

# Droughts, pests and grapes

May 2018

Hunter Local Land Services can help with 'boots on the ground' services during times of drought. Our staff can assist producers with livestock and pasture advice, animal health issues, pest animal problems and applying for roadside grazing permits and available Traveling Stock Routes. We can also help connect producers and landholders with other available services.

Hunter Local Land Services can assist you to control invasive species on your property, we support best practice across tenure control programs across the region. Hunter Local Land Services run free training sessions for landholders to accredit them to use 1080/pindone for five years. This can assist in controlling wild dogs, foxes and pest rabbits. Please contact your nearest biosecurity officer to find out about control programs or training opportunities in your area.

## Biosecurity Officers:

<b>Team Leader:</b> Luke Booth .....	0408 681 576
<b>Paterson:</b> Kyra O'Brien .....	0427 492 958
<b>Singleton:</b> Matt Kennedy .....	0428 686 178
<b>Scone:</b> Richard Ali .....	0429 722 944
<b>Scone:</b> Jonathon Randle .....	0429 342 995
<b>Wingham:</b> Peter Fotheringham.....	0409 034 557
<b>Wingham:</b> Laurie Mullen .....	0407 785 007



## Stop Weeds at the Gate

Hunter Local Land Services and Hunter Regional Weeds want the community to work together to "Stop Weeds at the Gate".

- Weeds cost agriculture in NSW an estimated \$700 million per year.
- Weeds also threaten local biodiversity as they place an avoidable strain on native landscapes.
- Good weed biosecurity practices are essential to stopping weeds taking hold in our region.
- This targeted campaign comes from the implementation of the five-year Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan.
- "Stop Weeds at the Gate" is targeted at helping everyone from landholders and managers, to farm contractors and machinery operators, to work together to prevent weed spread.

Several resources have been developed to help the users adopt best practice measures to reduce the risk of weed spread including:

- › Factsheet with tips on improving your weed biosecurity [https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/804387/A4-facts-Sheet-weed-hygiene-FINAL.pdf](https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/804387/A4-facts-Sheet-weed-hygiene-FINAL.pdf)
- › Checklist for contractors working on properties to minimise risks [https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0006/804399/DOC17-120111-Stop-weeds-at-the-Gate-Checklist-FINAL.docx](https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0006/804399/DOC17-120111-Stop-weeds-at-the-Gate-Checklist-FINAL.docx)
- › A video case study on positive weed biosecurity behaviors <https://youtu.be/VyFMfmiLFNs>
- › Power point presentation on how to clean down and manage vehicles before/during/after property visits [https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/powerpoint\\_doc/0003/804396/DOC18-6324-Machinery-Cleaning-1.pptx](https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/powerpoint_doc/0003/804396/DOC18-6324-Machinery-Cleaning-1.pptx)
- › Procedure guidelines for companies [https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0006/804390/DOC18-12408-Procedure-Weeds-Biosecurity-FINAL.docx](https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0006/804390/DOC18-12408-Procedure-Weeds-Biosecurity-FINAL.docx)
- › Check and Clean Spots diagrams [https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0016/804400/DOC17-104656-Check-and-clean-spots-4WD.docx](https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0016/804400/DOC17-104656-Check-and-clean-spots-4WD.docx)

More information can also be found at

<http://www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au/>

You can read more and download the resources at

<https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weed-control/hunter-regional-weeds-committee-hrwc/stop-weeds-at-the-gate>

## Kangaroo Management

The Office of Environment and Heritage is responsible for the management of kangaroos in New South Wales and regulates the commercial harvest of kangaroos in accordance with the NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences/OccupierLicences.htm>

Non-commercial licences to harm native animals including kangaroos for the purposes of damage mitigation and public safety are issued by National Parks and Wildlife area offices. Non-commercial licences are still available in a commercial harvest zone.

The carcasses of kangaroos culled under non-commercial licences cannot be sold.

Non-commercial applications need to be submitted to the appropriate National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Area office that manages the region the property is located within.

Contact the Environment Line for NPWS details on:

Phone: 13 15 55 Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## Landholder licences to harm native animals on private property

If protected native animals are shown to be a threat to human safety, damaging property and/or causing economic hardship the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) may issue a Landholder's licence, a class of biodiversity conservation licence under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2016/63> to the owner or occupier of a property, or another person authorised under the Landholder's licence, to harm the protected native animals responsible. Note: landholder's licences were previously called occupier's licences.

How to apply

1. Download the application form for a Landholder's licence [tp://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/wildlifelicences/landholder-licence-application-form-170537.pdf](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/wildlifelicences/landholder-licence-application-form-170537.pdf)
2. Contact your local your local NPWS office. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/contact/Locations.htm> Please call your local NPWS office before lodging an application to discuss the nature and severity of the issue and any non-lethal measures that may reduce or solve the problem. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/LivingWithWildlife.htm>
3. Complete the application form.
4. Lodge the application with your local NPWS office. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/contact/Locations.htm>

## Managing Birds

For information on managing pest bird species such as Indian Mynas and Starlings, please contact your local council for advice and support. For information on native bird species please contact Office of Environment and Heritage.

## Drought links

Drought has a major impact on farms, farming families and communities. It is important for landholders to connect with services and support agencies that can help them manage their property, livestock and most importantly their own health and wellbeing during tough times. Good management and planning can help reduce the impact of drought. Drought support has changed in NSW. Landholders are encouraged to visit the DPI Droughthub ([https:// www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub)) for information on the services and support available during drought conditions. The key message is please don't self assess. Here is a list of local contacts that can help you and your family:

## Rural Assistance Authority

Phone: 1800 678 593

The NSW Rural Assistance Authority provides assistance to rural producers and small business in regional NSW through programs that encourage self-reliance and adaptation to change.

## Rural Financial Counselling Service

[www.raa.nsw.gov.au/rfc](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/rfc)

Phone: 1800 940 404

The NSW Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) is a free and confidential service which provides information and assistance on financial position, budgets and submitting applications.

## Rural Resilience Program

The team works proactively in partnership with farming communities and service providers across NSW to strengthen networks, exchange information and deliver relevant initiatives that build personal and business resilience skills and knowledge, enabling people to move forward in a positive direction.

Upper Hunter: Caroline Hayes

Rural Resilience Program Coordinator 0407 971 675

Mental Health Support Services: We acknowledge being in drought is a highly stressful and emotional situation. It can be hard to prioritise your own wellbeing, as you manage competing demands on the farm and at home. Talking to someone could help ease some of your concerns. Please consider talking to your GP, or utilise one of these free services, who will be able to provide you with strategies to help you cope.

If you're concerned about your own or someone else's mental health, you can call the

NSW Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 for advice.

Hunter Local Land Services regularly publishes newsletters for landholders containing seasonal information and producer updates. To subscribe please visit: <https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/newsletters>

© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services 2018. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing February 2018. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

For updates go to [www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au)



We help secure the future of agriculture and the environment for NSW communities

Local Land Services  
[www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)