

Biosecurity - Management of animal biosecurity in NSW

CM9 reference: POL24/2	VERSION: 2.1
AUTHORISED BY: Director Animal Biosecurity	AUTHORISED DATE: 01/03/2024
ISSUED BY: Biosecurity & Food Safety	EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/03/2024
CATEGORY: Operations and Industry	REVIEW DATE: 01/03/2027

1. Purpose

This policy describes the overarching principles for the New South Wales (NSW) Government activities to manage the risks posed to the economy, environment and community of New South Wales by significant animal biosecurity threats.

2. 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 Biosecurity Act) as well as roles under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

This policy informs the seven policies listed below:

- Prohibited matter pests and diseases of animals
- Endemic pests and diseases of animals
- Surveillance for diseases of animals and aquatic pests
- Aquatic biosecurity pests and diseases
- Chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food
- Point of care testing of prohibited matter
- Antimicrobial stewardship and resistance

Animal biosecurity works closely with the NSW DPI animal welfare unit, and all animal welfare legislation must be complied with. Additionally, all other relevant legislation must be complied with.

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 in NSW are identified, assessed and managed according to a consistent, robust and systematic decision-making process

- a. Situational awareness about emerging animal biosecurity threats is maintained by NSW DPI and LLS
- b. Animal (terrestrial and aquatic) biosecurity threats are evaluated and prioritised, according to sound risk-based processes and cost-benefit principles.
- c. Resources are allocated to manage priority animal biosecurity threats in alignment with NSW DPI and LLS organisational objectives drawn from the NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety Strategy 2022 -2030, the NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan and the supporting annual NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan ('Business Plan')
- d. Risk based animal biosecurity policies, programs, procedures and plans are developed, contributing to and influencing the development of national animal biosecurity policies, programs and plans
- e. Management of animal biosecurity threats is enhanced by bilateral agreements, MOUs, legislation, collaboration and cooperation between NSW DPI, other NSW agencies and other Australian jurisdictions.
- f. Animal biosecurity legislation in NSW is reviewed regularly, remains contemporary, and red tape is reduced in accordance with the [Better Regulation Principles](#) of the NSW Government
- g. NSW policy, procedures and plans are guided by national and international standards as informed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes, Food Safety Codes and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Animal Biosecurity.
- h. Quality assurance principles are applied to support continual improvement in the management of animal biosecurity threats in NSW

4.1.1 Activities

- NSW DPI identifies and prioritises animal biosecurity threats, including emerging threats, and recommends management options and allocation of resources (4.1a)
- NSW DPI maintains a standard risk-based process and decision-making matrix against which animal biosecurity threats are evaluated (4.1b)
- NSW DPI considers management options for identified threats. These options include prevention, eradication, containment, control, education, research, accept the risk (such as monitor, or take no action) (4.1c)
- NSW DPI plays a leading role in national animal biosecurity committees and in its role as a member of Animal Health Australia. These committees include various subcommittees under the National Biosecurity Committee such as the national Animal Health Committee, Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH) and the Marine Pest Sectoral Committee (4.1d) (4.1e)
- NSW DPI cooperates with other Australian jurisdictions and, where appropriate, develops harmonised legislation and adhere to Memoranda of Understanding with other jurisdictions (4.1e)
- NSW DPI administers, and both NSW DPI and LLS enforce the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW) and subordinate legislation (4.1f)
- NSW DPI and LLS management ensure that staff members are trained in how to apply the principles and implement the regulatory tools under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW) (4.1f)
- NSW DPI administers the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (NSW). Implementation of this Act is the responsibility of the Veterinary Practitioners Board of NSW (4.1f)
- NSW DPI and LLS apply the national and international standards of animal disease diagnosis, surveillance, notification, and quality of veterinary services as informed by the WOAH Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes, and other relevant documents (4.1g)

- NSW DPI and LLS follow internal monitoring and evaluation frameworks and apply this to the annual Business Plan (4.1h).

4.2 NSW DPI and LLS activities minimise the incidence and impact of animal biosecurity threats in NSW.

- a. Priority animal biosecurity outcomes are delivered for the economy, the community and the environment in NSW through the partnership between NSW DPI and LLS
- b. The Animal Biosecurity Unit collaborates and cooperates within a clearly defined scope of programs which span various units within the NSW DPI and relevant supporting agencies and organisations.
- c. NSW DPI and LLS maintain a capable and competent workforce
- d. A safe and supportive work environment is maintained, with workplace health and safety recognised as a priority.
- e. Capacity and capability are underpinned by continually improving systems, such as technological, reporting, and project management systems.

