Management of the biosecurity risk

The purpose of this procedure is to define the circumstances and procedures for the listing and de-listing of pests and diseases of animals under the Biosecurity Act 2015 (the Act) and the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 (the Regulation) for the purpose of notification. The procedure also outlines the process for recommending the listing and de-listing of pests and diseases of animals on the National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases.

International standards for reporting of pests and diseases of animals are set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and form the basis of Australia’s agreed National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases. Most nationally notifiable animal pests and diseases are exotic to Australia, for example, foot and mouth disease, rabies and equine influenza. If established here, such pests and diseases of animals could impact severely on trade, human health or production. Some important endemic animal pests and diseases are also nationally notifiable, for example, anthrax, Hendra virus and Johne’s disease.

The agreed national list is compiled by the national Animal Health Committee (AHC) and reviewed biennially (or more often if required). The criteria used by the AHC for the national listing of notifiable animal diseases are listed at Appendix 1.

All jurisdictions are required to include the diseases on the agreed National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases as the minimum list of notifiable diseases under their own notification legislation.

Jurisdictions may add other diseases to their notification legislation where:

- the disease is endemic in other parts of Australia but is exotic to the particular jurisdiction
- the disease is subject to a state-based disease control program
- the jurisdiction needs certification evidence to meet a particular market.

Scope

This procedure applies to NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), an office within the NSW Department of Industry. It should be read in conjunction with the NSW DPI/Local Land Services policy, Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals.

Biosecurity legislation summary

A number of pests and diseases of animals are notifiable in NSW. These are the pests and diseases of animals listed as prohibited matter under Schedule 2 of the Act and the pests and diseases of animals listed as notifiable under Schedule 1 of the Regulation. This means that there is a legal obligation on members of the public such as animal owners, veterinarians or other persons who are consulted about animals to notify authorities if they know or suspect an animal has a notifiable pest or disease.
requirements to notify are explained in the Primefact – Notifiable animal pests, diseases and events in NSW.

Any endemic notifiable pests and diseases of animals in NSW that are not included on the agreed national list would normally be listed as notifiable under Schedule 1 of the Regulation (rather than on the prohibited matter list under the Act). This is because the very serious pests and diseases of animals that are listed as prohibited matter in NSW would be expected to be included on the nationally agreed list.

The collection, use and disclosure of information in accordance with this procedure, including any internal or external discussion or distribution of information, must be in compliance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 or be exempted by the operation of section 387 of the Act.

Section 387 (2) of the Act provides authority for the disclosure of information about a person, without the consent of the person: to a public sector agency, or to any other person, but only if the disclosure is reasonably necessary for the purpose of exercising a biosecurity risk function.

Work health and safety

The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 places an obligation on the agency (NSW DPI) 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 procedure must be used in identifying, assessing and controlling risks.

NSW DPI will work to create a safe and supportive work environment when undertaking any activities for this procedure.

Contents

Notifiable pests and diseases of animals – listing and de-listing procedure 3
1. Roles and responsibilities 3
2. Application for the inclusion/exclusion of a disease on the national list of notifiable animal diseases 3
3. Application for the inclusion/exclusion of a disease on the NSW list of notifiable pests and diseases of animals 3
4. Definitions and acronyms 3
5. Documentation 3
6. Records 4
7. Revision history 4
8. Contact 4
Appendix 1: Animal Health Committee Criteria for the National Listing of Notifiable Animal Diseases 5
Notifiable pests and diseases of animals – listing and de-listing procedure

1. Roles and responsibilities

- NSW DPI Animal Biosecurity and Welfare staff are responsible for maintaining the currency of the list of notifiable pests and diseases of animals in NSW
- the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) is responsible for approving any changes to the list of notifiable pests and diseases of animals in NSW
- NSW DPI Animal biosecurity and Welfare staff are responsible for review of the agreed National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases
- the CVO is responsible for approving any recommendations to AHC in relation to changes to agreed National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases.

2. Application for the inclusion/exclusion of a disease on the national list of notifiable animal diseases

In order to approach the national AHC regarding the inclusion/exclusion of a disease on the agreed National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases, a formal submission needs to be prepared and endorsed by the CVO. The submission must include:

- background information about the disease
- the international perspective, e.g. OIE listing
- risk assessment of the likely impact on the Australian economy, environment or human health if the disease is added to or removed from the agreed national list
- evidence that the submission is supported by relevant stakeholders including Local Land Services (LLS), and
- evidence of industry support.

The CVO is responsible for submitting the application to AHC and advising relevant staff and industry of the outcome.

3. Application for the inclusion/exclusion of a disease on the NSW list of notifiable pests and diseases of animals

In order to include/exclude a pest or disease of animals under NSW notification legislation that is not on the agreed National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases, a recommendation to the CVO must be prepared based on:

- background information about the disease
- the national perspective, including reasons why the disease is/is not on the national list
- risk assessment of the likely impact on the NSW economy, environment or human health, if the disease is added to or removed from NSW legislation
- evidence that the submission is supported by relevant stakeholders including LLS, and
- evidence of industry support.

If the CVO approves the change to the NSW list of notifiable animal pests and diseases, then the changes under the Regulation or the Act are initiated.

4. Definitions and acronyms

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>AHC</td>
<td>Animal Health Committee</td>
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<td>NSW Chief Veterinary Officer</td>
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<td>Local Land Services</td>
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<td>NSW DPI</td>
<td>NSW Department of Primary Industries</td>
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<td>OIE</td>
<td>World Organisation for Animal Health</td>
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5. Documentation

Policy – Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals
Policy - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information
Policy - Records Management (IND-1-177)
6. Records
Records created as a result of this procedure are stored in the HP Records Management System

7. Revision history

<table>
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<th>Version</th>
<th>Date issued</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>By</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>01/07/2017</td>
<td>Substantially rewritten procedure in response to the Biosecurity Act 2015</td>
<td>Animal Biosecurity and Welfare</td>
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8. Contact
Biosecurity NSW – General Enquires
1800 808 095
biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Appendix 1: Animal Health Committee Criteria for the National Listing of Notifiable Animal Diseases

1. Listed diseases in the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement; or
2. OIE listed diseases that are exotic to Australia; or
3. Any other disease determined by the AHC to be suitable for inclusion after consideration of the following factors:
   a. The disease has public health significance (including food safety); or
   b. Disease notification is a pre-requisite for export certification for major markets; or
   c. The disease is of national and genuine concern to Australia according to the following criteria:
      (i) the disease (agent or strain of the disease agent) is exotic to Australia and would have significant socio-economic impacts if it occurred and can be clearly described by its aetiology (causative agent); or
      (ii) the disease (agent or strain of the disease agent) has limited distribution in Australia and would have significant socio-economic impacts if it spread and can be clearly described by its aetiology (causative agent); or
      (iii) the disease (agent or strain of the disease agent) is subject to a recognised national control or eradication program; or
      (iv) as agreed by all AHC members.