



Biosecurity (Animal and Plant) **Emergency** **Sub Plan**

A sub plan of New South Wales State Emergency Management Plan

Version 6

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This State Biosecurity (Animal and Plant) Sub Plan describes the strategic emergency management arrangements for any biosecurity emergency affecting New South Wales, including Lord Howe Island. Biosecurity emergencies are caused by a biosecurity risk or impact, such as animal and plant pests and diseases (terrestrial and aquatic), and invasive species, including insects, other invertebrates, vertebrate pests and weeds.

1.2 Authority

This plan is written and issued under the authority of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* (NSW) ('SERM Act') and the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN). In addition to these instruments, the following Acts and Regulations apply to managing biosecurity emergencies:

- [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) and supporting regulations:
 - [Biosecurity \(National Livestock Identification System\) Regulation 2017](#)
 - [Biosecurity Regulation 2017](#)
 - [Biosecurity Amendment \(Miscellaneous\) Regulation 2019 \(PDF, 275 KB\)](#)
 - [Biosecurity Amendment \(Miscellaneous\) Regulation 2019 \(Summary\)](#)
- [Local Land Services Act 2013](#)
- legislation listed in [Appendix C](#).

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) is the Combat Agency for biosecurity emergencies.

This plan is a sub plan to the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) and was approved by the Director General NSW Department of Primary Industries, on 03 March 2022 and was endorsed by the NSW State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) on 02 June 2022.

1.2.1 Revision history

Version	Date endorsed	Amendment notes
One	8 March 1996	
Two	6 December 2001	Complete review
Three	15 December 2005	Complete review
Four	1 December 2012	Complete review, including name change from NSW Animal Health Emergency Sub Plan
Five		Complete review
Six	02 June 2022	Complete review in new SEMC template

1.3 Activation

The arrangements in this plan are active at all times and do not require formal activation.

The arrangements will normally be implemented by NSW DPI on receipt of:

1. notification of a suspected or confirmed detection of an emergency animal or plant pest or disease or invasive species in NSW
2. notification of a confirmed detection of an emergency animal or plant pest or disease or invasive species in another state or territory, dependent on risk
3. notification of an emerging pest or disease or invasive species, causing widespread impact on animals and/or plants, environment, or communities.

National biosecurity agreements (relevant to the notification) may be simultaneously activated, as they outline a national pre-agreed approach to management and funding of responses, and industry participation.

National agreement	Impact	Notified by
<u>Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA)</u>	Emergency animal pests and diseases	NSW Chief Veterinary Officer (NSW CVO)
<u>Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD)</u>	Emergency plant pests	NSW Chief Plant Protection Officer (NSW CPPO)
<u>National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA)</u>	Environment and/or social amenity, where the response is for the public good	NSW CVO NSW CPPO Director, Invasive Plants and Animals

1.4 Scope

This plan describes the state-level emergency management arrangements for biosecurity emergencies affecting NSW. It includes:

- the potential risks and consequences of the emergency to the social, built, economic, and natural environments
- the policy and programs in place to mitigate these risks before, during and after an emergency
- the control and coordination arrangements for managing a biosecurity emergency
- an outline of the approach to managing a biosecurity emergency and the agencies responsible for managing specific strategies
- the multi-agency management arrangements at the state, regional and local levels (including national level arrangements where these exist)
- links to sources of information where the reader can obtain further detail.

This plan does not apply to:

- commonly occurring biosecurity events which are within capacity of NSW DPI to manage
- emergencies in which NSW DPI has a supporting role to another combat agency.

This plan does not include detail about the operational activities of individual agencies.

1.4.1 Assumptions

This plan is based on the following assumptions.

1. All the agencies and organisations with a role or responsibility included in this plan maintain their own capability; including detailed operational plans, adequately trained personnel, and sufficient resources to fulfil their role.
2. Notifications of disease and pest incursions are received by NSW DPI from the public, industry, and government personnel.

1.5 Goals

The goals for biosecurity emergency management are to:

1. Protect public health and safety
Identify pests, diseases, and invasive species that harm or have potential to harm human health; prevent, eliminate, or minimise biosecurity risks to effectively manage public health and safety risks.
2. Protect primary production and minimise economic loss
Improve biosecurity planning to prevent the incursion and minimise spread; rapid elimination of pests/diseases/invasive species or management programs to minimise impacts.
3. Prevent widespread environmental damage
Identify pests, diseases, and invasive species that damage the environment; prevent or minimise damage by removing, containing, or mitigating the biosecurity risk.
4. Protect domestic and international primary production market access
Minimise biosecurity risks and eliminate risk to protect domestic and international market access.
5. Promote industry recovery
Partner with affected industry sectors and peak bodies to return businesses to production and assist with market access.

