

Task Risk Assessment

Instructions: Complete the risk assessment according to the guide *Risk management for emergencies*.

Task	Use, transport and storage of firearms and ammunition for the on-ground humane destruction of animals.
Context (including area/site)	Firearms may be required for the humane destruction of animals on the ground during natural disaster and animal biosecurity emergencies. Use of firearms in the aerial humane destruction of animals is excluded by this risk assessment and is covered by Feral Animal Aerial Shooting Team (FAAST) processes.
Risk factors/causes	Discharge of a firearm in an unsafe manner may cause the injury or death of a person or a non-target animal, prolonged suffering of the animal requiring destruction or damage to infrastructure, plant and personal belongings. Unsafe discharge may be caused by lack of, or inadequate, training; lack of, or inadequate, experience of shooters; improperly maintained firearms and/or unsafe field work practices. Inappropriate methods of transport or storage for firearms and ammunition resulting in accidental discharge, theft or damage.
Acceptable level of protection (ALOP)	Medium
Specific risk	Injury or death of any person and/or non-target animal. Prolonged or unnecessary suffering of an animal. Damage to infrastructure, plant and personal belongings.
Area(s) of impact	Human health and safety Animal health and welfare Personal and/or departmental financial implications
Current risk treatments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government agency personnel using firearms on behalf of NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) must comply with their Government agency business licence requirements, relevant legislation and their own agency requirements. 2. Local Land Services (LLS) complies with LLS Firearms policy, procedure and safe work method statement including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incidents are reported and investigated (DPI is notified if recommendations impact on emergency operations) b. Records kept according to the LLS procedure and made available to DPI on request 3. Contractors using firearms on behalf of NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hold a firearms licence with the categories A, B or D and applicable genuine reason, such as vertebrate pest control, animal welfare, or business or employment b. Have access to a suitable calibre firearm for the task c. Be competent in the safe, effective and humane use of firearms 4. Government employees are not permitted to use their own firearms in an emergency under any circumstances. 5. Firearm transport and storage is compliant with the <i>NSW Firearms Act 1996</i> 6. Landholders discharging firearms on their own property are excluded from this risk assessment, except if engaged as contractors. However, where DPI personnel are present, field operations must be conducted in an agreed safe manner. 7. Field crew including veterinarians assigned to destroy animals must be qualified and experienced. Where personnel lack experience they must be supervised and monitored (specifically for safe use of firearms, effective kills and negative impacts to personal well-being) by experienced personnel.

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	<p>8. Personnel participating in destruction activities are monitored according to the risk assessment Animal destruction and disposal activities in emergencies.</p> <p>9. Personnel use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the emergency type, e.g. hearing and eye protection.</p> <p>10. Factory ammunition must be used. Reloaded ammunition is strictly prohibited.</p> <p>11. Firearms will be used according to the NSW Department of Industry's critical risk control for Firearms.</p>					
Current risk	Likelihood (A-E)	D (unlikely)	Consequence (1-5)	4 (major)	Current risk (VH, H, M, L)	Medium
Proposed risk treatment*	1. Implement a monitoring and auditing program to review compliance to policies and procedures.					
Residual risk	Likelihood (A-E)	D (unlikely)	Consequence (1-5)	4 (major)	Residual risk (VH, H, M, L)	Medium
Comment*	Firearms to be used only when no other safe option exists and no other effective destruction method is available.					
Conclusions	The overall level of risk is medium when personnel comply with licencing requirements, are trained in humane destruction of animals and are monitored while performing the task.					
Recommendations	Accept the medium level of risk for the task.					

*Mandatory requirement if assessed level of risk rating is VH (very high), H (high) or M (medium)

Name/s and role/s			Date	
Prepared by	Emergency Management Unit	Date completed	29 May 2018	
Authorised by	State Emergency Coordinator	Date authorised	29 May 2018	

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Table 1 - Consequence description for areas of impact

