

Biosecurity - Management of animal biosecurity in NSW

CM9 reference: INT20/71412	VERSION: 2.0
AUTHORISED BY: Group Director, Animal Biosecurity	AUTHORISED DATE: 12/08/2020
ISSUED BY: Biosecurity & Food Safety	EFFECTIVE DATE: 21/08/2020
CATEGORY: Operations and Industry	REVIEW DATE: 30/06/2023

1. Purpose

This policy describes the overarching principles for the New South Wales 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 Act) as well as roles under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

This policy informs the five policies listed below:

- Prohibited matter pests and diseases of animals
- Endemic pests and diseases of animals
- Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals
- Aquatic biosecurity pests and diseases
- Chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food

Animal biosecurity works closely with animal welfare, and all animal welfare legislation such as the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* 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 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 Strategy 2013 - 2021, the LLS Strategic Plan, the NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan and the supporting annual NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan ('Business Plan')
- d. NSW DPI leads the development of NSW animal biosecurity policies, programs and plans, and contributes to and influences the development of national animal biosecurity policies, programs and plans
- e. Management of animal biosecurity and welfare threats is enhanced by bilateral agreements, MOUs, legislation, collaboration and cooperation between NSW 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 Better Regulation Office](#)
- g. NSW is guided by national and international standards as informed by the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes and Food Safety Codes.
- h. Quality assurance principles are applied to support continual improvement in the management of animal biosecurity and welfare threats in NSW.

4.1.1 Activities

- The NSW DPI and LLS identifies and prioritises animal biosecurity and welfare 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 and welfare threats are evaluated (4.1b)
- NSW DPI and LLS 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 and welfare 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 and the Marine Pest Sectoral Committee (4.1d) (4.1e)
- NSW DPI and LLS cooperate with other Australian jurisdictions and, where appropriate, develops harmonised legislation and adhere to Memoranda of Understanding with other jurisdictions (4.1e)
- NSW DPI effectively administers, and both NSW DPI and LLS enforce the Act (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 Act (4.1f)
- NSW DPI administers the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*. 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 OIE 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 industry and the community and environment in NSW through the partnership between NSW DPI and LLS

- b. The Animal Biosecurity Unit works within a clearly defined scope of programs which span various units within the NSW DPI and/or NSW Department of Industry
- c. NSW DPI work within clearly defined scope of programs in collaboration and cooperation with various NSW government agencies, such as the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), NSW Health and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- d. NSW DPI and LLS maintain a capable and competent workforce
- e. A safe and supportive work environment is maintained, with workplace health and safety recognised as a priority
- f. 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) and DPI LLS Memorandum of Understanding – Animal Biosecurity Schedule (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 welfare 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 how we 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. These other agencies are LLS, the OEH, the EPA, NSW Health, Wildlife Health Australia and the Registry of Wildlife Health (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. (4.2c)
- NSW DPI and LLS staff members in leadership positions will:
 - develop workforce plans to support training, progression and succession planning for their staff (4.2d)
 - build a positive team culture by modelling and promoting the NSW Government values – Integrity, Trust, Service and Accountability (4.2e)
 - model and promote a safe and supportive work environment (4.2e).
- 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 (4.2d)
 - embrace the NSW Government and Animal Biosecurity team values (4.2e)
 - work together to create a safe and supportive work environment (4.2e)
 - work collaboratively with other units to continually improve systems such as technological, reporting and project management systems (4.2f).

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

- a. Biosecurity as a shared responsibility is proactively promoted by key stakeholders such as peak industry bodies and animal interest groups
- b. Stakeholders understand how to discharge their duties under the Act, 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

- c. NSW DPI and LLS communicate effectively with the media and stakeholders about how to prevent and manage key animal biosecurity and welfare 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 develops animal biosecurity communications plans and information for stakeholders about their duties under the Act (4.3b)
- LLS provide targeted advice for stakeholders in their region about their duties under the Act (4.3b)
- NSW DPI develops a generic BFS media engagement plan to guide staff on how to raise stakeholder awareness of significant animal biosecurity and welfare threats whilst being mindful of trade sensitivities and community concerns (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 and welfare 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

BFS	Biosecurity and Food Safety
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
LLS	NSW Local Land Services
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
NSW DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
POCTA	<i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979</i>

7. Legislation

Animal Research Act 1985

Biosecurity Act 2015

Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986

Fisheries Management Act 1994

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 - 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 - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information
 Policy - Emergency management – DPI/LLS alliance (IND-O-201)
 Policy - Records Management (IND-I-177)
 Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)
 Policy - Classified Information (IND-I-196)
 Policy - Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)
 Policy - Work Health and Safety (IND-P-185)
 Policy - Code of Conduct (IND-P-184)
 NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021
 NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan 2019-23

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

10. Contact

Biosecurity NSW – General Enquires
 1800 808 095
biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au