1.6 Audience

This plan is for the NSW Government and agencies within the emergency management sector, including non-government organisations (NGOs), business and community groups with a significant role in emergency management.

Other agencies and organisations, at inter-state and national level, including:

- Australian Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment (DAWE)
- Animal Health Australia (AHA)
- Plant Health Australia (PHA)
- agricultural or primary industries departments for each Australian State and Territory
- national (agricultural/primary production) industry groups and peak bodies.

Although the wider community is not the primary audience, community members may find the contents of this plan informative.

1.7 Linkages

This plan reflects current legislation, the arrangements in the EMPLAN, the strategic direction for emergency management in NSW and the accepted State practice for emergency management. The EMPLAN arrangements have not been repeated unless necessary to ensure context and readability. Any variations from these arrangements have been identified and justified.

Other supporting arrangements and plans include:

- [Australian Aquatic Veterinary Emergency Plan](#) (AQUAVETPLAN)
- [Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan](#) (PLANTPLAN)
- [Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan](#) (AUSVETPLAN)
- [Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement](#) (EADRA)
- [Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed](#) (EPPRD)
- [National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement](#) (NEBRA)

1.8 Maintaining the plan

The NSW DPI will keep this plan current by:

1. conducting exercises to test arrangements
2. reviewing the contents of the plan
 - a. after significant biosecurity responses
 - b. when there are changes to the machinery of government
 - c. when there are changes that alter agreed plan arrangements
 - d. as determined by the NSW SEMC
 - e. at least every five years.

2 The emergency risk context

2.1 Biosecurity risks

Australia is threatened by risk of pest and disease outbreaks in animals and plants, and invasive species. Biosecurity risks include:

- Animal biosecurity – impacts to livestock and other animals from pests and diseases
- Aquatic biosecurity – impacts to aquatic environments, industries, aquatic animals and marine vegetation from aquatic pests, diseases, and saltwater weeds
- Plant biosecurity – impacts to primary production, the economy, the community, and the environment, from exotic plant pests and diseases
- Invasive species – impacts to primary production, social amenity and the environment from exotic vertebrates, and invertebrates, and plants
- Locusts - impacts to primary production, social amenity, and the environment from notifiable pest locust species.

Biosecurity risk is influenced by:

1. Growing trade and travel
 - a. Australia, as a trading nation, is vulnerable to biosecurity incursions due to increasing numbers of vessels, passengers, and goods from higher risk regions/countries.
 - b. Increases in online trade may increase introduction of pests and diseases through illegal plant and animal trade.
2. Social and demographic profile changes and urbanisation, such as increasing small-lot acreages is expanding peri-urban areas, creating greater biosecurity risks due to lack of pest and disease awareness, changing interactions between people, wildlife, agriculture and disease vectors, and closer proximity to major ports of entry for pests and diseases.
3. Climate change which may impact
 - a. the movement of biological threats into new areas and increase the susceptibility of native species to invasive species
 - b. migratory bird patterns and weather events that influence the spread of pests and diseases.
4. Biodiversity losses can lower the environment's resilience to pests and diseases.
5. Agricultural intensification, vertical integration, and expansion into new areas to meet growing food demand, niche food demands, and introduction of new crops due to climate change.
6. Limited data sharing and system connectivity between jurisdictions, biosecurity sectors and industries.

7. Emerging technologies and unintentional impacts on the environment (e.g., spread of genetic control mechanisms outside of target species) and bioterrorism (e.g., the genetic engineering of pathogens).

2.2 Consequences

Pest and disease outbreaks threaten viability of industries, cause serious financial hardship and social disruption, and can place human health and the environment at risk.

The following may occur as a result of a biosecurity outbreak:

- loss of life or morbidity from zoonotic diseases and pests, resulting in a high burden on the public health system
- impacts to mental health from loss of financial viability and community cohesiveness
- widespread damage to the environment including negative impacts on biodiversity and cultural sites
- widespread reduction in access to food, farm movement restrictions, factories, and other businesses for an extended period
- loss of domestic and/or export markets resulting in major damage to businesses, NSW, and national economies
- loss of consumer and industry confidence in government and ability to cope with significant emergencies
- damage or destruction of infrastructure from pest incursions
- loss or damage to social amenities such as dwellings, parks, and gardens.