	Animal health & welfare Plant health	Health & safety	Environment & heritage	Governance & compliance	Industry & customer experience	Stakeholder trust / confidence	Service delivery	Value & benefits	Financial
5. Extreme	Significant animal illness/injuries/deaths in multiple regions. Widespread animal welfare issues. Considerable plant damage/loss across multiple regions .	Multiple fatalities and/or >20 major injuries/permanent disabilities/chronic disease.	Irreversible large-scale environmental impact with loss of valued ecosystems .	Prosecution leading to imprisonment of executive(s). Significant prosecution/litigation. Loss of operating licence .	Extensive shutdowns or extended disruptions with economy-wide and national effects. Structural change or long-term industry impact.	Outrage – Material change to public perception of the organisation. Confidence and trust are severely damaged, possible irreparably, and full recovery both questionable and costly.	Catastrophic event with potential to lead to the collapse of the organisation.	Failure to realise benefits of enterprise-wide operations or public announced portion/milestone significantly missed or final completion date significantly missed on critical path project.	>\$50m OR >25% of budget
4. Major	Considerable animal illness/injuries/deaths on multiple properties across a region . Animal welfare impacted across multiple regions. Considerable plant damage/loss on multiple properties across a region.	Kill or disable Single fatality and/or 10-20 major injuries/permanent disabilities/chronic diseases.	Long-term environmental impairment in neighbouring or valued ecosystems. Extensive remediation required.	Substantial breach resulting in prosecution, fines and/or litigation. Licence or accreditation restricted or conditions affecting ability to operate.	Short duration shutdowns or substantial disruptions affecting multiple industries with state or sector-wide cascading effects.	Displeasure – Extended negative state/national media coverage. Confidence and trust are damaged but recoverable at considerable cost, time and staff effort.	Severe event which requires extensive management effort but can be survived.	Significant delays with initiative which impacts across divisions and/or significant decrease in benefits realised or public announced portion/milestone missed or final completion date missed on critical path project.	>\$5m - ≤\$50m OR 25% of budget
3. Moderate	Some animal illness/injuries/deaths on multiple properties across a region . Animal welfare impacts across a region. Some plant damage/loss on multiple properties across a region.	Serious injury 1-10 major injuries requiring hospitalisation and numerous days lost or medium-term occupational illness.	Impacts external ecosystems and considerable remediation is required.	Breach resulting in enforcement action and/or prohibition notices. Substantial fine and no disruption to services.	Significant disruptions affecting operations of one industry sector or region with state-wide effects on one or more other regions or sectors.	Concern – Short-term negative state/national media coverage. Confidence and trust are diminished but are recoverable with time, staff effort and additional funding.	Significant event which can be absorbed, but substantial management effort is required.	Significant delays with initiative and/or major decrease in benefits realised or public announced portion/milestone missed or final completion date missed with demonstrable mitigating external circumstances.	>\$500k - ≤\$5m OR 10% of budget
2. Minor	Limited animal illness/injuries &/or deaths on single enterprise. Limited plant damage/loss on single enterprise .	Loss-time injury Single recoverable lost time injury or illness, alternate/restricted duties injury, or short-term occupational illness.	Short-term and/or well-contained environmental effects. Minor remedial actions probably required.	Significant non-compliance . Subject to comment and monitoring from applicable regulator. Small fine and no disruption to services.	Serious disruptions affecting operation of one industry sector or region .	Disappointment – Extended negative local/state media coverage. Confidence and trust dented but are quickly recoverable at modest cost within existing budget and resources.	Minor event , the impact of which can be absorbed but much broader management effort is required.	Severe delays with initiative and/or moderate decrease in benefits realised or completion date missed for non-critical path project.	\$50k - ≤\$500k OR 5% of budget
1. Insignificant	Isolated impact on animals and/or plants on a single enterprise .	Medical treatment only Illness or minor injuries requiring medical treatment.	Change from normal conditions within environmental regulatory limits & environmental effects are within site boundaries.	Minor non-compliance with legal and/or regulatory requirement or duty. Investigation and/or report to authority.	Minor disruptions affecting several industries or regions.	Unease – Series of negative articles in local/state media. Confidence remains with some minor loss of goodwill or trust. Recoverable with little effort or cost. Some continuing scrutiny/attention.	An event, the impact of which can be absorbed but some additional management effort is required.	Minor delay with initiative and/or a minor decrease in the benefits realised or minor delay on the project or another project, with no public implications.	≤\$50k OR 1% of budget

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Table 2 - Risk rating with likelihood definition

		Likelihood				
		E. Rare	D. Unlikely	C. Possible	B. Likely	A. Almost certain
		Would only occur under exceptional circumstances (e.g. once every 100 to 1000 years)	Could occur only in unusual circumstances (e.g. once every 10 to 100 years)	Could occur, but more than likely will not (e.g. once every 1 to 10 years)	Will probably occur (e.g. 2 - 10 times/year; could occur on a monthly/quarterly basis)	Expected to occur in most circumstances (e.g. >10 times per year; could occur on a daily/weekly basis)
Consequence	5. Extreme	Medium	High	High	Very high	Very high
	4. Major	Low	Medium	High	High	Very high
	3. Moderate	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	2. Minor	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
	1. Insignificant	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium

Refer to Table 1

Table 3 - General risk tolerance, management guide and approval

Risk rating	Basic tolerance	Management	Approval Non response	Approval Responses
Very High	Generally intolerable	Urgent attention. Must obtain Secretary/Director General approval for risks and their treatments	Secretary/Director General	Executive Emergency Management Committee
High	Undesirable	Intervention required. Approval of the risks, their treatments and acceptable management actions. To be escalate to Secretary/Director General as appropriate.	Deputy Director General	Executive Emergency Management Committee
Medium	Tolerable	Active management. Review risks and treatments, and approve acceptable management actions.	Director	Incident Controller (Local or State)
Low	Broadly acceptable	Ongoing monitoring. Managed through routine operations by the risk owner. Review/monitor risks and their treatments for effectiveness, reliability and any changes in the likelihood and consequences.	Director or delegate	Incident Controller, Function Officers, Operations Managers or Officers-in-Charge (OIC's)