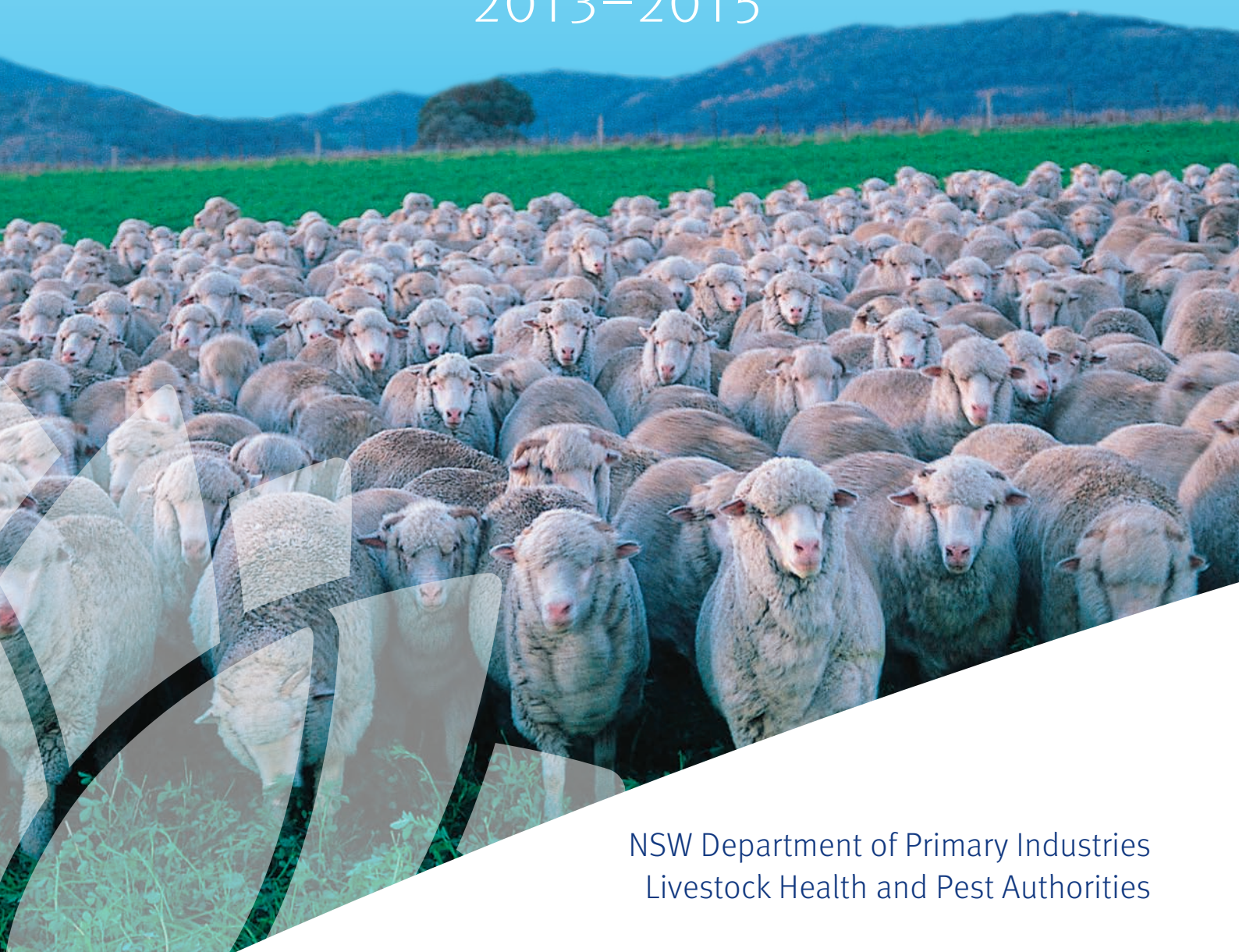# NSW ANIMAL BIOSECURITY AND WELFARE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–2015

NSW Government

NSW Department of Primary Industries
Livestock Health and Pest Authorities

VISION

Animal biosecurity and welfare contributes to the health, wellbeing and prosperity of everybody in NSW.

Working together to implement animal biosecurity and welfare programs that safeguard the NSW economy, environment and community.