3 Prevention

Prevention includes:

1. restricting the entry of biosecurity threats through
 - a. working with Australian Government border agencies to strengthen border controls
 - b. strengthening biosecurity science and research to rapidly identify new or emerging biosecurity threats
 - c. work with interstate jurisdictions to implement appropriate risk mitigation measures at the state borders
 - d. ensuring shared responsibility of managing border controls and ensuring compliance to the *Biosecurity Act 2015* from industry sectors.
2. government, industry, and community working together to protect the economy, environment, and community through
 - a. raising industry and community awareness
 - b. surveillance programs for multiple industries
 - c. reporting hotlines for community to report suspect or suspicious pests and diseases.

4 Preparedness

Preparedness includes arrangements or plans to deal with an emergency or the effects of an emergency. Preparedness activities are undertaken by:

- agencies and organisations that have responsibilities before, during and after an emergency
- communities, businesses, industries, and households that are likely to be affected by biosecurity emergencies.

4.1 Emergency planning

Strategy	Actions
<p>NSW Biosecurity Strategy describes management of biosecurity threats across NSW including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preventing entry • rapidly identifying, containing, and eradicating or controlling new or emerging threats • maintaining capacity to manage biosecurity in NSW. 	<p>1. Implement strategy and maintain its currency.</p>
<p>Contribute to reviews of national biosecurity plans and agreements.</p>	<p>2. Participate in government working groups, technical review groups and committees and provision of out-of-session contributions.</p>
<p>Maintain links with key industry stakeholders (peak industry bodies, Australian and State/Territory government agencies, local government).</p>	<p>3. Maintain lists for key contacts. 4. Participate in scenario exercises with government and industry partners through National Biosecurity committees and NSW specific exercises. 5. Develop and maintain deeds with industry. 6. Participate in industry forums.</p>
<p>Contribute to industry and disease/pest biosecurity plans.</p>	<p>7. Participate in industry working groups and committees.</p>

4.2 Operational readiness

To ensure operational readiness, NSW DPI has the following capability:

1. State Coordination Centre (SCC) at Orange NSW, and control centre facilities, mostly in regional NSW, at NSW DPI and Local Land Services (LLS) offices
2. laboratory diagnostic and research laboratories
3. biosecurity specific training and exercises to develop and maintain skills of a workforce of NSW DPI, LLS, and other government agency personnel
4. stockpile of, or agreements to access, critical biosecurity response resources
5. documented processes to implement coordinated responses, including legislative requirements, financial management, operational procedures, and safe field activities
6. systems to manage response data and information and links to national framework.

4.3 Community resilience

Community resilience is enhanced through the provision of education and awareness programs. These include best management practice, biosecurity planning, technical and social support.

For example, resilience in aquaculture industries is being improved through projects to understand behavioural drivers and barriers to support resilience packages for aquatic industries.

Information is provided through various channels, including website, social media, and news networks by NSW DPI, LLS and other key stakeholders, such as industry groups.

Where necessary, targeted information will be provided in the form of fact sheets, face-to-face community sessions, and meetings with affected industry and community groups.

5 Response

NSW DPI have established processes for responding to biosecurity emergencies. Depending on the biosecurity impact, nationally agreed plans e.g., AUSVETPLAN may be used to guide operational objectives.

NSW DPI, using the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, has responsibility to minimise the adverse effects of a biosecurity emergency in NSW. This will be achieved through:

5.1 Concept of operations

Identification of pests, diseases, and invasive species that harm or have potential to harm human health, primary production and/or the environment through:

- national agreements and plans, including disease strategies for diseases/pests that cause a significant impact
- national and NSW targeted and passive surveillance programs and hotline reporting
- laboratory diagnostic services to identify the disease or pest or develop or adopt new tests.

Eradication of pest, disease, or invasive species through:

- initiating national cost sharing agreements including a national response plan by the relevant Hazard Owner
- NSW DPI appointing an Incident Controller, who will be responsible for preparing and implementing an incident action plan
- NSW DPI providing emergency management coordination and resourcing
- legal instruments which may result in movement restrictions.

Reduce the impact through on-going management of the pest, disease, or invasive species by:

- coordinating programs, where eradication is not feasible or cost effective, to support the impacted industry/industries or environmental custodians to undertake action necessary for recovery.

5.2 Control and coordination

Biosecurity emergencies are the responsibility of the relevant Hazard Owner dependent on the biosecurity threat, unless a 'State of Emergency' is declared where other emergency arrangements are activated.

