



## Lodging your Annual Land and Stock Return

### Why it's important to lodge

Your property information helps build a statewide biosecurity picture about agricultural use and livestock numbers.

Along with the stock identification and traceability systems we manage, the information on your Annual Return of Land and Stock (Annual Land and Stock Return) is invaluable in the event of an emergency or disease outbreak.

Effective animal biosecurity and welfare can be seen as insurance to maintain market access for livestock producers, now and in the future.

Our produce is free of many of the pests and diseases found in other parts of the world.

That's why Local Land Services works with you to monitor herds and flocks and share up-to-date advice and information to increase productivity.

### If you don't lodge a return

The due date for lodging your Annual Land and Stock Return is **31 August 2017**. It is a legal requirement under the *Local Land Services Act 2013* that landholders lodge an Annual Land and Stock Return.

It is important that you complete an Annual Land and Stock Return, even if you do not have stock.

If you don't lodge an Annual Land and Stock Return by the due date, an animal health rate and meat industry levy will be automatically applied to your 2018 rates notice.

### Lodge your return online

The easiest way to lodge your return is online by visiting [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/alsr](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/alsr).



The online form asks the same questions as the paper-based form and takes only a few minutes to complete.

There are three simple steps:

- 1 Look up your holding reference number and unique online password from the top right hand corner of the enclosed Annual Land and Stock Return.
- 2 Log in to [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/alsr](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/alsr).
- 3 Fill in your land and stock details.

### Mail

You can post your completed return to:

Local Land Services  
Locked Bag 6013  
Orange NSW 2800



## Changes to Biosecurity Act from 1 July 2017

On **1 July 2017** the new *Biosecurity Act 2015* will commence. The Biosecurity Regulations 2017 will also be in place to support biosecurity in NSW. Make sure you're prepared for the changes by signing up for the latest news at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation) or email [biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015



# Frequently asked questions

## What should I do if the information in Section A of the Return is incorrect?

If any of the information in Section A is incorrect, please contact your nearest Local Land Services office or download the Change of Details form from our website and return it to your local office.

Do not mark changes on your Annual Land and Stock Return form as they are scanned electronically and any changes marked on the form will not be updated.

## Which stock should I count?

All stock over six months old on the holding listed as at 30 June should be included, regardless of whether it is yours, agisted or other. Pigs of any age should be counted, as well as flocks of 100 or more poultry.

## What if I am leasing the property?

As you have received this paperwork, our records show you as the legal occupier so you must lodge a return.

## What if I am not the occupier?

If you were not the occupier of all or part of the holding on 30 June 2017, contact your nearest Local Land Services office or download the Change of Details form on our website.

Your local office can confirm if you need to lodge a return.

## What if the property is changing hands?

If you are in the process of selling or leasing your land (including exchanging contracts) you are still the legal occupier at 30 June and responsible for the Annual Land and Stock Return.

## Do I complete a separate form for each holding?

A separate Annual Land and Stock Return form must be completed for each holding, including primary and secondary holdings.

You should receive a separate Annual Land and Stock Return form in the mail for each of these.

## How will my information be used?

This information provides us with contact details in the event of an emergency or disease outbreak in your area. For example, it helps us go directly to the people whose land or stock may be affected in an emergency.

If you do not lodge your return, we may not know that you need to be informed about animal and plant health issues.



## Are these numbers used in calculating my rates?

Rates charges are primarily based on your land's notional carrying capacity and size.

Stock numbers provided on your completed Annual Land and Stock Return are used to support our work in responding to emergencies, and in determining the animal health rate and meat industry levy components of your rates notice.

## What else do I need to do if I own livestock?

If you are registering livestock on this return, you should also have a Property Identification Code (PIC).

We assign a unique eight-digit PIC to properties with livestock to help us trace stock in the event of disease or chemical residue management issues.

Talk to the staff at your nearest Local Land Services office about whether you need a PIC.

**All the information you need to lodge your return or change your address is on our website [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/alsr](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/alsr).**

## Helpful definitions

### Occupier

The occupier is the person(s) entitled to immediate possession and use of the property. The occupier is not necessarily the owner.

### Intensive livestock

Intensive livestock production means the keeping or nurturing of stock for commercial purposes, wholly or substantially, by routinely feeding them prepared or manufactured feed (except temporary feeding during, and as a result of, drought, fire, flood or similar).

Examples of intensive livestock production include registered feedlots and piggeries.

### Area used for intensive livestock

The area used for intensive livestock is the area in hectares that is used specifically for intensive livestock production on the holding.

### Capacity of intensive area

Capacity of intensive area is the maximum number of livestock that can be maintained, for example the maximum capacity of the feedlot or piggery.

This is not necessarily the figure declared as at 30 June, which is the actual stock at that time.

## Coordinated control measures bring about best results

As pest animals continue to cause issues throughout the Western region, landholders are reminded the best results are achieved when communities join forces and work in a coordinated way.

Pest animals prey on livestock and cause losses to productivity and a landholders' bottom line, not to mention the time and frustration spent trying to manage the problem.

Experience has shown best results are achieved when a whole-of-community effort is undertaken in local areas.

This was explained in depth to landholders throughout the Southern areas of the Western Local Land Services region, through a series of five free 1080 and canid pest ejector (CPE) training and wild dog and fox control workshops. The aims of the training and workshops were:

- to inform landholders on effective 1080, CPE and foothold trap application and placement
- interpreting wild dog evidence including using motion sensor cameras
- proper ways to record sighting and evidence in the feral scan community website and smartphone app.

