

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.



Building on the successes of 2016

The last 12 months have been extremely busy at Local Land Services Western Region. Our team of 51 staff across Western NSW delivered a range of projects to support local communities, including:

- The **Western Region Kangaroo Management workshop**, an initiative of the Western Lands Advisory Council, with our support. This workshop brought key stakeholders together to address increasing pressure from unsustainably high kangaroo populations and the subsequent negative impacts.
- **Improving biosecurity in the region** by issuing 419,179 baits across 808 properties involved in our wild dog baiting program.
- **Increasing knowledge of native plants** through the western walkabout native plant identification and management workshops, organised in partnership with Western Landcare NSW and NSW Environmental Trust.
- A total of 1,506 people attended our **training days, workshops and field days**.
- We issued **\$3.7M in grant payment for projects** including small land management grants, incentive payments for landholders on-ground work, pest and weed programs, capacity building events, targeted Aboriginal community programs, threatened species projects and grants to community groups such as Landcare.

We will build on this work in 2017 through:

- continuing to support landholders to manage invasive pests, such as wild dogs, through coordinated aerial and ground baiting programs
- implementing a joint Local Land Services feral pig management plan in our southern area



Grant Davis, Biosecurity Officer and James Wright from 'Paroo Pastoral' conduct brucellosis testing on Dorper Rams.

- continuing to deliver training to support landholders with biosecurity issues, including pest ejector use and chemical certification
- continuing to implement a range of natural resource management programs through grants and incentives.

We will be supporting Western Landcare NSW who are holding the Western Landcare forum in Broken Hill (4-5 Aug). This forum explores the relationship between healthy landscapes and healthy food, and celebrates the diverse range of Western NSW produce.

We look forward to working with you on these and other activities.

- Erlina Compton, General Manager

Managing wild dogs

Wild dogs were again an issue last year for many landholders throughout the Western region, with reports and sightings continuing to increase as they have over the past five years.

Wild dogs are a significant problem in Western NSW, preying on livestock and causing losses to productivity and profitability at the farm gate.

A whole-of-community effort is required to best manage wild dogs in the Western region, as past experience shows optimal results are achieved when landholders operate collaboratively and in a coordinated manner.

Local Land Services Western Region, along with NSW Farmers Wild Dog Coordinator, Bruce Duncan and Western Landcare NSW, offer a range of support for landholders and community groups with their baiting programs.

In 2016, wild dog baiting programs resulted in 419,179 baits being issued on 808 properties, which covered a total of 16,834,494 hectares.

Of these 419,179 baits, 51,763 were issued through aerial baiting, which was a subsidised program with landholders.

The best techniques for managing wild dogs are:

- A coordinated effort between Local Land Services Western Region, other support services and landholders.
- Landholders reporting sightings to Local Land Services Western Region so resources are directed to the right areas. Landholders should also contact their neighbours to coordinate wild dog control activities.
- Landholders increasing their skills and knowledge to manage wild dogs by working with Local Land Services Western Region.

At the start of 2017, Local Land Services Western Region ran a series of five free 1080 and canid pest ejector (CPE) training and wild dog control workshops.



The aims of the training and workshops were:

- to inform landholders on effective 1080, CPE and foothold trap application and placement
- interpreting wild dog evidence including using motion sensor cameras
- proper ways to record sighting and evidence in the feral scan community website and smartphone app.

Landholders who completed the training also received five-year accreditation to use baited products including, purchasing 1080 capsules for CPE.

Training and workshops have proven to help landholders effectively reduce wild dog numbers in the past.

We hope they will have a similar impact this year.

The benefits of wild dog control and prevention far outweigh the costs involved.

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'.

In profile: Robynne Wells-Budd

What is your role?

I'm a Senior Biosecurity Officer based in Cobar.

What is your area of expertise?

With around 15 years of experience in the industry, I have worked across a wide-range of biosecurity issues.

I get great satisfaction when working on pest animal and insect control, particularly with feral pig management.

Whilst we will never eliminate feral pigs from the Australian landscape, by working with stakeholders, we can:

- manage their numbers
- reduce the risk of disease spread to humans and domestic animals
- limit the impact they have to both the environment and agricultural land.

What is the best part of your job?

I enjoy the variety of my job, in that you can be working with landholders at a workshop one day and the next you will be assisting the district vet in an animal health related issue.

During my time working with Local Land Services, I have been involved in numerous emergency management situations including flood, plague locusts and mice plagues. While these situations can be very stressful for us and landholders, they can also be very rewarding.



In profile: Sophie Hemley

What is your role?

I am a District Veterinary Officer based in Broken Hill.

Together, Dr Charlotte Cavanagh and I cover the entire Local Land Services Western Region.

What is your area of expertise?

I am a graduate veterinarian with a passion for production animal enterprises.

At university my specialist clinical rotations included advanced animal reproduction, ovine artificial breeding, embryo transfer and farm consultancy.

My main interests include animal diseases of local and national significance. I enjoy working with landholders to improve on-farm and industry production efficiencies, in particular related to reproduction.

What is the best part of your job?

I enjoy the challenges of working in variable farming landscapes with a range of producers to achieve their production animal objectives.

I also get great satisfaction in being able to help producers and industry stakeholders with their daily and long-term strategic planning enquiries.



What rates and other funds provide

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

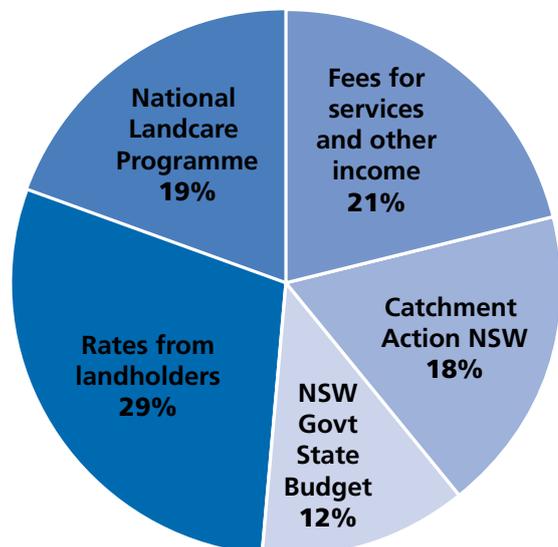
This includes:

- 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/Western

Call: 1300 795 299

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

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