- NSW Chief Veterinary Officer (NSW CVO) ensures effective coordination of all animal (including aquatic) disease or pest response and recovery operations.
- NSW Chief Plant Protection Officer (NSW CPPO) ensures effective coordination of all plant disease or pest response and recovery operations.
- Director, Invasive Plants and Animals ensures effective coordination of invasive species emergencies (including terrestrial and aquatic weeds).
- NSW Plague Locust Commissioner ensures effective coordination of locust management.

The Hazard Owner assesses the risk and may appoint a State Coordinator (i.e., the Combat Agency Incident Controller) who is responsible for the state-wide coordination and oversight of response activities to achieve the outcome set by the Hazard Owner. The State Coordinator establishes and manages the SCC.

Depending on the hazard type and threat level, the State Coordinator may appoint one or more Local Incident Controllers to control the hazard in designated areas of the state. The Local Incident Controller establishes and manages the Local Control Centre (LCC). When required, a Forward Command Post (FCP) may be established to manage field activities under the control of the LCC. LCCs are coordinated by the SCC and work towards the same objectives.

Response plans (additional to IAPs) are a requirement of national agreements to manage biosecurity emergencies. Hazard Owners will develop response plans sufficient to meet agreements and establish parameters to resolve the incident. Depending on the response the parameters may be agreed by the National Management Group (NMG) or the Plague Locust Management Group (PLMG). Response plans are implemented by the State Coordinator.

The State Coordinator may be responsible for one or more biosecurity hazards and coordinating Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area activities simultaneously.

Centres (SCC, LCC, FCP) are staffed by NSW DPI, LLS, other government agency personnel (NSW and other jurisdictions), contractors, and industry representatives. Functional Area personnel or liaison officers will be part of NSW DPI centres, dependent on the resource requirements (see Appendix A – Roles and responsibilities).

5.2.1 Biosecurity emergencies in another jurisdiction

The existence of a biosecurity emergency on or near the NSW border and/or in another part of Australia may result in movement controls being applied to livestock, animal or plant products, vehicles and certain other effects entering or leaving NSW. Extensive surveillance and testing may be required to ensure early detection to minimise the threat to NSW and other jurisdictions. These controls will be initiated by the relevant Hazard Owner.

5.3 Emergency information and warnings

NSW DPI is responsible for providing accurate information to the media and public in accordance with the Public Information Functional Area Supporting Plan. NSW Health and/or NSW Food Authority will provide information where there are human health implications.

Coordinated use of all electronic media is undertaken by NSW DPI. Use of the Public Information Coordination Centre may be considered.

5.4 Inter-jurisdictional support

Commonwealth agencies will provide technical expertise, staff and resources in provision of services outlined in AUSVETPLAN, PLANTPLAN, AQUAVETPLAN and NEBRA, in accordance with the [Interstate Deployment Arrangements for Biosecurity Responses](#). Each jurisdiction has a Jurisdictional Deployment Coordinator (JDC) to request and/or support deployments between states and territories from the National Biosecurity Response Team (NBRT).

5.5 Impact assessment

Biosecurity has a wide range of animal, plant and aquatic pests and diseases and invasive species that have varying degrees of impact across the social, built, economic and natural environments. The Hazard Owner, when initiating a response, will conduct a feasibility assessment and cost benefit analysis, which will identify potential impacts.

During the response, physical losses are inventoried and valued. Losses occur when items cannot be satisfactorily disinfected or treated/healed and may include destroyed stock (animals, plants), products (e.g., milk), infrastructure and materials (e.g., egg cartons, animal feed). To minimise local social and economic loss to businesses, compensation is sometimes available.

Damage information will be provided to stakeholders such as peak industry bodies and sector interest groups responsible for recovery as the emergency develops.

5.6 Withdrawal from response

The response phase is stood down when any of these occur:

- the initial investigation is negative
- response outcomes have been met, including proof of freedom conditions for biosecurity emergencies
- response outcomes are no longer feasible, cost effective or beneficial, requiring a move to program management
- declared over by national or state authority.

Demobilisation plans outline the wind down and end of the response.

Any ongoing tasks, such as compliance with Biosecurity Directions or Orders, are transitioned to the appropriate agency for action as part of normal business arrangements.

6 Recovery

The arrangements for recovery operations are outlined in the NSW State EMPLAN and further described in the State Recovery Plan.

Depending on the extent of the response, a hazard recovery plan may be developed, and a Recovery Coordinator may be appointed. NSW DPI will partner with affected industry sectors and peak bodies to return businesses to production and assist with market access. This may involve surveillance programs, compliance activities, communication, and research programs.

7 Logistics and finance

Cost sharing agreements

Several cost sharing deeds of agreement between Commonwealth Government, State/Territory Governments and Industry groups recognise that major animal and plant health, and environmental emergencies are of national importance. These deeds (see Section 1.3) provide mechanisms for participating jurisdictions to share costs associated with eradication of specified incursions, including compensation.

