

Your rates at work

Local Land Services works with land managers and the community to improve primary production and better manage our natural resources across NSW.

We also work with rural and regional people and partner organisations to support profitable and sustainable regional communities.

We have around 800 staff across 11 local regions, providing frontline services to support our communities, primary industries and landscape.

Your rates fund the wide range of biosecurity services provided to landholders and communities in your region.

This newsletter provides an overview of what your rates and other funding sources deliver.



Helping landholders and communities manage and respond

2016 was another solid year in serving our communities and strengthening our capacity.

Our staff participated in four emergency responses, including the November–December floods. During which, we helped landholders with animal welfare issues, submitted damage assessments for the disaster declaration process and participated in recovery planning.

We worked with others to reduce the risk of an avian influenza outbreak. NSW Health, the Department of Primary Industries and our staff facilitated a hypothetical response scenario, attended by Police, local government, the poultry industry and NSW Public Works.

We strengthened the National Livestock Identification System by participating in the national training exercise SheepCatcher II and the statewide compliance program Operation Mary.

Our invasive species and plant health team helped landholders manage pest animals through advice, training and support, together with the supply of restricted baits.

Baiting snapshot

| Pest | Number of baits | Hectares baited |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Foxes | 31,097 | 1,335,501 |
| Wild Dogs | 34,917 | 1,571,833 |
| Feral Pigs | 41,846 kg | 190,000 |
| Rabbits | 663 kg | 2,290 |

We held 23 vertebrate pesticide induction training courses across our region to accredit 160 landholders to use 1080 poison, pindone and canid pesticide ejectors (see page 3).

We enhanced the Walgett community's response to increased wild dog activity, with two information sessions for 50 landholders and intensive training for 23 landholders.



We helped the Chilcotts Creek Wild Dog Control Association through locally facilitating the Commonwealth Drought Funding Initiative for ground control.

Our animal biosecurity and welfare team also provided surveillance for emergency animal diseases and notifiable diseases. Significant investigations included the Nundle major cattle mortality response, humpy back syndrome in Walgett and sheep lameness investigations.

We increased our capacity to detect foot and mouth disease, with three of our district veterinarians travelling to Nepal to take part in a training exercise (see page 3).

Our staff also increased their capacity for flood helicopter surveillance through training. We also maintained our capacity for humane destruction of livestock in natural disasters with firearms training.

Beware the old vehicle battery

Judy Ellem District Veterinarian, Narrabri/Gunnedah

Livestock, particularly young livestock are curious and will experiment with new things. If it appeals to their taste they will consume it, and this is what happens with vehicle batteries.

Cattle readily break open weathered batteries, exposing the tempting lead plates.

The lead plates are highly toxic. Poisoning often results in multiple deaths, followed by costly restrictions on the management and marketing of your cattle. These restrictions are essential to maintain Australia's advantage of being a clean, green and humane beef industry.

Cattle that may have had access to lead are tested for lead levels in their blood. Products from cattle with high blood lead levels are not permitted into the human food chain, and cannot be sold for slaughter.

Cattle with blood lead levels are detained for a minimum of 12 months and then retested. When cattle have consumed a battery, the lead sits in the rumen and is slowly absorbed into the blood stream. Occasionally individual cattle still have unacceptable lead levels one to two years later. This means lost marketing opportunities and keeping cattle longer than planned.

There are other sources of lead that have caused poisoning in livestock, including lead-based paints, sump oils, solder, pipes, plumbing equipment, lead flashings, lead shot and lead in ash from burnt material containing lead painted timber.

Where to recycle old batteries

Service clubs in our region collect old batteries and use the money they earn for the community.

You may also sell old batteries to recyclers or contact your local shire council waste management facility.



Keep livestock away from potential lead sources

1. Fence off old vehicles, machinery, sump oil and plumbing materials.
2. Fence off old houses and sheds that may have lead paint.
3. Fence off rubbish tips.
4. Check paddocks and fence lines for batteries that may have been left behind.
5. Protect batteries on electric fences from livestock access.
6. Never leave batteries behind in the paddock. Move them to a place inaccessible to livestock.

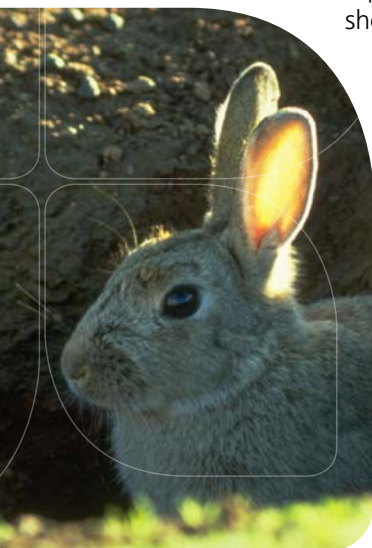
Rabbit virus release

A new strain of the rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV1) was released in March to help manage the rabbit population across Australia.

