

Biosecurity - Endemic diseases of animals

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1. Purpose

This policy describes what the New South Wales Government will do to manage the risks posed to the economy, community and environment of New South Wales by endemic diseases of animals.

2. Scope

This policy applies to staff of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), within the NSW Department of Regional NSW and Local Land Services (LLS) implementing their roles as authorised officers as described for significant endemic animal diseases under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) and *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

Significant endemic diseases of animals include those diseases listed as notifiable under Schedule 1 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 (the Regulation), plus other endemic diseases where assessment demonstrates that government intervention is warranted.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the overarching policy '[Management of animal biosecurity in NSW](#)' and with the procedure '[Managing significant endemic diseases of animals](#)'.

In this policy, endemic diseases of animals include diseases caused by both infestation and infection with disease agents, formerly referred to in animal biosecurity policies and procedures as 'pests and diseases of animals'.

3. Safety requirements

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

NSW DPI and LLS will work together to create a safe and supportive work environment when undertaking any activities for this policy

4. Outcomes

4.1 Threats to animal biosecurity and welfare in NSW from endemic diseases of animals are assessed and managed according to a consistent, robust and systematic decision-making process.

- a. The significance of endemic diseases of animal threats are evaluated and prioritised
- b. High risk rated endemic animal diseases are declared notifiable and listed under Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Regulation

- c. Resources are allocated to manage endemic animal disease threats in accordance with NSW DPI and LLS organisational objectives drawn from the NSW Biosecurity Strategy and the annual NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan.
- d. Management of endemic diseases in livestock is supported by livestock traceability in accordance with the policy - [National Livestock Identification System - Property Identification Codes](#) and associated procedures.

4.1.1 Activities

- The threat from specific endemic diseases of animal is assessed as per the procedure 'Managing significant endemic diseases of animals' using tools such as rapid risk assessment and cost benefit analysis. (4.1a)
- NSW DPI regularly reviews the NSW list of notifiable endemic animal diseases listed under Schedule 1 of the Regulation and updates the list as per the Work instruction: Notifiable pests and diseases of animals-listing and de-listing (published on the intranet) (4.1b).
- NSW DPI and LLS prioritise the delivery of agreed national and state programs to manage endemic diseases of animals ahead of regional or local endemic management programs (4.1c).
- NSW DPI and LLS use the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) and the Property Identification Code (PIC) system to locate and trace livestock affected by endemic diseases (4.1.d).

4.2 NSW DPI and LLS activities minimise the incidence and impact of significant endemic diseases of animals in NSW.

- a. The impact of notifiable endemic diseases on NSW animal production and welfare is minimised
- b. Investigation and management of notifiable endemic diseases is a priority activity for all government veterinary officers and support staff as set out in the relevant procedures
- c. NSW DPI and LLS contributes to programs for significant non-notifiable endemic diseases where appropriate

4.2.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS promote best biosecurity practice guidelines for notifiable endemic diseases, informed by national programs where these exist (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS demonstrate best biosecurity practices in the management of animals or land managed by NSW DPI or LLS (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS manages significant notifiable endemic diseases according to specific procedures developed by NSW DPI and LLS to ensure a consistent and appropriate response across NSW (4.2a).
- NSW DPI and LLS develop and implement surveillance activities for notifiable endemic animal diseases as per the policy - [Surveillance for diseases of animals and aquatic pests](#) (4.b).
- NSW DPI maintains Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute Laboratory capability as per the policy - [Surveillance for diseases of animals and aquatic pests](#) (4.a,b,c).
- NSW DPI and LLS determine their level of participation in programs for significant non-notifiable endemic diseases of animals, when based on risk assessment, cost benefit analysis and evidence of industry commitment (4.2c)
- NSW DPI and LLS manage endemic diseases which are not covered by hazard-specific procedures as per the procedure - ['Managing significant endemic diseases of animals'](#). (4.c).

4.3 Stakeholders are empowered to implement best animal biosecurity practices to minimise the incidence and impact of endemic diseases of animals in NSW.

- a. Stakeholders and other government agencies are well informed, engaged and supported by NSW DPI and LLS to implement best practice biosecurity for endemic diseases of animals
- b. Animal managers and private veterinarians are encouraged to promptly report suspect cases of notifiable endemic diseases.

4.3.1 Activities

- NSW DPI communicates with stakeholders about endemic diseases of animals by various means including the DPI website, Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) Bulletins, Boardtalk articles and engagement with industry groups (4.3a)
- LLS lead a range of activities at the local and regional level to raise stakeholder awareness of and engagement as per the objectives in the [NSW Biosecurity Strategy](#) (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS encourage animal producers to develop and implement specific risk based biosecurity plans for their own enterprises using nationally available [resources](#) (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS strongly recommend that livestock producers supply and request livestock health statements/declarations whenever livestock are transacted or agisted (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS consider all sectors of industry (e.g. livestock contractors, livestock transporters, agents, saleyards managers) when developing communications strategies for biosecurity (4.3a)
- NSW DPI develops advisory material for stakeholders about their duties relating to endemic diseases of animals under the Act, including the general biosecurity duty and the requirement to report notifiable endemic diseases of animals. (4.3a, b).
- NSW DPI partly or wholly funds the laboratory fees for initial diagnostic testing of suspicion for suspected notifiable endemic diseases of animals, to encourage livestock managers and nongovernment veterinarians to report notifiable diseases, unless a policy decision has been made to not fund laboratory testing in certain circumstances (4.3b).

5. Related procedures

[Procedure -Managing significant endemic diseases of animals](#)

[Procedure - Reporting notifiable pests and diseases of animals and biosecurity events](#)

[Procedure – Australian bat lyssavirus](#)

[Procedure - *Brucella suis* in dogs](#)

[Procedure - Cattle tick: tick fever](#)

[Procedure – Cattle Tick](#)

[Procedure – Virulent footrot](#)

Procedure – Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure of information

Work Instruction - Cattle tick: Investigation of suspected breaches detected by Bordercam

Work Instruction - Cattle tick: Managing led and tractable stock at Border facilities

Work Instruction - Cattle tick: Response following detection

Work Instruction - Cattle tick: Requirements for livestock entering NSW

Work instruction: Notifiable pests and diseases of animals-listing and de-listing.

6. Definitions and acronyms

CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer of NSW
LLS	Local Land Services
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia
NSW DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries

7. Legislation

Animal Research Act 1985
Biosecurity Act 2015
Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986
Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009
Government Sector Employment Act 2013
Local Land Services Act 2013
Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979
State Records Act 1998
Veterinary Practice Act 2003
Work Health and Safety Act 2011

8. Other related documents

[Policy – Biosecurity - Management of animal biosecurity in NSW](#)
[Policy – Biosecurity - Surveillance for diseases of animals and aquatic pests](#)
[Policy – Biosecurity - Chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food](#)
[Policy - Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure if information](#)
Records Management Policy (IND-I-177)
Information Security Policy (IND-I-197)
Classified Information Policy (IND-I-196)
Government Information (Public Access) Policy (IND-I-178)

9. Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	01/07/2017	New policy developed in response to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .	Animal Biosecurity and Welfare
2.0	30/09/2021	Revision	Animal Biosecurity

10. Contact

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