



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 that are in keeping with local strategic plans.

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, as well as programs delivered in your region in the past year.



A message from the General Manager

On behalf of the board and staff at Greater Sydney, I thank you for the support you provide via your rates which are directed to enhancing and protecting the agricultural industry, managing biosecurity risks and enhancing natural values in our region.

Your rates provide on average 21 per cent of our funding, which covers some of the extensive costs of managing our many biosecurity obligations. This includes veterinary support to producers, pest animal and plant campaigns, support during natural emergencies and saleyard inspections.

This past year we have seen improved collaboration between farmers and our veterinary staff.

The support our biosecurity officers are receiving from landowners is also improving the coordination and effectiveness of our feral animal programs. Increased attendance at our many land management seminars is also very pleasing.

If you're also looking for support in enhancing the natural values and sustainability of your property, there are opportunities to do so via

the State Government's Catchment Action Program and the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme that we administer in the Greater Sydney Region.

For all the details, visit our website: www.greatersydney.lis.nsw.gov.au.

I wish you a productive and successful year ahead.

David Hogan
General Manager



Our experts in the field are here to help you

We have a highly skilled team with a wealth of experience and local knowledge that is committed to improving the sustainability and profitability of producers in the Greater Sydney region. Our team provide frontline support and agricultural advisory services. Some of our team include...

Dr Nic Schembri - Biosecurity Officer



Nic brings close to a decade of experience to our biosecurity team. With expertise in veterinary epidemiology, Nic has worked predominately with small-scale commercial and hobby pig producers in urban and semi-rural areas to improve their on-farm herd health and husbandry practices for the prevention of emergency animal diseases.

Dr Aziz Chowdhury - Biosecurity Officer



Aziz is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) graduate with 12 years of extensive experience in integrated livestock farming system development and commercialisation in Australia and overseas. With a devotion to farm animals and their welfare, Aziz provides technical advice and training on livestock farming and pest management to farmers.

Peter Conasch - Senior Land Services Officer (Mixed Farming Systems)



Peter brings almost 10 years of experience to our agriculture team. He is committed to finding sustainable, innovative solutions to mixed farming and works on the ground with land owners offering expert advice and assistance throughout Greater Sydney.

Matthew Plunkett - Senior Land Services Officer (Irrigation/Turf)



With a background that spans 20 years in the NSW agricultural industry, Matt works with landholders and industry professionals to increase the productivity of irrigated agriculture. Matt also has expertise in improving on farm energy efficiency and new technology.

Demonstration farm

It's been a productive year at our Demonstration Farm in Richmond with a strong focus on trials aimed at improving growers' yields and sustainability.

We have had many hundreds of producers and growers attend the field days and forums at the farm this year.



Fire ants

Our biosecurity staff played a key role in the response to a discovery of red fire ants at Botany Bay. A total of 1,300 hectares was inspected, involving coordination and cooperation right across the community, including hundreds of industrial and commercial enterprises and local residents.

A total of 26 suspect ant samples was collected and sent for testing. The response included:

- 1,305 visits to residential premises, with 716 entered and inspected
- 748 ha (non-residential) sites inside two kilometre zone inspected
- 155 ha high-risk sites inside two kilometre zone inspected by odour detection dogs
- 575 ha of high risk areas (parks, reserves, golf courses and open spaces) inspected in two-to-four kilometre zone
- Total of 1,324 ha inspected
- No new fire ant incursions discovered.

Pest control

The Greater Sydney Local Land Services biosecurity team has been empowering local landowners in the fight against invasive pest species including wild dogs and feral pigs.

This year 65 farmers were accredited to bait feral animals, 350 properties were inspected for pest control and 936 dog baits were issued, covering an area of 11,491 ha.



National Landcare Programme

This year Greater Sydney Local Land Services has issued \$872,427 in National Landcare Programme Grants across the region.

We welcome the opportunity to work with local communities, landholders and funding partners to protect and enhance the natural environment in our region.



Footrot cases discovered

Greater Sydney Local Land Services is committed to helping keep properties free of emergency animal diseases. This year our officers discovered two cases of footrot. Virulent footrot is highly contagious and has the ability to cause serious complications for animals, owners and surrounding properties. The team took swift and direct action to prevent the spread, safeguard market access and enhance livestock productivity.

