | 2.3, 2.4   |
| GP3: Continued collaboration with other jurisdictions to contribute to improved national cross border biosecurity arrangements  | 2.1, 4.3, 5.5, 5.6, 8.1  |
| GP4: Invest adequate resources in the development and support for information management systems to improve early detection, reporting and ongoing control of animal diseases   | 3.1, 1.4, 7.2  |
| GP5: Identify and address training gaps in skills, knowledge and capability for the delivery of biosecurity activities and provide opportunities for building capacity, education and training  | 5.3, 7.1   |
| GP6: Animal biosecurity research investment is risk based and gaps are prioritised to ensure continual improvement in biosecurity capacity and capability   | 1.4, 3.2, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 5.2, 5.4, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.5, 7.3      |
| GP7: Continue to contribute to the development and implementation of NSW Biosecurity legislative framework in harmony with other jurisdictions  | 8.1, 8.2   |
| GP8: Develop and implement best practice guidelines including streamlining regulation, auditing and certification to support market access opportunities  | 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 10.1, 10.2  |
| GP9: Adopt strategies, business plans, policies, procedures and guidelines which outline roles and responsibilities of stakeholders (including biosecurity plans for high risk enterprises) to improve biosecurity management and support best practice | 10.2, 10.3   |
| GP10: Animal welfare is considered in all biosecurity activities  | DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SKILLS & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN |

### 2. EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASES

Outcome: Effective prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from emergency animal diseases

| EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASES (EAD) STRATEGIES   | NSW BIOSECURITY STRATEGY OUTCOME |
|--|----------------------------------|
| EAD1: Ensure veterinarians, industry, producers and community report suspect EADs  | 1.4                              |
| EAD2: Develop partnerships with key stakeholders at State and regional levels  | 2.3                              |
| EAD3: Identify and prioritise EAD biosecurity key gaps and threats for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery across terrestrial and aquatic environments                           | 4.1                              |
| EAD4: Ensure the NSW Animal Biosecurity system (including DPI and LLS):<br>1. is ready to respond to an EAD<br>2. complies with all requirements of specific state and national EAD programs | 4.2                              |
| EAD5: Develop and communicate minimum statewide triggers to encourage producers for each industry to report unusual findings   | 4.3                              |
| EAD6: Regional plans are developed to address all significant local animal disease risks including peri urban, small holdings and blocks with absentee owners                                | 3.8, 4.3, 5.1                    |

### 3. ENDEMIC DISEASES

Outcome: The negative impacts of established animal diseases and pests of animals are minimised in NSW

| ENDEMIC DISEASES (END) STRATEGIES   | NSW BIOSECURITY STRATEGY OUTCOME |
|---|----------------------------------|
| END1: Investment in state control programs for animal disease and pests of animals is risk based  | 1.3, 2.2, 5.1                    |
| END2: Encourage research and incorporate findings into the successful management of endemic diseases and improve the effectiveness of control programs          | 4.4, 5.2                         |
| END3: Collaborate with other jurisdictions on development of efficient and effective risk mitigation strategies to address pests of animals and animal diseases | 5.4                              |

### 4. SURVEILLANCE

Outcome: Improving market access for NSW livestock and products, supported by adequate and relevant surveillance information

| SURVEILLANCE (SUR) STRATEGIES  | NSW BIOSECURITY STRATEGY OUTCOME  |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| SUR1: Implement innovative methods to improve efficiency and/or effectiveness of surveillance  | 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.5, 4.4, 6.1, 6.2 |
| SUR2: Ensure annual operational plans for animal disease surveillance and wildlife address the highest priority surveillance risks, in state and national contexts | 1.3, 2.2, 3.2, 3.8, 5.1, 5.4      |
| SUR3: Improve information management and intelligence to inform better decision making and knowledge of animal diseases in NSW                                     | 1.4, 5.1, 5.2, 7.3                |