This new strain, known as RHDV1 K5, is not a new virus—it is a Korean strain of the existing RHDV1 virus already widespread in Australia. The new strain should work better in the cool-wet regions of Australia where the current strain has not been as successful.

RHDV1 K5, like other RHDV1 variants will not affect any other species except the European rabbit. While it will assist in reducing rabbit population numbers, it is not the silver bullet for rabbit eradication in Australia and an integrated approach is still required.

A vaccine to protect domestic rabbits against RHDV1 is available. For vaccination advice contact your private vet.



Develop your farm business skills: support available

Farmers in NSW can access financial support to complete pre-approved farm business skills courses, or apply to attend a course to develop skills in:

- risk management
- financial and business management
- farm business planning/drought preparedness.

The Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program is part of the NSW Government's \$300 million Drought Strategy to support farm businesses.

Approved participants can claim reimbursement of course costs upon completion, up to a maximum of \$5,000 over five years for any farmer.

Total reimbursements for each farm business are capped at \$9,000.

To see the pre-approved courses and for more information on how to apply, visit www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au and click on 'Skills and training'.

New technology for wild dog and fox control

Our local biosecurity officers have been delivering vertebrate pesticide induction training for landholders across the North West which now includes the new canid pesticide ejector (CPE) devices.

This training provides accreditation for landholders to use 1080, pindone and the recently released para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP).

In the last 12 months these courses have been expanded to also include training in CPEs, a new control tool for wild dog and fox management.

In 2016, 23 courses were held, with over 160 landholders now able to use CPEs as apart of both individual and group integrated pest control programs.

The CPE devices are a spring loaded bait set in the ground, with the lure head sitting above the ground as an attractant to wild dog and foxes.

The CPE is triggered when a wild dog or fox pulls the lure head in an upwards motion. This propels the contents of the 1080 capsule directly into the mouth of the wild dog or fox.



Trained in early detection of foot and mouth disease

In 2016, three North West district veterinarians were selected for specialist training in Nepal on foot and mouth disease (FMD) detection and preparedness.

Ted Irwin (Warialda), Justine McNally (Moree) and Heidi Austin (Tamworth) travelled to Nepal as part of a national program funded by the Australian Government.

A 2013 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences study on modelling the potential costs of prolonged restrictions to access of export markets of a FMD outbreak in Australia **predicted revenue losses between \$6 billion and \$52 billion.**

The take home message is to prevent the entry of FMD into Australia and in the case of an incursion, to detect it rapidly.

The skills that Ted, Justine and Heidi now have allow them to accurately recognise and age FMD lesions.

This is essential for early detection and identifying possible sources of the disease early in the outbreak.

The importance of early detection helps to minimise spread of the disease; maximises likelihood of control and early recovery; and reduces duration of response activities.

This all minimises losses, costs and impacts, should the disease gain entry into this country.



What rates and other funds provide

Rates are used by Local Land Services to pay for **biosecurity and emergency services** to landholders.

This includes:

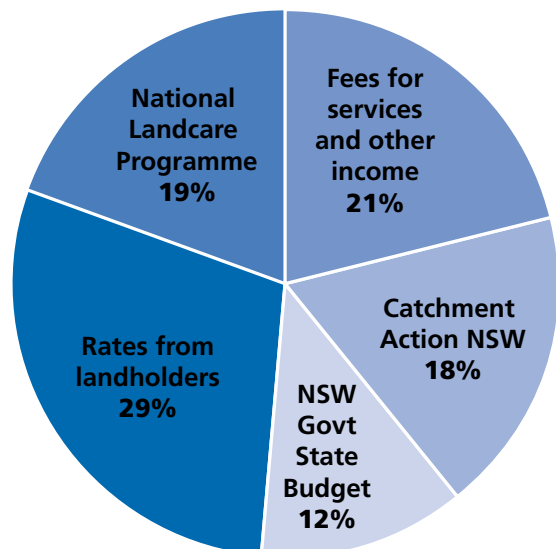
- activities relating to the **control of declared pest animals and insects**
- the provision of **animal health and welfare services**
- support for stock identification systems
- emergency management assistance for drought and other natural disaster relief such as bushfires and floods.

Biosecurity services provide insurance against pests and disease, and help maintain vital market access for producers.

Examples of biosecurity and emergency response projects in the past year include supporting the response and recovery efforts for widespread flooding and statewide wild dog management programs.

As well as rates, Local Land Services receives funding from the NSW Government through Catchment Action NSW, which provides on-ground programs to support **biodiversity, native vegetation, threatened species** and **Aboriginal cultural heritage** initiatives.

The Australian Government also contributes funding through the National Landcare Programme, which helps drive **sustainable agriculture**. This funding also supports the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of Australia's **natural environment**.



