Policy

Biosecurity - National Livestock Identification System - Cattle, Sheep, Goats and Pigs

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AUTHORISED BY: Group Director Emergency Operations, Intelligence and Programs		AUTHORISED DATE:	02/06/2017
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CATEGORY: Operations and Industry		REVIEW DATE	01/07/2018

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to describe the principles of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) for cattle, sheep, goats and pigs in NSW.

The NLIS is an Australian wide system providing traceability of livestock to ensure outcomes for disease control and food safety are achieved. The system consists of four elements:

- a Property Identification Code (PIC), a unique identifier for land
- an identification device (visual tag or electronic device) attached to all livestock
- an NLIS movement document which accompanies each movement of livestock, and
- a web-accessible database that stores and correlates movement data.

The NLIS provides traceability of livestock which underpins access of Australian livestock products to international markets. The NLIS reflects Australia's commitment to biosecurity and food safety and provides a competitive advantage in a global market. It is underpinned in NSW by the Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017 (NLIS Regulation).

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff of NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), an office within the NSW Department of Industry, and Local Land Services (LLS) in their roles as authorised officers enforcing the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and District Registrars under the NLIS Regulation. This policy is also relevant to all NSW DPI and LLS staff advising producers and other stakeholders about the NLIS.

3. Safety Requirements

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* places an obligation on the agency 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. Outcome

The National Livestock Identification System in NSW is improved and expanded so the National Livestock Traceability Performance Standards are met, decision making is informed in the alert phase of a disease outbreak and impact of a disease outbreak or a food safety incident is reduced.

   a. NSW NLIS legislation, policy and procedures managed by NSW DPI and implemented by LLS comply with nationally agreed NLIS Standards and Business Rules

b. High levels of traceability are achieved along the red meat supply chain due to high support of and compliance with the NLIS by all stakeholders

c. Adequate resources are allocated to manage the performance of the NLIS in accordance with NSW DPI and LLS objectives based on the NSW Biosecurity Strategy and the annual NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan.

Activities:

- NSW DPI collaborates with interstate and national governments to deliver a harmonised national system (4a)
- NSW DPI attends national advisory and NLIS Monitoring Committee meetings with other jurisdictions and industry peak bodies (4a)
- A NSW DPI and LLS NLIS working group is formed under the direction of the Strategic Animal Biosecurity Alliance to address any gaps in NLIS compliance (4c)
- NSW DPI and LLS engage in education and extension campaigns to improve producers' and other stakeholders' awareness and understanding of the NLIS and why it is important to comply (4b)
- NLIS legislation and procedures are reviewed and updated by NSW DPI to ensure consistency with national traceability standards, in consultation with LLS and in a timely manner (4a)
- LLS conduct NLIS compliance inspections at saleyards to ensure high compliance with tagging and correct completion of national vendor declarations (4b)
- NSW DPI NLIS monitoring reports are sent to operators of saleyards, abattoirs, knackeries, stock and station agents and NSW and Commonwealth departments for non-compliance follow up (4c)
- Biosecurity and Food Safety Compliance unit conducts NLIS related activities at abattoirs and knackeries (4c)
- NSW DPI and LLS participate in national tracing exercises to test the levels of traceability in NSW for each NLIS species and implement the recommendations resulting from these exercises(4b)
- Adequate numbers of NSW DPI and LLS staff are trained in livestock tracing using the NLIS database and are able to be called upon in a tracing exercise or real disease or residue biosecurity event (4c)
- NSW DPI and LLS communicate effectively with media about the importance and need for traceability to manage animal disease outbreaks and food safety incidents in NSW (4b)

5. Related procedures

Biosecurity - NLIS Procedures for Cattle
Biosecurity - NLIS Procedures for Sheep and Goats
Biosecurity - NLIS Procedures for assigning property identification codes and for managing and accessing registers
Biosecurity - NLIS Compliance monitoring and enforcement procedures
Biosecurity - NLIS Procedures for Pigs
Biosecurity - Compliance procedures for Property Identification Codes (PICs)
Biosecurity - NLIS procedures for cattle abattoirs and knackeries
Biosecurity - NLIS procedures for the supply of approved identifiers
Biosecurity - NLIS procedure for stock identification, managing statuses, errors and data transfers on the NLIS database
Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information

6. Definition and anonyms

NSW DPI: NSW Department of Primary Industries
LLS: Local Land Services
NLIS: National Livestock Identification System
PIC: Property Identification Code

7. Legislation

Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017
Biosecurity Act 2015
Local Land Service Act 2013
Food Act 2003
Stock Medicines Act 1989
Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986
Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

8. Other related documents

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)
Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information
Terms of Use for the National Livestock Identification System Database
National Vendor Declaration and Waybill (NVD)

9. Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	01/07/2017	New policy developed in response to the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.	Leader Traceability

10. Contact

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