## 5. TRACEABILITY

Outcome: Traceability systems are improved and expanded so that National Livestock Traceability Performance Standards are met

| TRACEABILITY (TRA) STRATEGIES  | NSW BIOSECURITY STRATEGY OUTCOME |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>TRA1:</b> Improve current tracing systems to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. meet national livestock traceability performance standards</li> <li>2. inform decision making in the alert phase of a disease outbreak</li> <li>3. reduce the impact of a disease outbreak or food safety incident</li> </ol> | 3.3                              |
| <b>TRA2:</b> Support initiatives to expand the National Livestock Identification System to allow tracing of other livestock species  | 3.4                              |

## 6. ANIMAL WELFARE

Outcome: Animal welfare standards are effectively managed to meet community and customer expectations and support and enhance market access

| ANIMAL WELFARE (AW) STRATEGIES  | DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SKILLS & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN |
|---|--|
| <b>AW1:</b> Animal welfare standards ensure NSW animals and animal products meet consumer and market expectations | 2.2  |
| <b>AW2:</b> Animal welfare on farm is supported and promoted  | 2.2  |

## 7. RESIDUES

Outcome: NSW manages residue and contaminant risks in livestock production to ensure residues and contaminants do not interfere with market access

| RESIDUES (RES) STRATEGIES  | NSW BIOSECURITY STRATEGY OUTCOME |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>RES1:</b> Continue implementation of national residue programs                              | 1.3                              |
| <b>RES2:</b> Residues and contaminants do not interfere with market access                     | 3.5, 3.7                         |
| <b>RES3:</b> Reduce lead and heavy metal contamination risks by partnering with other agencies | 4.2                              |

## 8. ZOOZOSES

Outcome: NSW manages significant risks from animal diseases that may affect humans

| ZOOZOSES (ZOO) STRATEGIES  | NSW BIOSECURITY STRATEGY OUTCOME                 |
|--|--|
| <b>ZOO1:</b> Adopt 'one health' approach with public health, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and other relevant agencies at the state and regional level to manage zoonoses | 1.3, 2.2, 3.2, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 6.4, 7.3           |
| <b>ZOO2:</b> Risk based decision making is utilised to develop state control programs for zoonoses and inform investment   | 2.2, 3.2, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 7.3 |



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Kerrilie Peatey

## ANIMAL BIOSECURITY AND WELFARE CONTRIBUTION TO BIOSECURITY IN NSW

Implementation of the NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan will have a positive impact on the economy, environment and community, national security and animal welfare, which are the core functions of Biosecurity NSW.

| BIOSECURITY NSW CORE FUNCTIONS | WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT TO SEE  | ANIMAL BIOSECURITY AND WELFARE FUNCTIONS |     |     |     |    |     |     |
|--------------------------------|--|--|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
|                                |  | EAD                                      | END | SUR | TRA | AW | RES | ZOO |
| Economy                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced market access</li> <li>Highly productive animal industries</li> </ul>  | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   |
| Community                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal products are safe</li> <li>Human health protected</li> <li>Social amenity maintained</li> </ul>                        | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   |
| Environment                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise contaminants or residues</li> <li>Awareness of pests or diseases, of animals that can reduce biodiversity</li> </ul> | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |    | ✓   | ✓   |
| Animal welfare                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs of animals and owners are met</li> <li>Ethical animal production</li> </ul>   | ✓  | ✓   |     |     | ✓  |     |     |
| National security              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced food security</li> <li>An unusual animal disease incident may indicate a significant public health risk</li> </ul>   | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   |    | ✓   | ✓   |

EAD: EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASES, END: ENDEMIC DISEASES, SUR: SURVEILLANCE, TRA: TRACEABILITY, AW: ANIMAL WELFARE, RES: RESIDUES, ZOO: ZOONOSSES

### FURTHER INFORMATION

NSW Department of Primary Industries: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Local Land Services: [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)

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The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2015). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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Cover image courtesy of Megan Mosely

### REVISION HISTORY

Version: NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan 2015–2018 V2

Authors: Trudy Marriott (LLS) & Kim Filmer (DPI)

Key changes: Updated to reflect implementation of Local Land Services, to more closely align to NSW Biosecurity Strategy outcomes and to reflect key priority areas based on risk.

Date approved: June 2015 by DPI CVO and LLS Board of Chairs