Budgeted funding structure of Local Land Services 2016–17

Understanding your annual rates notice

Notional carrying capacity

The notional carrying capacity of your property is calculated by Local Land Services in your region. It is based on the number of stock your property would normally carry in an average year if the property was used solely for livestock purposes.

As reference, a 40 kg sheep of any breed represents one stock unit and a 400 kg steer of any breed represents 10 stock units.

It is applied to the below base charge and four rate types to work out your rates.

Base charge

This base charge is applied to each of the four rate types levied on a property.

General rate

This rate is calculated using the notional carrying capacity of your property.

Animal health rate

This rate is calculated using the notional carrying capacity of your property.

It is payable if your annual land and stock return showed at least 50 units of stock on your property.

This charge also applies if you did not lodge a 2016 land and stock return by the due date.

Meat industry levy

This levy is collected on behalf of the NSW Food Authority. It is calculated using national carrying capacity and is not retained by Local Land Services.

Pest insect special purpose levy

This levy is collected for the NSW Department of Primary Industries to cover the cost of plague locust control campaigns. It is not retained by Local Land Services.

LOCAL LAND SERVICES ACT 2013 - Part 5

2017 RATE NOTICE
TAX INVOICE

NSW GOVERNMENT | Local Land Services
ABN 57 876 455 969

Region:

Name
Address
Town NSW 2840

Invoice No: 123456
Customer Reference No: 123456789
Date of Issue: 00/00/0000 Payment
Due Date: 00/00/0000

Occupier ID and Name: 12345678 / L Andholder
Holding Name:
Holding Address: Station Station
Address NSW 2840

Associated Holdings: Property 1, Property 2, Property 3

Area of Land (hectares): 103084.1000 X Stock Units/hectare: 0.2015 = Notional Carrying Capacity: 20771.44615000

| Item Description | Qty | Unit Price | GST | Amount (excl GST) |
|--|------|------------|--------|-------------------|
| RATES-GENERAL (BASE CHARGE \$45.00 +) 20775.55 Units 9.619000 Cents per Unit | 1 EA | \$000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0000.00 |
| RATES-ANIMAL HEALTH (BASE CHARGE \$30.00 +) 20775.55 Units 4.406400 Cents per Unit | 1 EA | \$00.00 | \$0.00 | \$00.0 |
| LEVY-MEAT INDUSTRY (BASE CHARGE \$5.00 +) 20775.55 Units 0.600000 Cents per Unit | 1 EA | \$000.00 | \$0.00 | \$00.00 |
| SPECIAL PURPOSE RATE - PEST INSECT (BASE CHARGE \$16.70 +) 20775.55 Units 3.825200 Cents per Unit | 1 EA | \$000.00 | \$0.00 | \$00.00 |

All rates and charges are exempt from GST under Division 81 of the Goods and Services Tax Act 1999 unless indicated otherwise.

The carrying capacity of this holding is calculated as the rateable area multiplied by the stock units per hectare which equals the notional carrying capacity. Where holdings are associated for rating, these figures are the cumulative total of all associated holdings.
The Meat Industry Levy is a statutory levy collected on behalf of the NSW Food Authority.
The Pest Insect Special Purpose Rate is collected for DPI NSW to cover cost of plague locust control campaigns.
An interest rate of 11.31% will be charged on overdue rates.

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| SUBTOTAL | \$0000.00 |
| GST TOTAL | \$0.00 |
| CREDIT BALANCE | |
| ARREARS | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT DUE | \$0000.00 |

SAMPLE ONLY

Note: The amounts shown here are indicative only. Actual amounts will vary, depending on where you live.

Preferred payment methods

Our preferred payment methods are:

- online at www.lls.nsw.gov.au
- using BPay by phone or internet
- by phone using credit card on 1300 738 070.

A 0.4% surcharge applies to payments by Mastercard or Visa.

Changes to this year's rates

There have been some increases in base and variable rates charges as part of a continuing move towards a more consistent and standardised rating structure.

The 2017 increases also ensure that Local Land Services can continue to meet community expectations for managing pest animals and providing biosecurity, animal health and welfare and emergency management support.

Base General rate

Where the 2016 Base General rate was below \$60, the 2017 Base General rate has been increased to \$60.

Where the 2016 Base General rate was greater than \$60, the 2017 Base General rate will increase in line with CPI, consistent with previous rating periods.

Base Animal health rate

The base component of the animal health rate has increased from \$30 to \$35 across NSW.

Variable General and Animal Health rates

The variable component of the General and Animal Health rates will be increased by five per cent.

Stock ID fees

This fee supports stock identification systems and administration costs and has been standardised at \$70 across all regions. The stock ID fee is levied on holdings less than 10 ha where a landholder has a brand or earmark or former landholders who wish to retain their brand or earmark.

For more information about Local Land Services

Visit: www.lls.nsw.gov.au/NorthWest

Call: 1300 795 299

Email: admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au

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