INTRODUCTION

'Animal biosecurity' means protecting the economy, environment and community from negative impacts of diseases and pests that affect animals. The **NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan** ('Strategic Plan') guides priority activities to safeguard the economy, environment and community from diseases and pests that affect animals as well as improve animal welfare outcomes.

Currently animal biosecurity priorities in NSW are delivered by Biosecurity NSW in cooperation with Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPAs) and the agricultural extension services of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), along with other government, industry and community stakeholders including private veterinarians. The working relationship between DPI and LHPAs ('DPI–LHPA Alliance') is particularly critical in the implementation of consistent state and national animal biosecurity and welfare programs.

From the 1 Jan 2014 a new regional service delivery model, Local Land Services (LLS) will be created in NSW. LLS will be made up of the current Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPAs), Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and the extension arm of NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). This Strategic Plan seeks to manage the transition from the current DPI–LHPA Alliance to the future DPI–LLS Alliance. A workable and productive alliance between DPI and LLS is critical for positive outcomes for animal biosecurity and welfare issues in NSW.

In May 2013 the **NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013–2021** was released with the vision of **Biosecurity: a shared responsibility**. The **NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan** shares this overarching principle. Government, industry, professional bodies, non-government organisations, research providers, special interest groups, individuals and the community as a whole all have a role in animal biosecurity and welfare.
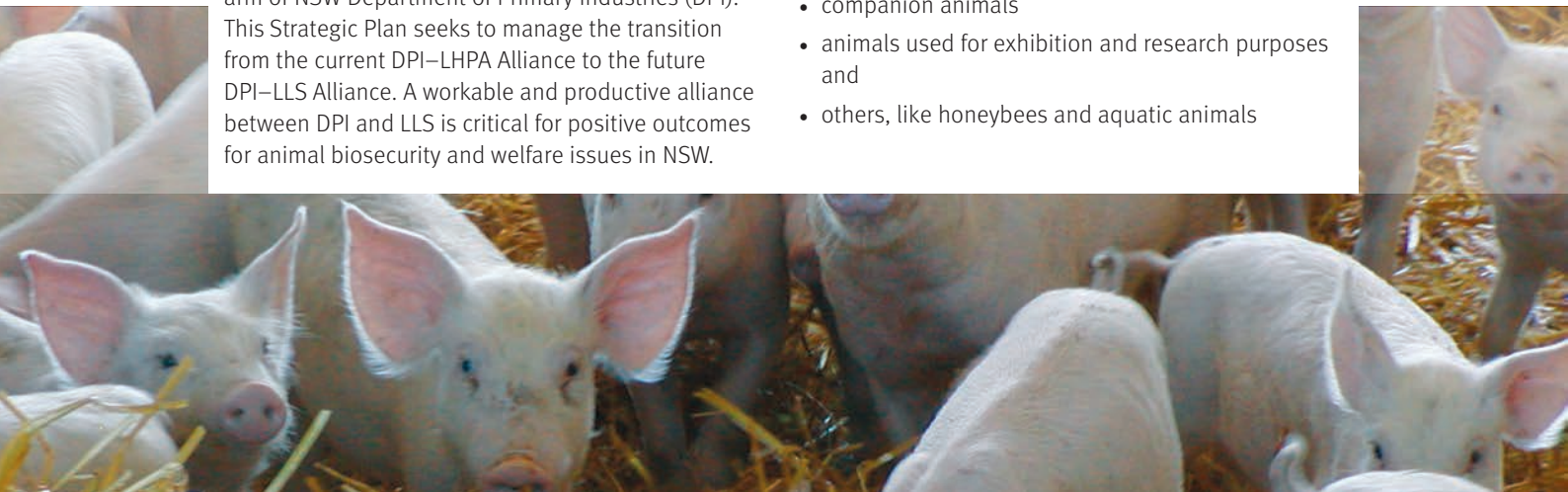
Scope

The Strategic Plan covers:

