



Title	Responsibilities in plague locust campaigns	Version	2
Policy no.	O-046	Effective date	02/01/2009
Authorised by	Director, Emergencies and Animal Welfare	Authorisation date	24/08/2009

1. OVERVIEW

In NSW the management and control of pest insects, particularly the Australian plague locust, Migratory locust and Spur-throated locust, is a priority for individual land managers which is supported by a number of agencies. Industry & Investment NSW (I&I NSW), Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPAs) and the Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) all have important roles to play in supporting and coordinating land managers in monitoring and managing populations and reducing damage caused by locusts.

2. BACKGROUND

Plague locust outbreaks can cause significant damage to crops and pastures in NSW. As a consequence the Australian plague locust, Migratory locust and Spur-throated locust are declared pest insects under the [Rural Lands Protection Act 1998](#) (the *RLP Act*). Land managers are required under the *RLP Act* to notify LHPAs of the presence of and to control these locusts. The best control occurs when the nymphs/hoppers band together on the ground, as this is the most efficient and effective time to control them. Once they are able to fly and swarm they are very difficult to control.

While monitoring and control of locusts is the primary responsibility of land managers, a number of agencies provide support to monitor and manage locust populations. LHPAs coordinate locust monitoring and management in their LHPA district and ensure that land managers meet their obligations under the *RLP Act*. I&I NSW provide state-wide coordination of monitoring, reporting and control. The APLC is responsible for strategically monitoring and managing locusts across NSW, Qld, Vic and SA where locusts have the potential to have a cross-jurisdictional impact. APLC undertakes both ground and aerial surveillance, but only aerial control and generally operates west of the Newell Highway. APLC may only conduct operations outside its nominal boundaries at the express invitation of and at agreed costs to the requesting State and with agreement of other Commission States.

3. SCOPE

This policy is issued with the concurrence of the Director-General of I&I NSW under Clause 6.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Director-General of I&I NSW and State Management Council of the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities.

The responsibilities of organisations are listed in this policy. Individual descriptions of roles and responsibilities of I&I NSW and Livestock Health and Pest Authorities are listed in the Procedure – Plague Locust Emergency Operation Centres and the associated role descriptions.

4. POLICY

4.1 Land manager responsibilities (private and public)

- Give notice to the local LHPA of the presence on managed land of pest insects
- Control locusts on managed land
- Early notification of LHPAs of an inability to effectively control plague locusts on their land

Many species of locusts and grasshoppers are occasionally a problem in NSW. Other species (than those named in this policy) are not listed as pests under the *RLP Act* so there is no legislation enforcing their control.

4.2 Livestock Health and Pest Authorities responsibilities

- Coordination of monitoring, management and reporting for locusts within the LHPA district;
- Ensuring land managers meet their notification and control obligations under the *RLP Act* and undertake enforcement measures if required;
- Receiving and confirming locust reports from land managers and forwarding these to the APLC and I&I NSW;
- Providing advice on pest insects and their control to land managers;
- Issuing insecticide provided through the PIDF to land managers;
- Maintaining health and safety of LHPA employees (including when working for other agencies eg I&I NSW);
- Issuing publicity at a local LHPA level;
- Controlling pest insects on Travelling Stock Reserves;
- Providing support for I&I NSW and APLC aerial spraying operations;
- Providing assistance to I&I NSW to set up and resource Control / Coordination Centres, when required;
- State Management Council approval of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) as "Guidelines/Written Instruments" to enable use during locust campaigns.

4.3 I&I NSW responsibilities

- State-wide coordination of locust monitoring, management and reporting, both ground and aerial;
- Procurement and distribution of insecticide to LHPAs for issue to land managers for ground-spraying of locust nymphs;
- Coordination and management of ground and aerial surveillance and spraying, generally east of the Newell Highway;
- Issue of publicity and communications management at a State and regional level;
- Provision of technical advice and support through training, advice and extension materials;
- Activating and managing Control / Coordination Centres, when required including implementation and auditing of SOP's;
- Ensuring environmental issues are managed at the state and regional level;
- Maintaining health and safety of all personnel involved in the response in line with NSW occupational health and safety legislative requirements and departmental safety policies and procedures;
- Facilitation of training for I&I NSW and LHPA personnel for tasks likely to be conducted in a plague locust response.

4.4 APLC Responsibilities

- Inter-state coordination across member states of Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia of locust monitoring, management and reporting;
- Liaise with state organisations to coordinate on-ground work required to be conducted by LHPA/I&I NSW personnel
- Locust research;
- Forecasting;
- Aerial and ground survey in area of operations;
- Aerial control, in its area of operations, where there is a threat of interstate impact

- Maintaining health and safety of all personnel involved in the APLC response.

4.5 Pesticide Users Responsibilities

Under the *Pesticides Act 1999* all pesticide users, including spray pilots, in NSW are required to:

- Use only pesticides registered or permitted by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) that are approved for the particular use;
- Read the registered label on pesticide containers and/or the permit (or have them read to you) and strictly follow the label and/or permit directions;
- Not risk injury to persons, property and non-target plants and animals through the use of a pesticide;
- Obtain an APVMA permit if you wish to vary the label directions or use pattern of a pesticide;
- Comply with the requirements of the *Pesticides Act 1999* and Regulation; and
- Comply with the requirements of Pesticide Order Air-1 if undertaking any aerial applications of pesticides.

All necessary steps should be taken to ensure that any animals on the property are moved away from the area that is to be sprayed and if possible kept away for the appropriate withholding period of the control agent applied. Environmental issues also need to be considered before using pesticides.

4.6 Contractor Responsibilities

- Responsibilities of all contractors, including aircraft operators, are detailed in the Expression of Interest and/or Contract and associated procedures for that contractor.
- Contractors must demonstrate compliance to OHS and other relevant legislation.

5. PROCEDURES

- [Plague Locust Emergency Operation Centres](#)

6. DEFINITIONS (ABBREVIATIONS)

APLC – Australian Plague Locust Commission

APVMA – Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

LHPA – Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (formerly Rural Lands Protection Boards)

I&I NSW – Industry & Investment NSW (formerly NSW Department of Primary Industries)

RLP Act – [Rural Lands Protection Act 1998](#)

SOPs – Standard Operating Procedures

7. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Rural Lands Protection Act 1998
- [Pest Control Order Number 8 \(Spur-throated locust\)](#)
- [Pest Control Order Number 9 \(Australian plague locust\)](#)
- [Pest Control Order Number 10 \(Migratory locust\)](#)
- [NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000](#)

8. RELATED POLICIES

- A-038 Occupational Health and Safety
- [O-070 Occupational health and safety in emergency management](#)

9. RELATED DELEGATIONS

Nil

10. RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Expression of Interest Provision of 'Call When Needed' Helicopter and Fixed Wing Aircraft Support For Emergency and Other Operations](#)

11. REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Amendments
1	02 January 2009	For approval
2	17 August 2009	Update APLC responsibilities; contractors OHS responsibilities; NSW DPI to I&I NSW

12. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

30 June 2010

13. CONTACT

Manager, General Emergency Preparedness & Response (Emergencies & Animal Welfare Branch).