

Biosecurity - Prohibited matter - pests and 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 pests and diseases of terrestrial animals (including birds and bat) that are listed as prohibited matter under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act).

2. Scope

This policy applies to 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 Act and the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the overarching policy, Principles for management of animal biosecurity in NSW and the policy 'Surveillance for animal pests and diseases.

Prohibited matter pests and diseases ('these pests and diseases') of animals includes both exotic agents and agents that cause sporadic infections of animals. Exotic pests and diseases of animals are not present in NSW and have the potential to cause major adverse impacts. Most of these pests and diseases have been categorised under the [Emergency Animal Diseases Response Agreement \(EADRA\)](#). Prohibited matter sporadic pests and diseases of animals are sporadically occurring endemic pests and diseases of animals listed as prohibited matter under the Act. At the time of writing this policy, these diseases are Hendra virus infection (other than in flying foxes), anthrax and Australian bat lyssavirus other than in bats.

NSW DPI and LLS will minimise the risks posed by these pests and diseases in NSW by leading stakeholders in implementing measures to prevent entry, rapidly detect and respond to any incursion, and facilitate return to normal conditions as soon as possible after a response.

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 from prohibited matter pests and diseases of animals are assessed and managed according to a consistent, robust and systematic decision-making process

- a. National and state prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plans, cost-sharing arrangements and surveillance programs work well for stakeholders in NSW.
- b. Legislation and procedures are contemporary and fit-for-purpose.
- c. Resources are allocated to manage threats in accordance with NSW DPI and LLS organisational objectives drawn from the NSW Biosecurity Strategy, NSW DPI and LLS Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan and the annual NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan.

4.1.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS collaborate with other stakeholders, and ensure that the interests of stakeholders in NSW are considered, in national and state emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities including reviews of the EADRA, the AUSVETPLAN Technical Review Group, Animal Health Committee task groups and national exercises (4.1a)
- NSW DPI periodically reviews the list of pests and diseases of animals which are listed as prohibited matter and the duties in relation to prohibited matter in the Act (4.1b)
- NSW DPI and LLS management support staff members in understanding how to use the regulatory tools under the Act to manage these pests and diseases (4.1b)
- NSW DPI prepares a priority list of high risk pests and diseases and implements key activities to prevent or prepare for potential incursions of these pests and diseases (4.1c).

4.2 NSW DPI and LLS activities minimise the incidence and impact of threats from prohibited matter exotic pests and diseases of animals in NSW.

- a. Any incursion/incident of these pests and diseases is rapidly detected and a response consistent with state and/or national plans is implemented rapidly and effectively.
- b. NSW DPI fulfils its role as lead agency for animal health emergencies, as per the [NSW Emergency Management Arrangements](#) to manage the biosecurity risks to human health, safety and well-being caused by these pests and diseases.
- c. NSW DPI and LLS staff are trained, prepared, and have the capacity to effectively respond to an incursion of one of these pests and diseases.
 - d. NSW DPI engages with other government agencies such as NSW Health, NSW Environment Protection Authority to facilitate a whole of government response to incidents as appropriate.

4.2.1 Activities

- NSW DPI and LLS implement effective surveillance and reporting systems for these pests and diseases, as per the policy 'Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals'(4.2a)
- NSW DPI manages the Emergency Animal Diseases Watch Hotline in NSW to facilitate prompt notification of these pests and diseases and rapid investigation, as per the policy 'Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals' (4.2a)
- LLS assist where appropriate in the rapid investigation of these pests and diseases, as per the policy '[Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals](#)' (4.2a)
- NSW DPI maintains a National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory available for testing of submissions for notifiable diseases from NSW animals (4.2a,b)