- animal diseases
- pests of animals
- residues and contaminants associated with animal production
- emergencies which impact on animals or animal production and
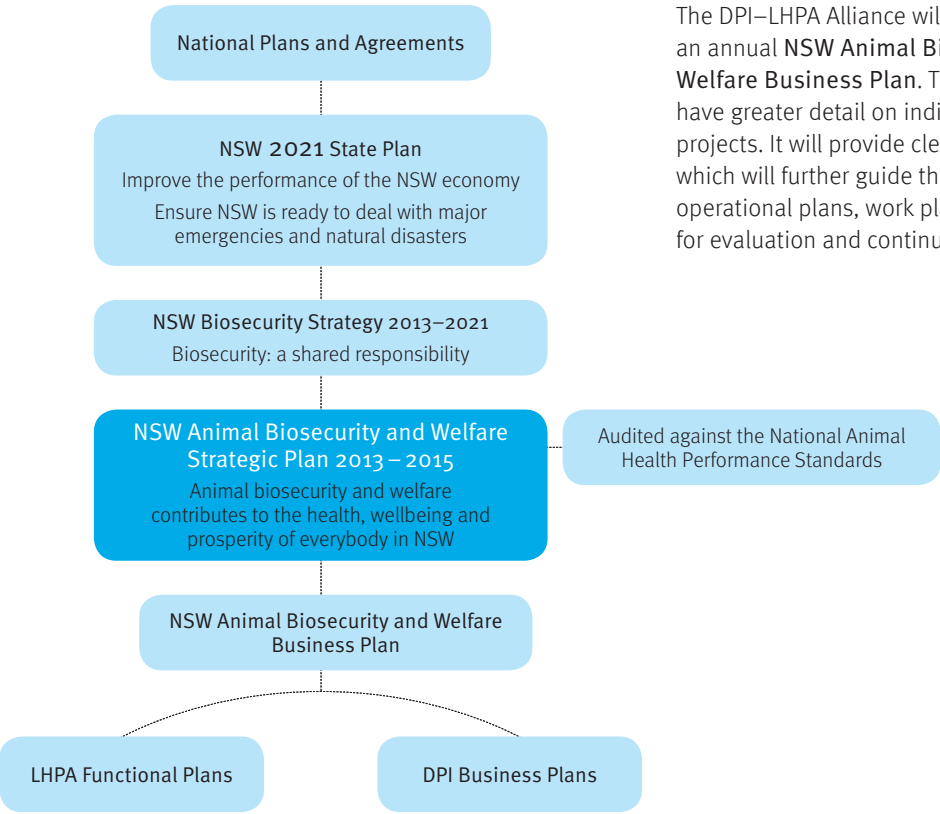- animal welfare

The term animal includes:

- production animals
- wildlife
- companion animals
- animals used for exhibition and research purposes and
- others, like honeybees and aquatic animals

Currently LHPAs are primarily concerned with biosecurity or animal welfare issues related to production animals, although their responsibility extends to the investigation of any suspected emergency animal disease regardless of species.

There is a need for all levels of government, industry and the community to work together to ensure that animal biosecurity and welfare issues relating to wildlife, animals used for exhibition and research purposes, companion and other animals are addressed.

Figure 1: Where the **NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan** sits in a State context

The DPI–LHPA Alliance will also operate under an annual **NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan**. The Business Plan will have greater detail on individual programs and projects. It will provide clear measures of success which will further guide the development of operational plans, work plans and provide a basis for evaluation and continuous improvement.

National Plans and Agreements

NSW 2021 State Plan
Improve the performance of the NSW economy
Ensure NSW is ready to deal with major emergencies and natural disasters

NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013–2021
Biosecurity: a shared responsibility

NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan 2013–2015
Animal biosecurity and welfare contributes to the health, wellbeing and prosperity of everybody in NSW

Audited against the National Animal Health Performance Standards

NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Business Plan

LHPA Functional Plans

DPI Business Plans

AIMS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The **NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan** aims to reduce the impact of animal biosecurity and welfare issues on the economy, environment and community by concentrating on the following priorities:

- Emergency animal disease management and eradication
- Surveillance for diseases and residues to underpin market access
- Control and containment of priority animal diseases already established in NSW
- Animal welfare programs that meet the needs of animals and owners
- Protection of consumers and the community from residue or contaminant risks in livestock production, and significant risks to human health from animal disease (i.e. zoonoses)

