



Emergency management

Concept of Operations 2018-19

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide information about NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) natural disaster, biosecurity (animal and plant) and plague locust preparedness measures for potential incidents.

As the Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area (AASFA), NSW DPI will provide support to combat agencies, such as NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and State Emergency Services (SES), during natural disasters.

NSW DPI is the combat agency for biosecurity (animal and plant) emergencies and/or significant state wide plague locust responses.

This document should be read in conjunction with the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN), the Biosecurity (Animal and Plant) Sub Plan, the AASFA Supporting Plan, and supporting policies and procedures.

Agency notifications and actions

Notification and participation will be as agreed under the State Emergency Management Plan, the AASFA Supporting Plan and the Biosecurity (Animal and Plant) Sub-Plan. For natural disaster and plague locust campaigns, the AASFA Coordinator will engage participating and supporting agencies through the Memorandums of Understanding. For biosecurity animal and plant emergencies, the Chief Veterinary Officer or Chief Plant Protection Officer, respectively, will issue notifications and engage support as required.

Notification may also come via the State, Regional or Local Emergency Management Committees.

Incident Control Centres

1. A single, all hazards State Coordination Centre (SCC) will be based at NSW DPI Head Office for smaller events. For significant operations, the SCC may be based at Orange Agricultural Institute, Training Centre or at another suitable venue. The SCC will be staffed by a partial or full Incident Management Team (IMT).

2. Local Control Centres (LCC) will be based at Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute, Wollongbar Primary Industries Institute, Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) at Menangle, Tocal Agricultural Centre, Goulburn District Office, Dubbo District Office or Tamworth Agricultural Institute or Local Land Services (LLS) offices as specified in regional operations plans as required. The LCC will be staffed by a partial IMT (if NSW DPI not the combat agency) or full IMT (if NSW DPI is the combat agency).
3. Forward Command Posts (FCP) will be based at the most appropriate location to the event, such as a LLS office. The FCP is under the command of a qualified Officer-in-Charge.
4. Span of control is flexible and determined by activity and distance, but should not be more than five FCPs for each LCC.
5. The AASFA Coordinator will provide liaison officers for State Emergency Operations Centres of relevant combat agencies. Region AASFACs will provide liaison officers for Local Emergency Operations Centres.

Evacuation Centres

6. [Evacuations centres](#) most appropriate for animals should be identified in local emergency plans in conjunction with the relevant combat agency and local councils. These can include showgrounds, pounds, kennels and sports grounds.
7. The AASFA Coordinator will coordinate staff to assist with housing and caring of pets and animals presented at Evacuation Centres established for people evacuated during emergencies.

Seasonal Outlook

8. The Bureau of Meteorology forecast the El Nino-Southern Oscillation and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) to remain neutral and thus have less influence on Australia's climate. Climate outlook information can be found on the [Bureau of Meteorology website](#).
9. The outlook for the fire season is issued in September each year by the Rural Fire Service and will be distributed by NSW DPI Emergency Management Unit.

Plague Locust Outlook

10. NSW DPI's annual NSW Plague Locust Response Plan, which is approved by the Plague Locust Management Group (PLMG) outlines any potential response, resources and budget.
11. LLSs coordinate local responses to plague locust incursions. Landholders are required to control plague locusts under the Biosecurity Act 2015. NSW DPI, on behalf of the PLMG, will coordinate regional and state wide responses as required. NSW DPI liaises with the Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) in all locust responses.
12. [Locust forecasting](#) information is updated quarterly.
13. Sufficient insecticide is on hand to handle a large locust outbreak. Insecticide is currently centrally stored at Dubbo and Wagga Wagga. Contractors have been engaged to distribute insecticide as required.

Aircraft Operations

14. All aviation operations must be conducted in accordance with agreed [policies, procedures and task profiles](#).
15. Aircraft for all NSW DPI emergency operations are contracted and managed under the NSW RFS State Air Desk.
16. Requests for aircraft and associated resources (including fuel trucks) must go to the NSW DPI SCC. SCC will liaise with the NSW RFS State Air Desk.
17. NSW DPI is responsible for maintaining aviation trained personnel, NSW DPI task profiles and NSW DPI procedures.
18. Flight following of aircraft will be coordinated by NSW DPI and NSW RFS SAD. NSW DPI may engage appropriate staff to fulfil this role.
19. Air Surveillance Officers (ASO) are being trained for agricultural operations (plague locusts, agricultural damage assessments, animal welfare tasks). Approximately 75+ ASOs are currently available.

Staffing

20. NSW DPI and LLS staff are available across NSW to respond and if further resources are required the State emergency arrangements will be activated to seek support from other agencies.
21. As required, an Emergency Management Roster will be compiled for key roles.
22. Support is available from other agencies, and through the AASFA participating and supporting organisations.
23. Local and Regional Emergency Management Committees will be represented by NSW DPI and LLS personnel where required based on risk.

Local Land Services (LLS)

24. LLS staff will be used in local/regional emergencies.
25. LLS MBES (or equivalent) is to coordinate and respond to emergencies as required.
26. LLS will be responsible for coordinating local responses with NSW Department of Industry Regional Director support as required.
27. NSW Department of Industry Regional Directors, as the Region AASFA Coordinators, will continue to coordinate regional responses. They also fulfil roles on the REMCs.
28. The Emergency Management Unit will liaise with staff of the LLS to ensure all aspects of emergency management preparedness, prevention, response and recovery are covered.

Training

29. Training of staff (internal/external) continues, including a significant training program to build emergency management capacity within NSW.

Policies and procedures

30. [Emergency management policies, procedures and supporting documents](#) have been developed in consultation with experienced stakeholders. Documents are continually being reviewed for currency and to ensure relevancy.

Public information and Media

31. The Emergency Management website is continually reviewed and updated.
32. The Communications and Stakeholder Engagement section of NSW DPI will continue to perform the media/communications function for emergency management incidents.
33. NSW DPI will use a range of community engagement tools. These include social media, radio, website, publications and workshops.
34. MOUs continue to be reviewed and implemented.
35. A meeting of all AASFA participating and supporting agency state representatives will occur in 2018/19.

More information

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/emergency>

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2018). 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 the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.