4.2.1 Activities

- NSW DPI optimises its partnership with LLS through the Strategic Animal Biosecurity & Welfare Alliance (SABWA) (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS annually develop the NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan which guides planning, reporting and operational activities to achieve state priorities in animal biosecurity and welfare (4.2a)
- NSW DPI and LLS jointly undertake risk analyses to underpin animal biosecurity and policies and procedures (4.2a)
- NSW DPI staff members in leadership positions work with their counterparts in other NSW DPI units and branches to define NSW DPI Animal Biosecurity responsibilities and to work together to deliver outcomes under the [NSW DPI Strategic Plan](#). These responsibilities are clearly communicated to staff members (4.2b)
- NSW DPI defines its role in the management of wildlife and environmental biosecurity issues in accordance with agreements with other agencies (4.2b).
- NSW DPI supports NSW Health by providing supporting information about animal disease risks and status in the case of a zoonotic disease incident and partners NSW Health in animal disease investigations that may impact on public health. (4.2b)
- NSW DPI and LLS staff members in leadership positions will:
 - develop workforce plans to support training, progression and succession planning for their staff (4.2c)
 - build a positive team culture by modelling and promoting the NSW Government values – Integrity, Trust, Service and Accountability (4.2d)
 - model and promote a safe and supportive work environment (4.2d).
- NSW DPI and LLS staff will:
 - embrace training opportunities to improve their capabilities under the [NSW Public Sector Capability Framework](#), and to improve their technical skills and competencies (4.2c)
 - embrace the NSW Government values (4.2d)
 - work together to create a safe and supportive work environment (4.2d)
 - work collaboratively with other units to continually improve systems such as technological, reporting and project management systems (4.2e).

4.3 Stakeholders are empowered to promote and implement best animal biosecurity practices.

- a. Biosecurity as a shared responsibility is proactively promoted by NSW DPI and LLS to key stakeholders such as peak industry bodies and animal interest groups.

- b. Stakeholders understand how to discharge their duties under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW), including behaviours that help them to discharge their general biosecurity duty, and their duty to notify the presence or suspected presence of prohibited matter and other notifiable pests and diseases of animals (terrestrial and aquatic)
- c. NSW DPI and LLS communicate effectively with the media and stakeholders about how to prevent and manage key animal biosecurity threats in NSW
- d. NSW DPI and LLS maintain processes to measure and improve stakeholder engagement levels in NSW.

4.3.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS work with key stakeholders to develop industry-led improved animal biosecurity and welfare practices such as biosecurity plans for farms, saleyards. (4.3a)
- NSW DPI communicates relevant and timely animal biosecurity information for stakeholders about their duties under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW) (4.3b)
- LLS provide targeted advice for stakeholders in their region about their duties under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW) (4.3b)
- NSW DPI utilises media to raise stakeholder awareness of significant biosecurity threats (4.3c)
- NSW DPI promotes antimicrobial stewardship principles to key stakeholders, such as peak industry bodies and producer groups (4.3c)
- NSW DPI and LLS proactively seek to better understand stakeholder engagement with animal biosecurity and welfare issues (4.3d).

5. Related procedures

Note that all animal biosecurity procedures sit under the seven specific policy areas which are informed by this overarching policy (see section 2 – scope).

Procedure: Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information

6. Definitions and acronyms

LLS	NSW Local Land Services
NSW DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

7. Legislation

Biosecurity Act 2015

Local Land Services Act 2013

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979

Veterinary Practice Act 2003

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

State Records Act 1998

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (New South Wales) Act 1994

Stock Medicines Act 1989

Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966

8. Other related documents

[Policy - Prohibited matter pests and diseases of animals](#)

[Policy - Endemic pests and diseases of animals](#)

[Policy - Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals](#)

[Policy - Aquatic biosecurity - pests and diseases](#)

[Policy - Chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food](#)

[Policy- Antimicrobial stewardship and resistance](#)

[Policy - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information](#)

[Policy- Point of Care testing for Prohibited Matter](#)

[MoU- DPI/LLS Memorandum of Understanding](#)

[Record Keeping Fundamentals](#)

[Information Management](#)

[Information Access](#)

[Policy - Work Health and Safety](#)

[Ethics and Conduct](#)

[NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety Strategy 2023-2030](#)

[NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan](#)

9. Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1	01/07/2017	New policy developed in response to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .	Animal biosecurity and welfare
2.	21/08/2020	Minor revision – removed Animal Welfare from the scope of the policy	Animal Biosecurity
3.	01/03/24	Minor revision- updated references and links	Animal Biosecurity

10. Contact

Animal Biosecurity NSW – General Enquires

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