The amount contributed by each participating jurisdiction to a response will vary according to categorisation of the disease, pest, or invasive species. Categories consider whether the emergency animal or plant disease or pest or invasive species concerned affects human health or causes major national socio-economic or environmental consequences or will only cause production losses. Governments contribute a greater amount for those diseases and pests affecting human health and those having a major national socio-economic or environmental effect. The cost borne by the individual jurisdiction may also be influenced by the value of affected industry in the jurisdiction.

For plague locusts, a cost sharing agreement exists between the Australian Government and the eastern States (NSW, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria) to fund Australian Plague

Locust Commission (APLC). NSW responses are generally funded through the Pest Management Fund (PMF). APLC and NSW DPI collaborate to control locusts.

The types of expenditure which may be reimbursed by participating jurisdictions for controlling an animal, aquatic or plant health emergency are set out in deeds of agreement.

Financial delegation

Officers in the Incident Management Team and some support roles in biosecurity emergencies are assigned emergency financial delegations.

Logistics

Logistics and financial arrangements are described in EMPLAN Part 10 and detailed in NSW DPI supporting operational guidelines.

Appendix A - Roles and responsibilities

The following roles and responsibilities are in addition to the roles and responsibilities described in the EMPLAN and relate to biosecurity emergencies.

Agency/Functional Area	Roles and responsibilities
Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area (AASFA)	<p>NSW DPI is responsible for Biosecurity emergencies and AASFA, utilising the same resources and processes.</p> <p>AASFA will be activated in a biosecurity emergency when its services are required.</p>
Animal Health Australia	<p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates AUSVETPLAN, EADRA and national surveillance programs. • Provision of emergency animal disease training and exercises. <p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Industry Liaison Officers.
Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical expertise and staff for industry and community liaison, animal treatment and welfare. • Operate a mobile veterinary consultation and surgery truck. • Animal welfare enforcement agency.
Aquatic Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates and makes decisions on the national, technical response to emergency aquatic animal disease incidents until it decides the disease or threat no longer exists, or a national response is no longer required.
Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC)	<p>Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop improved locust management practices through a targeted research program • Provide a forecasting system for operations conducted by APLC and member states <p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake monitoring of locust populations in inland eastern Australia • Maintain a stockpile of ready to use locust chemical for aerial application on targeted locust species <p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage outbreaks (in western NSW) that have the potential to inflict significant damage to agriculture in more than one member state
Australian Veterinary Association	<p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training to veterinarians in emergency response, emergency animal disease (EAD) awareness, and sample collection

Agency/Functional Area	Roles and responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote EAD awareness and communications to veterinarians <p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication to members Coordination of veterinarians to fill response roles <p>Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with producers and community to assist in treatment, advice, and care of animals
Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinates and makes decisions on the national, technical response to emergency animal disease incidents of animal health, public health, or trade significance. Where applicable, CCEAD advises the National Emergency Animal Disease Management Group (NMG) on funding mechanisms for responses, particularly as it relates to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement.
Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinates and makes decisions on the national, technical response to emergency plant pests (EPPs) Where applicable, CCEPP advises meetings of the National Management Group (NMG) on EPP issues in accordance with the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.
Council of Local Government Areas	<p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in planning, briefings, training, and exercises as required Promote awareness of biosecurity responsibilities and potential invasive species (through Environmental Health officers, weeds officers) <p>Response</p> <p>Subject to the availability of council resources, assist operations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> traffic management on council managed roads provision of resources, such as plant, equipment, personnel and facilities such as sale yards, as requested close and reopen Council roads (and other roads nominated by agreement with Transport for NSW) provision of bulk chemical storage, as requested provide resources to assist with response (e.g., authorised officers under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>, plant, and equipment)
Department of Defence	Arrangements for Defence Assistance to the Civil Community are detailed within the State EMPLAN (section 448).
Energy and Utilities	The roles and responsibilities for Energy and Utilities Services are outlined in the Energy and Utility Services Supporting Plan (EUSPLAN).