- The Strategic Plan also aims to highlight that if NSW is to contribute to national animal biosecurity initiatives and fulfil agreements there is a need for all levels of government, industry and the community to work together.
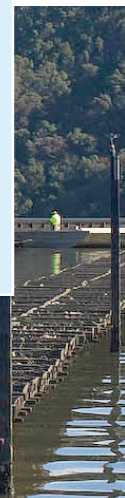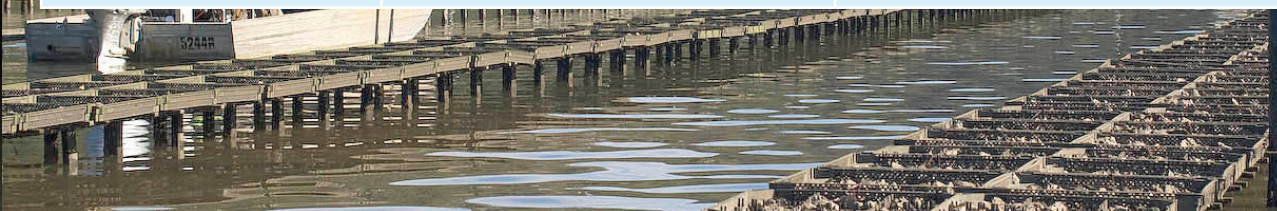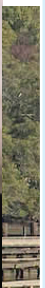
How to read this Strategic Plan

- The following two tables identify the five most important areas ('priorities') for animal biosecurity and welfare, as well as nine critical capabilities that must be undertaken if these priorities are to be achieved. For each priority and capability there are details about 'what' stakeholders should expect to see and the key 'measures of success'. These will be used to evaluate performance and guide continuous improvement for animal biosecurity and welfare at the state level.
- The final table highlights the links between the 5 priorities of the Strategic Plan and their contribution to broader Biosecurity NSW goals.
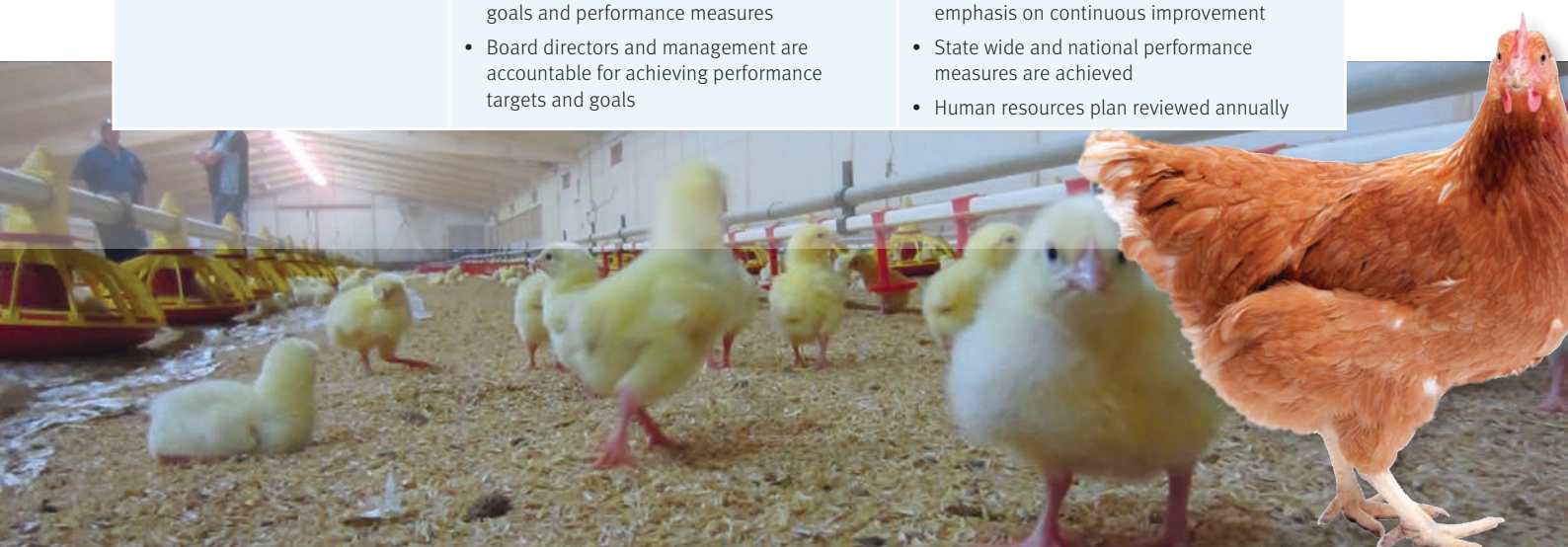
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

