

# Policy

## Authorised Campaigns for 'Eradication' of Pests

### APPROVAL

<b>Policy No</b>	TBC	<b>Version No</b>	3.2
<b>Issued by</b>	Senior Executive Team	<b>Authorised date</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2015
<b>Authorised by</b>	Local Land Services Senior Executive Team	<b>Effective date</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2015

### REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	February 2015	Draft Procedure and Policy focused on Category D Firearms. Reviewed by Senior Executive Team and referred for amendment.	Trudy Marriott
2.0	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Revised as Policy and procedure documents focused on vertebrate pest control	Paul Hutchings
3.0	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Policy revised to set higher level framework for all LLS vertebrate pest Campaign related operations	Paul Hutchings
3.1	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2015	Endorsed by Senior Executive Team as interim Policy direction with staff consultation to inform future amendments.	Senior Executive Team
3.2	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	Policy incorporated Manager Biosecurity & Emergency Services review	Paul Hutchings

## INTRODUCTION

This Policy establishes the Local Land Services (LLS) procedural framework for resource allocation, initiation, deployment, compliance and reporting on *Campaigns* for the control of vertebrate pests under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

The term '*eradication*' is used only because it has a legislative context and is taken to mean 'control' i.e. suppression and destruction of pests to reduce population and not 'eradication' per se.

The term '*campaign*' is used because it also has a legislative context and taken to be synonymous with '*program*' as operationally applied.

## PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of the policy is to provide consistency in LLS operations and clarity in communications to external stakeholders and partners working in vertebrate pest control activities or legislation.

This policy requires the development of procedures that establish clear and consistent guidelines on the initiation and conduct of an authorised Campaign for the eradication of pests.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all permanent employees, fixed term employees, seconded employees, contractors and consultants who may operate on behalf of Local Land Services.

## LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

This Policy relates to Part 10 of the Local Land Services Act which provides for the control on public and private land in the State of animals, birds, insects and other members of the animal kingdom that are pests.

Section 162 refers to Campaigns for the eradication of pests.

### **Section 162, Campaigns for eradication of pests, Local Land Services Act 2013**

1. *Local Land Services may conduct (or participate in the conduct of) campaigns for the eradication of pests and may make any necessary arrangements and take all necessary steps for carrying out such campaigns.*
2. *Arrangements under this section may be made with other authorities, with the occupiers or owners of land or persons within a region or with the government of this or any other State, the Commonwealth or a Territory.*

Other legislative and policy requirements apply and are documented in the Procedures established under this Policy. These include (but are not limited to):

- *Local Land Services Act, 2013 and Regulation.*
- *Firearms Act, 1996.*
- *Weapons Prohibition Act, 1998.*
- *Pest Control Orders for wild dog, European red fox, wild rabbit, feral pig.*
- *Pesticide Control Order for 1080, Pindone.*

## CAMPAIGNS for ERADICATION OF PESTS

Local Land Services is a regional leader in the regulation, management and coordinated control of vertebrate pest species. As technical experts, we interpret and apply latest research to advise and engage regional stakeholders in integrated control programs.

Coordinated, tenure neutral programs engaging multiple landholders at a landscape or district scale is considered to be the most effective intervention LLS can provide for vertebrate pest population control.

Such activity is core business for LLS and demands significant resource allocation in biosecurity, natural resource management and agricultural focused programs.

In December 2014 the LLS Board of Chairs agreed to the definition of a 'campaign' for vertebrate pest control, which was identified specifically in the legal context of the *Local Land Services Act, 2013* and *Firearms Act, 1996*:

*'Campaign should take it's normal English meaning and consist of a purpose, content and duration. The duration would either be a fixed time period or a determined outcome'.*

Each Local Land Service Region will maintain a Register of *Authorised Campaigns* in the Region.

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

In conducting a campaign for vertebrate pest control, LLS and its partners have a range of tools available for deployment as required including education and extension, planning, baiting, trapping, shooting and surveillance. Compliance is an important function in the vertebrate pest management process.

The policy framework for campaigns to eradicate vertebrate pests consists of a number of procedures that are required to address a range of issues related to campaigns for the eradication of pests, including:

- Authorisation, initiation and completion of campaigns.
- Prioritisation and resource allocation of control programs
- Establishment of a strategic risk assessment for declared pest species in the LLS Region and drive resulting strategy and control programs to mitigate this risk to agricultural production and the environment.
- Establishment of a strategic risk assessment for nuisance and environmental pest species, which while not declared still pose immediate risk to agricultural production and environmental outcomes.
- Regulation and compliance of declared pests which are listed under current declaration.
- Planning, coordination and support provided for control programs for pest species both declared and nuisance consistent with this policy and associated procedures.
- Provision of education, extension and advisory services related to vertebrate pest species.
- Deployment and supply of restricted pest animal control products, substances, technical equipment and services including bait products, scheduled poisons and virus, trapping services, trapping equipment.
- Surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of control programs, impact assessment and species distribution.
- Support research and development in the area of pest management and implement findings based on best practice models for pest management to assist land holders and managers.
- Incentive programs be applied where appropriate.
- Advice to NSW Police Force Firearms Registry relating to Category D firearms under the *Firearms Act 1996*.

## SAFETY

Activities associated with LLS participation in Authorised Campaigns for vertebrate pest control (such as use of firearms, management of 1080 product, aircraft operations) have been identified within the Local Land Services Work Health and Safety risk register.

All activities associated with conducting a vertebrate pest control campaign will be done in accordance with any standard operating procedure adopted by Local Land Services.

## PROCEDURES

The following Procedures and supporting documents are available under the current version of the Policy:

1. Practice Guide - Authorising Campaigns for 'Eradication' of Pests
2. Procedure - Notification of Authorised Campaigns for the 'Eradication' of Pests (Category D Firearms)

The following Procedures and supporting documents are planned or in preparation:

1. Business Plan – Invasive Species
2. Procedure - Planning, logistics and Operations in Campaigns for the Eradication of Pests
3. Procedure - Surveillance and Impact Assessment
4. Procedure - Pest Species Compliance

## RELATED PLANS AND STRATEGIES:

The following plans and strategies with a vertebrate pests component apply:

- Local Land Services State Strategic Plan
- LLS Local Strategic Plans
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy
- Biosecurity Operational Plan
- NSW Invasive Species Plan
- Catchment Action Plans (CAP)
- NSW Wild Dog Strategy
- LLS Wild Dog Policy
- LLS Regions wild dog policy (where applicable)
- LLS Wild Dog Management Plans (where applicable)

## CONTACTS

For further information about this policy please contact:

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