Agency/Functional Area	Roles and responsibilities
Engineering Services Functional Area	<p>The roles and responsibilities for Engineering Services are outlined in the Engineering Services Supporting Plan.</p> <p>Provide support and advice to biosecurity emergencies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decontamination facilities including water and waste management • procurement of portable buildings, e.g., for control centres • disposal options • plant and equipment supply • supply of goods and services.
Environmental Services Functional Area	<p>The roles and responsibilities for Environmental Services are outlined in the Environmental Services (ENVIROPLAN) Supporting Plan.</p> <p>Provide support and advice to biosecurity emergencies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess, coordinate planning and response to waste • provide advice and guidance regarding public messaging for environmental contamination and risk to public health • coordinate and facilitate soil and water sampling and analysis • coordinate and facilitate air monitoring • provide advice on chemical treatments and hazardous materials e.g., asbestos • provide advice on potential environmental and community risk from the biosecurity threat • provide trained liaison officers, incident management, field or other personnel as required • provide equipment for field activities, such as sampling and analysis • participate in biosecurity emergency response training and exercises.
Fire and Rescue NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Incident Management personnel, Liaison Officers, and support to the NSW DPI as required. • Conduct Hazmat operations including asbestos and biosecurity hazards, arising from biosecurity emergencies in coordination with the Incident Controller. • Provide trained staff to support a joint intelligence unit, if established by NSW DPI, including Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) pilots to assist with field observations. • Provide staff, and equipment in biosecurity field activities, such as decontamination.
Forestry Corporation of NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close and reopen Forestry Corporation of NSW roads when affected by biosecurity hazards and advise the NSW DPI of its status. • Manage traffic on Forestry Corporation of NSW roads. • Facilitate the safe reliable access of emergency resources on Forestry Corporation managed roads. • Assist the NSW DPI with the communication of warnings and information provision to the public through variable message signs and other appropriate means.

Agency/Functional Area	Roles and responsibilities
Health Services Functional Area	<p>The roles and responsibilities for Health Services Functional Area (including NSW Ambulance) are outlined in the Health Services (HEALTHPLAN) Supporting Plan.</p> <p>Responsibilities specific to biosecurity emergencies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring appropriate plans are in place for zoonotic diseases • conducting human health epidemiological investigation and risk assessment to determine the likely source and impact of a disease or hazard • providing human health advice and support to affected communities and individuals.
Local Land Services (LLS)	<p>Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with primary producers to improve biosecurity planning. • Undertake compliance activities <p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates and/or participates in emergency training and exercises. • Manages regional stockpiles of locust chemicals and other resources for responses. • Monitor and conduct surveillance for pests and diseases. • Provide advice to primary producers. • Represent NSW DPI as the combat agency for biosecurity at regional and local emergency management committees. <p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides resources (personnel and physical resources) to coordinate and control biosecurity responses. <p>Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in After Action Reviews as required. • Works with impacted land managers to deliver on-ground recovery/resilience projects in animal biosecurity and welfare, plant biosecurity, invasive species management, agricultural production, land management and natural resource management.
Marine Rescue NSW	<p>When requested by NSW DPI, assist in biosecurity operations when training and equipment are available and suitable including assistance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • warning and/or evacuation of at-risk communities • providing communications personnel • water transport.
National Management Group (NMG)	<p>Decide on the technical feasibility and cost-benefit for eradicating an emergency pest, or disease in accordance with a national response plan and agreed cost shared budget.</p>
NSW Farmers' Association	<p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the NSW Plague Locust Management Group.

Agency/Functional Area	Roles and responsibilities
	<p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use NSW Farmers' structure and channels of communication to liaise and coordinate information between its members and NSW DPI. • Provide a Liaison Officer as requested.
NSW Food Authority	<p>The roles and responsibilities for NSW Food Authority are outlined in the Food Safety Emergency Sub Plan.</p> <p>Responsibilities specific to biosecurity emergencies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing trained staff for emergency responses including compliance officers.
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice on impacts to wildlife. • Provide trained staff for biosecurity emergency responses. • Provide facilities and equipment as requested. • Manage access to National Parks when areas are affected by biosecurity emergencies. • Assist the NSW DPI with the communication of warnings and information provision to the public through variable message signs and other appropriate means. • Provide appropriately trained personnel to perform remote area access functions as required.
NSW Police Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Incident Management personnel and Liaison Officers to the NSW DPI where required. • When requested by NSW DPI, attend impacted properties. • Conduct road and traffic control operations in conjunction with Council and/or Transport for NSW, including implementation of national standstill for impacted industries. • Manage Disaster Victim Registration if required. • Operate the Public Information and Inquiry Centre, if requested or otherwise needed.
NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Incident Management personnel and Liaison Officers to the NSW DPI where required. • Provide incident management facilities. • Provide aviation support, management and advice as requested through the State Air Desk. • Provide back-up radio communications. • Provide teams during biosecurity operations when requested by NSW DPI. This may include assistance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ destruction and decontamination activities through the provision of personnel, bulk water, and equipment ○ warnings for at-risk communities ○ access to impacted communities, properties and/or areas ○ providing appropriately trained personnel to perform remote area access functions.