WHAT WE WILL FOCUS ON	WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT TO SEE	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
1. Successful management of emergency animal diseases ('EADs')	• NSW animal biosecurity system ready to respond to any EAD • Industry adopts swill feeding and ruminant feed ban protocols to prevent foot and mouth disease or transmissible spongiform encephalopathies • EAD incidents rapidly contained and eradicated or transitioned to management, at least cost • Veterinarians, industry, producers and community know how to and are willing to report suspect EADs • Industry and community rapidly return to normal after an EAD response • NSW complies with all requirements of specific state or national EAD programs	• Achievement of eradication of any incursions as per AUSTVETPLAN • Better national response contingency plans (AUSVETPLANS) • Rapid diagnostics available for all high risk EADs • 95% compliance with swill feeding and ruminant feed ban programs • Personnel available, trained and competent • EAD hotline system can receive calls 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week • National, state and regional specific EAD program targets are met • No EAD spreads laterally more than two holdings radius before detection.

2. Improving market access for NSW livestock and products, supported by adequate and relevant surveillance information ('Surveillance')	• Risk based surveillance programs address the priority risks
	• Livestock health certificates issued accurately and on time
	• All significant herd and flock problems are investigated, recorded and reported quickly by official veterinarians
	• Producers and private practitioners have a positive relationship with district veterinarian (DV)
	• Emerging disease(s) rapidly recognised
		• NSW animal health status recognised internationally by the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and trading partners
		• 95% of producers and private vets know who to report disease incidents to
		• Valid livestock certificates provided within 3 working days
		• Official livestock health professionals are located according to defined state standards for risk and guidelines for minimum response times, including
		  ◦ High risk areas – vet and livestock health ranger to be within 1 hours drive
		  ◦ Medium risk areas – vet to be within 1–1.5 hours drive and livestock health ranger within 1 hours drive
		  ◦ Low risk areas – vet to be within 4 hours drive and livestock health ranger within 2 hours drive

3. Animal welfare standards are effectively managed to allow market access and meet community expectations ('Animal Welfare')	• Consumers and markets accept NSW animals and animal products • Active contribution to animal welfare standards and policy development • Community and producer expectations are reflected in animal welfare standards • DPI–LHPA/LLS officers respond to stock 'failure to provide' investigations in 3 working days of request from Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act enforcement agency(s) • Animal welfare is considered during emergency animal disease and natural disaster responses	• Animal welfare standards are developed and reviewed in line with agreed priorities • All complaint investigations with regards to Animal Research Act and the Exhibited Animals Protection Act are initiated within 3 weeks • 90% of conditions and recommendations arising from site inspections of animal research establishments, are satisfactorily addressed • 90% of LHPA/LLS–DPI responses meeting 3 working days target • Animal welfare is effectively managed in incidents and emergencies in NSW

WHAT WE WILL FOCUS ON	WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT TO SEE	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
4. The negative impacts of established diseases and pests of animals, are minimised in NSW ('Disease Control')	• NSW maintains an excellent reputation for clean, green and kind animal production • NSW complies with all requirements of state or national animal disease programs • Regions develop plans to address significant local animal disease risks	• National, state and regional priority program targets are met • Local or regional disease programs demonstrate increased awareness of notifiable diseases or pests of animals • NSW maintains protected area status for footrot • Cattle tick and tick fever are excluded and controlled • Anthrax incidents are prevented and managed • Johne's disease risks are managed • Biosecurity programs are in place for ovine brucellosis, Johne's disease, *Salmonella* species in poultry, enzootic bovine leucosis and others
5. NSW manages residue or contaminant risks in livestock production, and significant zoonotic risks from animal diseases ('Residues and Zoonoses')	• NSW maintains an excellent reputation for clean, green and kind animal production • No unacceptable residues or contaminants in livestock or livestock products • Residues and contaminants do not interfere with market access • People safeguarded from significant zoonoses (i.e. animal diseases that affect humans)	• 100% of residue detections identified, recorded and managed • All suspect residues or contaminant cases have investigations completed within 6 weeks of notification • DPI and LHPA/LLS veterinarians have established links with public health personnel

