

Livestock Traceability

Policy Number:	POL22/29	Version:	1.0
Authorised by:	Group Director, Animal Biosecurity	Authorised date:	08 August 2021
Issued by:	Animal Biosecurity	Effective date:	25 May 2022
Category:	Operations and Industry	Review date:	25 May 2025

Policy Statement:

This policy describes what the New South Wales Government will do to improve the operation of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) in NSW with the combined objectives of enabling an effective response to emergencies, biosecurity and food safety incidents while maintaining and enhancing international market access for Australia’s livestock products.

Scope:

This policy applies to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), an office within the Department of Regional NSW, and Local Land Services (LLS) implementing activities in their roles as authorised officers under the Biosecurity Act 2015 (the Act) and Local Land Services Act 2013.

The NLIS provides traceability of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs from birth to slaughter. The NLIS is underpinned in NSW by the Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017 (‘the NLIS Regulation’) made subject to the provisions of section 404 and Schedule 5 of the Biosecurity Act 2015 (the Act). The NLIS Regulation includes requirements for the identification of certain livestock and a property identification code (PIC) for land where livestock are located. PICs are a critical element of the NLIS.

Authorised officers appointed under the Act are responsible for enforcement of the requirements of the NLIS Regulation.

Work Health and Safety:

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.

Requirements:

1. Improved operation of the NLIS in NSW enhances the lifetime traceability of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs for biosecurity, food safety and emergency management.
 - a. NSW DPI and LLS actions maximise the performance of the NLIS and compliance with NLIS of all participants of the livestock supply chain
 - b. Adequate resources are allocated to manage NLIS educational, advisory and compliance activities in accordance with the objectives of the NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan.
 - c. NSW DPI and LLS staff can extract and analyse tracing data to support prompt decision making in biosecurity incidents.
 - d. NLIS legislation, policy and procedures managed by NSW DPI and implemented by LLS, align with nationally agreed NLIS Standards.

Activities

- i. The NLIS Working Group formed under the Strategic Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Alliance (SABWA) identifies, assesses and monitors issues impacting the performance of the NLIS (1a)
 - ii. Significant issues impacting the performance of the NLIS are addressed in DPI and LLS workplans and/or escalated to state and national forums (1a).
 - iii. The NLIS Working Group formed under the SABWA addresses gaps in NLIS compliance (1a).
 - iv. NLIS performance monitoring reports are regularly sent to saleyard, abattoir and knacker operators, stock and station agents for improvement action (1a),
 - v. NSW DPI NLIS monitoring reports are sent to NSW DPI, LLS and the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment for non-compliance follow up (1a).
 - vi. LLS conduct compliance inspections at saleyards for compliance with the NLIS Regulation (1a,b).
 - vii. NSW DPI (Compliance and Integrity Systems Regulatory Operations Unit) conducts NLIS audits at abattoirs and knackeries and investigates property to property transfer breaches (1a,b).
 - viii. NSW DPI and LLS coordinate education and extension to improve supply chain awareness of and compliance with the NLIS Regulation (1b).
 - ix. NSW DPI conducts regular exercises to allow adequate number of NSW DPI and LLS staff to practise livestock tracing, using the NLIS database and tracing templates (1c).
 - x. NSW DPI and LLS participate in national traceability exercises and implement exercise recommendations (1c,d).
 - xi. NSW DPI participates in SAFEMEAT committee meetings with other jurisdictions and industry peak councils to deliver a harmonised national traceability system (1d).
2. Administration and compliance with the Property Identification Code (PIC) requirements supports the operation of the NLIS and enables accurate and prompt tracing of livestock in NSW.
 - a. A single PIC is assigned to each property on which livestock are located.
 - b. The District, State and NLIS registers contain current and historical PIC information.

Activities

- i. NSW DPI and LLS assign and administer PICs in accordance with the 'NLIS Procedure for assigning PICs and managing and accessing registers (2a).
- ii. NSW DPI and LLS manage compliance with PIC requirements in accordance with the 'NLIS - Compliance Procedure for PICs (2a).
- iii. NSW DPI ensures the automated daily PIC upload from the State register to the NLIS register. (2b)
- iv. NSW DPI through delegation determines the format of PICs (2b).

Roles and responsibilities:

As per the:

- Biosecurity – NLIS – Procedures for assigning Property Identification Codes and for managing and accessing registers
- Biosecurity – NLIS – Compliance procedures for PICs

Delegations:

- N/A

Definitions:

- **District Register:** maintained by the district registrar that contains the information set out in clause 53(1)(a) of the NLIS Regulation
- **District registrar:** any person appointed by LLS to exercise any or all of the functions of the district registrar for the LLS region, and if the Secretary has appointed a person to exercise any or all of the functions of the district registrar of the LLS region – that person
- **LLS:** Local Land Services
- **NLIS:** National Livestock Identification System
- **NLIS Register:** a register maintained by the NLIS Administrator of the information that is provided to the NLIS administrator (from the State register)
- **NSW DPI:** NSW Department of Primary Industries
- **PIC:** Property Identification Code
- **Property:** means an area of land (including an area comprising one or more parcels of land that are proximate) that is worked as a single property.
- **SAFEMEAT:** is a partnership between the red meat and livestock industry and government to ensure the production of safe and ethical red meat from the farm to the consumer.
- **State Register:** maintained by the Secretary and contains the information set out in clause 54(1) of the NLIS Regulation

Legislation:

- Biosecurity Act 2015
- Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017

Related policies and procedures:

Sources:

- Biosecurity – NLIS – Procedures for assigning Property Identification Codes and for managing and accessing registers
 - Biosecurity – NLIS – Compliance procedures for PICs
 - Biosecurity – NLIS – Cattle
 - Biosecurity – NLIS – Sheep and goats
 - Biosecurity – NLIS – Pigs
 - Biosecurity – NLIS – Cattle abattoirs and knackereries
 - Biosecurity – NLIS – Supply of approved identifiers
 - Biosecurity – NLIS – Permanent Identifiers for Pigs (Special Circumstances)
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Other related documents:

- NSW DPI strategic plan 2019-2023
 - NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan 2019-2023
 - NSW DPI and LLS Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan 2020-2021
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Superseded documents:

This policy replaces:

- Biosecurity – NLIS – Cattle, sheep, goats and pigs (INT17/20927)
 - Biosecurity – NLIS – Property Identification Codes (INT17/48733)
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