Agency/Functional Area	Roles and responsibilities
NSW State Emergency Service (SES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Incident Management personnel and Liaison Officers to the NSW DPI where required. • Provide back-up radio communications and communications on wheels (CoW). • Provide Teams during biosecurity operations when requested by NSW DPI. This may include assistance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ destruction and decontamination activities through the provision of personnel and equipment ○ warnings for at-risk communities ○ access to impacted communities, properties and/or areas.
Plant Health Australia	<p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates PLANTPLAN, EPPRD and national surveillance programs. • Provision of emergency plant disease training and exercises. <p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Industry Liaison Officers.
Public Information Services Functional Area	<p>The roles and responsibilities for Public Information Services are outlined in the Public Information Services Supporting Plan.</p>
Regional NSW	<p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in biosecurity emergency response training and exercises. <p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide trained staff for biosecurity emergency responses. • Manage responses support services, such as payroll, finance, systems. • Provide facilities and equipment as requested.
Resilience NSW	<p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates capability development for biosecurity through state level exercises. <p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the State Emergency Operations Centre. <p>Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When required undertake recovery operations under direction of the SERCON. • When requested establish recovery centres. • Participate in After Action Reviews as required.

Agency/Functional Area	Roles and responsibilities
RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)	Provide technical expertise and staff for industry and community liaison, animal treatment and welfare, and feral animal control. Animal welfare enforcement agency.
Telecommunication Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for Telecommunications Services are outlined in the Telecommunications Services (TELCOPLAN) Supporting Plan.
Transport Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for Transport Services are outlined in the Transport Services Supporting Plan. May include sourcing specialist transport for waste or coordinating transport for large numbers of people.
Welfare Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for Welfare Services are outlined in the Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan. The most likely responsibilities of the Welfare Functional Area would be the provision of emergency accommodation.
WIRES (Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service)	Provide technical expertise on wildlife. Provide staff, volunteers, and equipment to capture, transport and house wildlife in a biosecurity response.

Appendix B - Glossary

Refer to EMPLAN Annexure 9 – Definitions. Additional terms not in the EMPLAN are below.

Agriculture and aquaculture - the production and primary processing of foods, fibres and by-products from plants and animals. Agriculture and aquaculture involve cultivation of crops including horticultural products, raising of livestock or aquatic species and planting of trees for wood products. For the purposes of emergency management may also include aquatic/marine systems, like fisheries.

Animal – all animals including livestock (sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, horses etc.), companion animals (dogs, cats, aviary birds etc) and wildlife (terrestrial, aquatic and marine).

Aquatic animal - includes fish, molluscs, invertebrates, crustaceans, and ornamental fish that may be found in the NSW aquatic environment or aquaculture facilities, aquarium facilities, whole and retail and seafood outlets.

Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) – a Commonwealth department, jointly funded by the Australian Government and the member states of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland. Assists with research, forecasting and control in large plague locust outbreaks that may impact on multiple states.

AUSVETPLAN - the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan, the nationally agreed approach for the response to emergency animal disease (EAD) incidents in Australia.

Biosecurity - protection of economy, environment and public health from negative impacts associated with pests, animal, and plant diseases (not human) and weeds.

Biosecurity emergency means an emergency arising because of a biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact (from *Biosecurity Act, 2015*).

Chief Plant Protection Officer (CPPO) - Director Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity of NSW DPI with prime responsibility for plant pest and disease control in NSW.

Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) - Senior Veterinary Officer or designated officer of NSW DPI with prime responsibility for animal pest and disease control in NSW.

Cost sharing agreement - refers to Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA), Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) or National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA).

Emergency animal disease (EAD) - a disease that has met one or more of the following criteria as defined in EADRA:

(a) It is a known disease that does not occur in endemic form in Australia, including without limitation the diseases listed in Parts 1.2 to 1.5 inclusive of Schedule 3, and for which it is considered to be in the national interest to be free of the disease.

(b) It is a variant form of an endemic disease which is itself not endemic, caused by a strain or type of the agent, which can be distinguished by appropriate diagnostic methods, and which if established in Australia, would have a national impact.

(c) It is a serious infectious disease of unknown or uncertain cause, which may on the evidence available at the time, be an entirely new disease or one not listed in the categorised disease list set out in Parts 1.2 to 1.5 inclusive of Schedule 3.