- NSW DPI and LLS encourage and assist industry to develop emergency response plans for their enterprises that , include protocols for destruction, disposal and decontamination e.g. individual saleyard or abattoir emergency response plans (4.2b)
- NSW DPI and LLS staff participate in responses to these pests and diseases as a priority activity (4.2b)
- NSW DPI and LLS staff develop and participate in training and exercises to build the capacity and capability to respond to these pests and diseases (4.2c)
- NSW DPI and LLS produces and tests NSW response plans and procedures for high priority pests and diseases, (4.2b,c)
- NSW DPI and LLS develops and tests systems to support effective responses to these pests and diseases, for example systems to manage 'cases' (4.2b,c)
- NSW DPI and LLS response planning includes recovery planning and considers the impacts to community well-being, with the aim of facilitating return to normal conditions as soon as possible (4.2c).
- NSW DPI and LLS recognise the potential human health risks from these pests and diseases and manage them in partnership with NSW Health. NSW Health will be responsible for providing human health advice to the public and managing the public health risks associated with an incident or outbreak of a zoonotic prohibited matter sporadic pests and diseases of animals (4.2d).
- NSW DPI and LLS engage regularly with NSW Environment Protection Authority to develop and test plans to manage key environmental challenges to successful emergency responses e.g. mass disposal of carcasses (4.2d).

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

- a. Stakeholders are aware of the potential entry and spread pathways of the pests and diseases most likely to affect their industries.
- b. Stakeholders recognise and notify authorised officers of suspected incidences of these pests and diseases without delay.
- c. Industries implement biosecurity plans and standard operating procedures to minimise the likelihood of introduction or spread of these pests and diseases and support emergency responses to these pests and disease.

4.3.1 Activities

- The animal biosecurity unit in collaboration with DPI communications staff develops and implements an animal biosecurity stakeholder engagement plan that includes these pests and diseases (4.3a)
- LLS develop and implement regionally specific animal biosecurity stakeholder engagement plans that include these pests and diseases (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS develop advisory material and implement programs to raise stakeholder awareness about their duties (including the general biosecurity duty) under the Act to prevent entry and spread of these pests and diseases. For example, Feeding of prohibited pig feed and ruminant animal materials (4.3a)
- NSW DPI and LLS develop advisory material for stakeholders including livestock managers and private veterinarians about how to recognise significant signs of disease and their duty to notify the presence or suspected presence of these pests or diseases under the Act (4.3b)
- NSW DPI partly or wholly fund the laboratory fees for initial diagnostic testing of suspicion for suspected notifiable animal diseases to encourage livestock managers and private veterinarians to report notifiable diseases (4.3b)

- NSW DPI and LLS implement programs raising stakeholder awareness about how to prevent endemic diseases occurring using vaccine e.g. preventive vaccination for anthrax in grazing livestock, post exposure rabies vaccination following contact with bats or vaccination for Hendra virus in horses in high risk conditions (4.2c)
- NSW DPI and LLS work with key stakeholders to develop and implement industry led biosecurity plans and standard operating procedures to minimise the likelihood of introduction or spread of these pests and diseases, using national resources where available (4.3c)
- NSW DPI and LLS encourage and assist stakeholders to develop enterprise emergency response plans, including protocols for destruction, disposal and decontamination (4.3c).

5. Related procedures

[Procedure – Reporting notifiable pests and diseases of animals](#)

[Procedure – Prohibited matter pests and diseases of animals – investigation and alert phase](#)

[Procedure - Highly pathogenic avian influenza](#)

[Procedure - Prohibited pig feed](#)

[Procedure - Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Freedom Assurance Program](#)

[Procedure - Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure if information](#)

[Procedure – Anthrax](#)

[Procedure – ABLV](#)

[Procedure – Hendra virus](#)

[Procedure – Valuation and compensation in a cost shared response to an emergency animal disease INT18/205854](#)

[Procedure – FMD tracing INT18/205855](#)

[Procedure – FMD surveillance INT19/168005](#)

6. Definitions and acronyms

EADRA	A contractual arrangement between Australia's governments and industry groups to collectively reduce the risk of disease incursions and manage a response if an outbreak occurs, managed by Animal Health Australia.
LLS	NSW 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 pests and diseases of animals](#)

Policy - Managing biosecurity and natural disaster emergencies (IND-O-205)

Policy - Emergency management – DPI/LLS alliance (IND-O-201)

Policy - Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure if information

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)

Resource – Animal Health Australia AUSVETPLAN

Resource – Animal Health Australia Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement

Primefact – Prohibited matter emergency pests and diseases of animals

9. Superseded documents

This policy replaces:

- Policy Prohibited matter exotic pests and diseases of animals
- Policy Prohibited matter sporadic endemic pests and diseases of animals

10. 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	21/08/2020	Updated May2020, various minor amendments and combination of separate policies for exotic and sporadic endemic pests and diseases into a single document	Animal Biosecurity

10. Contact

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