

Pig Owner's News for the

Hunter



Pigs and your legal obligations

January 2021

There are some legal requirements that must be adhered to when keeping pigs in NSW and this will vary between different local council areas, so make sure that you always check with your Local Council as to what the requirements are for your area. There are requirements for having pigs as pets, for slaughtering pigs for your own consumption only and for commercial pig production. Land use zones determine whether you are allowed to keep pigs, how many and for what purpose. Your local council can advise what zone your property is assigned. Council has the power to limit the number of pigs that may be kept on a property and to specify distances they must be kept from sensitive community or environmental elements. The *Local Government Act 1993* Section 124 (18) specifically allows a council to prevent the keeping of pigs in sensitive areas such as catchment areas. Local councils can also prohibit the keeping of pigs in suburban areas.

Schedule 2 Part 5 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, states that swine (pigs) must be kept in a manner that does not cause pollution to any water supply. It also states that "swine must not be kept (and swine's dung must not be deposited) within 60 metres (or such greater distance as the council may determine in a particular case) of a dwelling, shop, office, factory, church or other place of public worship, workshop, school or public place in a city, town, village or other urban part of an area."

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Act 2017* states that Pig farms with a capacity to accommodate 200 or more pigs or 20 or more breeding sows must have developmental consent from the local council. This applies to all production methods, indoor or outdoor. Pig farm developments that will accommodate 2,000 or more pigs or 200 or more sows require an EPA licence. The keeping of pigs is classified as Intensive Livestock Agriculture and is prohibited in some land-use zones.

The *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* provides for the management of water, air, odour and noise pollution through a licensing regime. Piggeries that are intended to accommodate more than 2,000 pigs or 200 breeding sows, must hold a licence under Section 48 of the Act. An unlicensed occupier of a premises with a piggery accommodating more than 2,000 pigs or 200 breeding sows is guilty of an offence, and liable for financial penalties.

In accordance with the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* it is illegal to feed prohibited pig feed (swill) to pigs. A person must not feed, or allow access to human waste food or stock food containing a mammal product (meat) to a pig.

The Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017 mandates the requirements for NLIS pigs which include having a Property Identification Code (PIC), even if you only have one pig and it is a pet. You can obtain a PIC from your Local Land Services Office. Similarly, all pigs must have ear tags (must be used for pigs under 25kg, but can also be used for pigs over 25kg) or be branded (only if greater than 25kg) before they leave your property. This includes pigs moving to another property (even if gifted and not sold) or to an abattoir.



NLIS Pig Ear Tags

All pig movements must be recorded on PigPass and a PigPass NVD must accompany the pigs whilst being moved. Registration is via the PigPass website. It is the receivers' responsibility to record the movement of the pig/pigs onto the Pigpass database within 2 days of the pigs being moved. You must ensure when you buy pigs that they have an ear tag or brand, and that you transfer their details onto the PigPass database as the receiver/purchaser. It is illegal to keep, transport or breed feral pigs.

Buying livestock online?



Don't get more than you bargained for

Here's what you need:

- A Property Identification Code (PIC)
- A livestock health check
- All livestock identified with an approved NLIS identifier**

To transport your new livestock, you will need from the seller, a:

- A National Vendor Declaration (NVD)
- OR**
- Travelling Stock Statement (TSS)

**Pigs 25kg lwt may be slap branded



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