

# NSW Emergency Drought Relief Package - Stock Disposal Scheme

POLICY NUMBER: Policy number	VERSION: 2.0
AUTHORISED BY: Chief Animal Welfare Officer	AUTHORISED DATE: 06/09/2018
ISSUED BY: Chief Welfare Officer	EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/09/2018
CATEGORY: Operations and Industry	REVIEW DATE: 14/08/2019

## 1. Purpose

This policy describes what the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) within the Department of Industry and Local Land Services (LLS) will do to assist livestock owners to prevent animal welfare issues by assisting them to euthanase and dispose of their drought affected stock under the NSW Emergency Drought Relief Package announced by the NSW Government on 30 July 2018.

Due to drought conditions, lack of feed availability and cost and excessive numbers of stock on the market, stock owners may be unable to transport or sell their stock or afford feed and/or water for stock.

Some stock owners may be faced with the difficult decision, after considering all other options, to euthanase and dispose of their drought affected stock to avoid animal welfare issues. In many situations, given the pressures of the drought, producers may not be able to cope mentally or financially with the euthanasia and disposal of their stock and may need assistance.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to the voluntary euthanasia and disposal of drought affected stock in NSW on animal welfare grounds where the stock owner requests assistance and provides consent to LLS who endorse the need for access to this assistance scheme.

This policy has been adopted to deliver on the NSW Government's Emergency Drought Relief Package (the Package). The Stock Disposal Scheme will remain available while funding within the Package is available.

## 3. Outcomes

### 3.1 Local decision making to ensure fast and efficient outcomes.

#### Activities

- (a) LLS will provide on farm operational coordination and operational decision making of voluntary drought affected stock euthanasia and disposal through the appointment of a Site Supervisor.
- (b) LLS will coordinate the contracting of services for the disposal operations for on-farm burial.

- (c) LLS may provide assistance with the euthanasia of drought affected stock, in some areas.
- (d) LLS will coordinate consultation where required between the stock owner, other staff, contractors, Environment Protection Authority, Local Council, waste facility operators (landfill) or Soil Conservation Service on appropriate options of euthanasia and disposal of drought affected stock.
- (e) DPI will establish a State Operations Coordinator.

### **3.2 Welfare of stock and the work, health and safety of persons involved in the voluntary euthanasia and disposal of drought affected stock is paramount.**

#### Activities

- (a) Drought affected stock euthanasia must be handled in a humane way.
- (b) Drought affected stock must be handled in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, Regulation and relevant Standards and Guidelines:
  - a. Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle
  - b. Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep
  - c. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Land Transport of Livestock) Standards 2013 No 2, and
  - d. Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines Livestock at Saleyards and Depots (Saleyard Welfare Standards).
- (c) Any person euthanasing drought affected stock using firearms must have the required firearm license and meet current criteria for accreditation to 'Use firearms to humanely destroy animals' (AHCVPT203A or equivalent).
- (d) NSW DPI and LLS complies with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to provide a safe and healthy workplace to people conducting approved euthanasia and disposal of drought affected stock, including businesses undertaking the work.
- (e) Risk management processes must be followed
- (f) NSW DPI will provide a list of contractors or alternate sources of trained personnel.

### **3.3 Improve mental health and reduce financial pressure on stock owners through assistance with euthanasia and disposal of drought affected stock.**

#### Activities

- (a) NSW DPI will provide funding in circumstances where:
  - a. Stock owners have requested assistance from LLS to euthanase drought affected stock
  - b. LLS has approved the need for assistance for stock to be euthanased on animal welfare grounds.
- (b) LLS must verify that all stages of the operation are completed and conducted in accordance with policies and procedures and relevant Standards and Guidelines before any invoices or reimbursements are made.
- (c) NSW DPI will reimburse certain costs for the euthanasia and disposal of drought affected stock:
  - a. in approved circumstances only, and
  - b. where this has occurred in accordance with relevant policies, procedures, Standards and Guidelines, and was conducted in the most efficient and effective way as determined by LLS.
- (d) Certain costs available for reimbursement include:
  - a. Contractor costs associated with the euthanasia and disposal of drought affected stock,
  - b. LLS ammunition costs, used in the euthanasia of drought affected stock,
  - c. LLS travel and overtime costs, where relevant,
- (e) The Stock Disposal Scheme does not include:
  - a. reimbursement of costs to stock owners who have euthanased or disposed their drought affected stock, or
  - b. compensation for stock owners for the loss in value of drought affected stock, or
  - c. reimbursement of costs for relevant LLS staff salaries.

#### 4. Related Procedures

Procedure – NSW Emergency Drought Relief Package - Stock Disposal Scheme

#### 7. Definitions and acronyms

DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
LLS	Local Lands Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency

#### 8. Legislation

*Biosecurity Act 2015*

*Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*

#### 9. Other related documents

Policy – Biosecurity – Principles for management of animal biosecurity and welfare in New South Wales.

NSW DPI Prime Fact – Humane destruction of livestock

NSW DPI Risk Assessment: Animal destruction and disposal activities in emergencies – WHS

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Land Transport of Livestock) Standards 2013 No 2 Land

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines Livestock at Saleyards and Depots (Saleyards Welfare Standards)

#### 10. Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
2.0	06/09/2018	Amendments to reflect EPA disposal feedback.	CAWO

#### Contact

NSW DPI Animal Welfare Unit  
02 6360 5344