Landholders who completed the training also received five-year accreditation to use baited products including, purchasing 1080 capsules for CPEs.

The wild dog and fox control workshops provided participants with a brief introduction into efficient and effective monitoring and control of canid predators.

While a great deal of information was covered during the workshop, the key take home message was "to be effective in pest control, landholders and land managers must be coordinated".



*Landholders watch on with interest at the wild dog and fox control workshop held at the Homebush Hotel, Homebush (near Balranald).*

All 65 attendees across the five workshops were encouraged to connect with an existing pest animal control group or form their own and undertake coordinated, cooperative and broadscale pest control activities.

Western Local Land Services offer a range of support for landholders and community groups with their baiting programs.

To find out more about joining a pest animal control group in your region, contact your nearest Western Local Land Services office.

## Management plays vital part in overall health of livestock and property

*Dr Charlotte Cavanagh, Western Local Land Services District Vet*

**While at university, I was constantly reminded that 'common things occur commonly'. In my experience as a district veterinarian, this has certainly been true.**

Not only do common things occur commonly, they are generally related to management.

The history, environmental conditions and management of the stock, along with an accurate account of clinical signs can often start to build a pretty clear picture of what is going on in your flock or herd.

The most commonly diagnosed diseases in the Western Local Land Services region since the 2016 Annual Stock and Land Returns were ovine brucellosis, enterotoxaemia (pulpy kidney), pimelea poisoning in cattle (wild rice toxicity), internal parasites, pregnancy toxaemia and malnutrition.

We also saw leptospirosis in cattle and scabby mouth, strawberry footrot, photosensitisation, humpy back syndrome and grain poisoning in sheep.

Fortunately for producers, once identified, most of these diseases can be prevented with forward management and planning.

With stock prices continuing to hold, the cost and effort of preventative methods will most certainly be worth it, even despite the challenges faced by western producers with large holdings, challenging musters and changing weather patterns.

Of course, some situations catch us by surprise and a cause may not be found for some livestock deaths, despite detailed investigation and testing.

The best advice is to report early and keep good records to assist veterinarians and biosecurity staff.

Local Land Services has a surveillance budget to assist with the costs involved with investigating diseases that may spread between livestock and potentially have a wider effect on our primary industries and trade.

It is important landholders immediately contact Western Local Land Services or your private district veterinarian as soon as their stock show signs of illness or suffer death from an unknown cause.

## Contact us

### Balranald

P: (03) 5020 1691  
82 Market Street

### Bourke

P: (02) 6872 2144  
21 Mitchell Street

### Brewarrina

P: (02) 6839 2047  
24 Bathurst Street

### Broken Hill

P: (08) 8087 3378  
32 Sulphide Street

Biosecurity Office  
P: (08) 8087 3378  
Adelaide Road

### Buronga

P: (03) 5021 9460  
32 Enterprise Way

### Cobar

P: (02) 6836 1575  
62 Marshall Street

Biosecurity Office  
P: (02) 6836 2081  
Broomfield Street

### Dubbo

P: (02) 5852 1204  
209 Cobra Street

### Hillston

P: (02) 6967 2507  
180 High Street

### Tibooburra

P: (08) 8091 3306  
Briscoe Street (Post Office)

### Wentworth

P: (03) 5027 3064  
1 Silver City Highway

### Wilcannia

P: (08) 8091 5070  
43 Woore Street



@LLSwestern

## Monitoring highly important for Australian exports

Each year Western Local Land Services biosecurity officers work with two western producers to participate in the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP).

The aim of this program is to monitor homebred cattle for evidence of exposure to viruses that are spread by insects.

The viral diseases are bluetongue virus, bovine ephemeral fever (three day sickness) and Akabane disease.

The results of blood testing sentinel herds and identification of insects collected in light traps contribute to a national set of data which provides valuable information to countries which import Australian stock and genetics.

The program serves to protect market access by providing assurance to importers and allowing for early warning of exotic strains of bluetongue virus entering the country from the north.

Landholders should always seek information on the distribution and spread of bovine ephemeral fever as it will help them protect their herds with vaccination when required.



*Western Local Land Services District Veterinarian, Charlotte Cavanagh takes a blood sample as part of the NAMP.*

## Test your ram flock for ovine brucellosis

**Ovine brucellosis (OB)** is a reproductive disease which is mainly carried by rams, affecting their fertility and ultimately the lambing percentage of your flock.

Infected rams must be culled as there is no cure.

Ewes can also carry the disease for short periods of time and, depending on flock management, can facilitate the spread of disease.

In short, OB causes huge economic losses for your farming enterprise.

Diagnosis of OB is by blood testing and examining the testicles of every ram in your flock.

Western Local Land Services are committed to assisting producers eradicate this costly disease. Producers must commit to a strict test and cull regime which involves blood testing the entire ram flock until there are two clear tests 60 days apart.

This can sometimes take four to six months, so it's best to contact your district veterinarian or biosecurity officer as soon as you pull your rams out from your ewes.

This will allow plenty of time to eradicate OB, if found, before your next scheduled joining.

Please contact Western Local Land Services District Veterinarians Charlotte Cavanagh (0429 773 021) or Sophie Hemley (0417 248 135) for more information.

*"In short, OB causes huge economic losses for your farming enterprise."*

For more information about Local Land Services:

**Visit:** [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)

**Call:** 1300 795 299

**Email:** [admin.western@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin.western@lls.nsw.gov.au)