(d) It is a known endemic disease, but is occurring in such a fulminant outbreak form (far beyond the severity expected), that an emergency response is required to ensure that there is not either a large-scale epidemic of national significance or serious loss of market access.

Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) - Australian Government, States and Territories, and Industry cost sharing agreement for eradication of certain emergency animal diseases.

Emergency plant pest (EPP) - a plant pest which meets definition as outlined in the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed. Examples include varroa mite, Pierce's disease, karnal bunt and brown marmorated stink bug.

Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) - Australian Government/State/Territories and Industry cost sharing agreement for dealing with emergency plant pests.

Eradication - refers to elimination of pest or disease and its causative agent from Australia.

Forward Command Post (FCP) – centre where field activities are managed, and links provided to the local community for a designated area.

Hazard Owner - A Hazard Owner (as listed in 1.3 Activation) is the NSW DPI role accountable for the response and initial recovery operations in their area of responsibility, unless a 'state of emergency' is declared.

Invertebrate - an animal lacking a backbone, such as an arthropod, mollusc, annelid, coelenterate, etc.

Local Control Centre (LCC) – centre from which all activities are managed to resolve the emergency and achieve planned objectives in the designated area.

Movement control - restrictions placed on movement of animals, animal products, plants, plant products, fodder, fittings, vehicles, machinery, or people to prevent spread of pest or disease.

National Biosecurity Response Team (NBRT) - a group of trained and experienced people, made up of personnel from the Australian Government, and state and territory agencies responsible for agriculture/biosecurity, who can be deployed to assist other states and territories during a major biosecurity incident.

National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA) - Commonwealth Government/States/Territories cost sharing agreement for a nationally significant biosecurity incident where there are predominantly benefits to public, environment and social amenity.

National Management Group (NMG) - responsible for overall management and coordination of animal and plant health emergency at national level.

Pest Management Fund (PMF) - a fund established for use in plague locust responses raised by a levy imposed on NSW primary producer ratepayers and collected by LLS.

Plague Locust Commissioner (PLC) - represent NSW on Australian Plague Locust Commission.

Plague Locust Consultative Committee (PLCC) - senior operational group that oversees all aspects of plague locust responses.

Plague Locust Management Group (PLMG) - strategic senior management group that oversees all aspects of plague locust responses.

Plague locusts - managed under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, refers to those locust species listed as notifiable pests under Schedule 1 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 being the Migratory locust, Australian plague locust and Spur throated locust.

Plant - a species in the taxonomic kingdom Plantae. In this plan means species that are native or introduced, commercially cultivated or weed species.

PLANTPLAN - the Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan, the agreed technical response plan used to respond to an emergency plant pest (EPP) incident.

State Coordination Centre (SCC) – centre to coordinate resources, information, and communications state-wide, inter-state, and nationally.

Surveillance - program of investigation, designed to establish presence, extent of, or absence of a specified pest or disease, or presence, abundance, and distribution of specified species of interest.

Zoonotic – diseases and pests that spread between animals and people.

Appendix C - Legislation

Legislation	Specific powers
<u><i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (NSW) Act 1994</i></u>	Emergency permits for off-label chemical use.
<u><i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i></u>	<u>Part 3 General biosecurity duty</u> <u>Part 4 Prohibited matter and related biosecurity duties</u> <u>Part 5 Emergency orders</u> <u>Part 6 Control orders</u> <u>Part 7 Biosecurity zones</u> <u>Part 8 Powers of authorised officers</u> <u>Part 9 Biosecurity directions</u> <u>Part 12 Biosecurity registration</u> <u>Part 19 Compensation</u> <u>Part 21 Permits</u> <u>Part 22 Administration</u> (appointment of authorised officers)
<u><i>Biosecurity Regulation 2017</i></u>	Provisions for biosecurity management plans, declared biosecurity events, and biosecurity zones for animal pests, aquatic pests and diseases, plant pests and diseases, and weeds.
<u><i>Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017</i></u>	The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) provides traceability of cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs from property of birth to slaughter.
<u><i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i></u>	Contains provisions for preparedness, response and recovery for animal pest and disease and plant pest and disease emergencies and other emergencies impacting on primary production or animal health and safety.
<u><i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Land Transport of Livestock) Standards 2013 No 2</i></u>	Provisions for maintenance of animal welfare during transport of livestock in a biosecurity emergency
<u><i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979</i></u>	<u>Powers of Officers (Part 2A)</u> - Inspectors and Veterinary practitioners Provisions for maintenance of animal welfare considerations during a biosecurity emergency
<u><i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012</i></u>	Provisions for maintenance of animal welfare considerations during a biosecurity emergency