What rates and other funds provide

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

This includes:

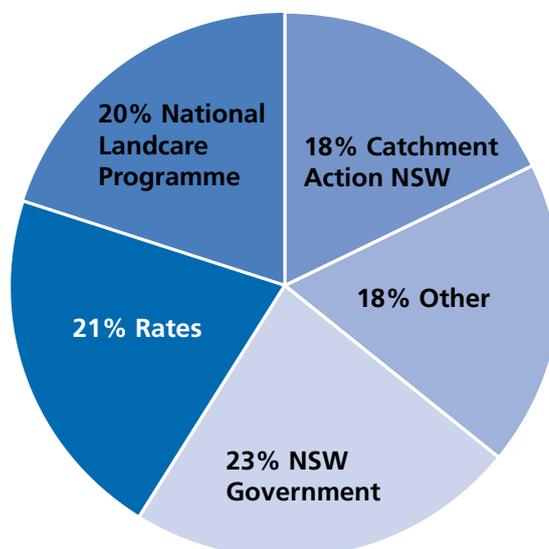
- activities relating to the **control of declared pest animals and insects**
- the provision of **animal health and welfare services**
- support for stock identification systems
- emergency management assistance for drought and other natural disaster relief such as bushfires and floods.

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 outbreaks of fire ants, supporting the recovery effort after the Hunter floods, as well as 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**, as well as supporting the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of Australia's **natural environment**.

Funding structure of Local Land Services 2015-16



Understanding your annual rates notice

General rate

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

Base charge

This charge is payable for each rate type levied on each property. It is similar to flag fall in a taxi.

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 2015 land and stock return by the due date.

Meat industry levy

This levy is collected on behalf of the NSW Food Authority 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.

*Notional carrying capacity

The notional carrying capacity of your property is calculated by Local Land Services in your local 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. This figure is based on stock units per hectare.

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

LOCAL LAND SERVICES ACT 2013 - Part 5

2016 RATE NOTICE TAX INVOICE



ABN 57 876 455 969

J CITIZEN
PO BOX XXXX
RICHMOND NSW 2753

Occupier ID and Name: XXXXXX
Holding Name: J Citizen
Holding Address: Guns Gully

Region: Greater Sydney

Invoice No: XXXXXX
Customer Reference No: XXXXX
Date of Issue: XXXXX
Payment Due Date: 31/03/2016

SAMPLE ONLY

Area of Land (hectares): 13.1900

Stock Units/hectare: 5.0000

Item Description	Qty	Unit Price	GST	Amount (excl GST)
RATES-GENERAL (BASE CHARGE \$67.97 *) 65.95 Units 8.987800 Cents per Unit	1 EA	\$73.90	\$0.00	\$73.90
RATES-ANIMAL HEALTH (BASE CHARGE \$30.00 *) 65.95 Units 7.319400 Cents per Unit	1 EA	\$34.83	\$0.00	\$34.83
LEVY-MEAT INDUSTRY (BASE CHARGE \$5.00 *) 65.95 Units 0.600000 Cents per Unit	1 EA	\$5.40	\$0.00	\$5.40
SPECIAL PURPOSE RATE - PEST INSECT (BASE CHARGE \$16.70 *) 65.95 Units 1.912700 Cents per Unit	1 EA	\$17.96	\$0.00	\$17.96

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

SUBTOTAL	\$132.09
GST TOTAL	\$0.00
CREDIT BALANCE	
ARREARS	\$0.00
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$132.09

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 11.46% will be charged on overdue rates.

Preferred payment methods

1. online at www.lls.nsw.gov.au
 2. using BPay by phone or internet
 3. 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 rates as part of a move towards a more consistent and standardised rate base that treats all ratepayers equally.

The 2016 increases also ensure that Local Land Services can meet community expectations for managing pest animals and providing biosecurity, animal health and welfare and emergency management support.

General rate

Some regions had more than one base charge under the general rate. This has been standardised across NSW.

Animal health rate

The base component of the animal health rate has been standardised to \$30 across NSW.

General and animal health cents per unit

This charge increased by approximately three per cent to meet rising costs.

Stock ID fees

This fee supports stock identification systems. It is the same as the base charge of the general rate for each local region, with GST applied.

For more information about Local Land Services

Visit: www.lls.nsw.gov.au

Call: 1300 795 299

Email: my.feedback@lls.nsw.gov.au

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