CRITICAL SUPPORTING CAPABILITIES

CAPABILITY	WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT TO SEE	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
1. Strategic planning and policy development	• Disease control and surveillance policies are science based, effective, error free and comply with national standards • Policy development processes include consultation with stakeholders	• Compliance with relevant risk assessment, policy development and stakeholder engagement standards • Review of existing policies and development of new ones can be demonstrated to be consistent with best practice policy development
2. Organisation and management	• National, state and regional animal biosecurity and welfare programs have clear goals and performance measures • Board directors and management are accountable for achieving performance targets and goals	• Animal biosecurity and welfare programs are assessed against performance targets with emphasis on continuous improvement • State wide and national performance measures are achieved • Human resources plan reviewed annually

CAPABILITY	WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT TO SEE	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
3. Legislation development and administration	• Underpinning legislation that is least intrusive, highly effective and recognises the biosecurity obligations of the community • Red tape reduced and market access supported	• Development of a new NSW Biosecurity Act by 2015 that is nationally consistent • Implementation of the NSW Biosecurity Act
4. Compliance and enforcement	• Competent compliance officers • Compliance standards are consistent across NSW • Compliance activities directed at delivering outcomes/priorities against programs	• Officers who undertake compliance activities hold current compliance competencies • 95% compliance targets achieved
5. Service capability and capacity	• Sufficent skilled, trained and authorised personnel are available to deliver outcomes • Appropriate agencies have adequate resources to implement programs and respond to emergencies	• Animal biosecurity personnel are distributed across NSW on the basis of state policy which is risk based • Animal biosecurity personnel hold relevant competencies for delivery of animal biosecurity and welfare programs
6. Traceability	• Animal or animal products with disease or residues can be rapidly and accurately identified	• NSW demonstrates it can meet all national livestock traceability standards
7. Information management	• Information management system(s) will inform decision making and policy development • Data and information is collected to provide intelligence on program effectiveness and emerging risks • Information is accurate and accessible	• Evidence of information system(s) guiding decisions • Prompt data entry, at the time of activity (laboratory, LHMS, BioSIRT, Nautilus, StockMAP) • NSW meets all animal biosecurity and welfare reporting requirements
8. Communication, consultation and education	• Stakeholders are engaged and communicated with effectively to enable strong partnerships, greater co-regulation and to promote near-unanimous support of animal biosecurity and welfare programs	• Improved stakeholder contribution to and support of animal biosecurity and welfare programs
9. Animal biosecurity and welfare research, development and extension (RD&E)	• Animal biosecurity research continually improves disease management capacity • Animal welfare research improves knowledge and meets needs of animals and owners • Coordinated RD&E delivered in a cost effective manner • Stakeholders (including LHPA/LLS) help set research priorities • Research facilities fully utilised	• Animal biosecurity and welfare research findings are communicated, adopted and applied • LHPA/LLS assist as co-operators in research projects • NSW animal biosecurity and welfare research complies with the national RD&E Strategy

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY AND WELFARE CONTRIBUTION TO BIOSECURITY IN NSW

Implementation of the **NSW Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Strategic Plan** will have a positive impact on the economy, environment and community, national security and animal welfare, which are the core functions of Biosecurity NSW.

BIOSECURITY NSW CORE FUNCTIONS	WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT TO SEE	ANIMAL BIOSECURITY AND WELFARE FUNCTIONS				
		EADs	Surveillance	Animal Welfare	Disease Control	Residues & Zoonoses
Economy	• Enhanced market access • Highly productive animal industries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community	• Animal products are safe • Human health protected • Social amenity maintained	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Environment	• Minimise contaminants or residues • Awareness of pests or diseases, of animals that can reduce biodiversity	✓	✓		✓	✓
Animal welfare	• Needs of animals and owners are met • Ethical animal production	✓		✓	✓	
National security	• Enhanced food security • Appreciation that an unusual animal disease incident may indicate terrorism	✓	✓		✓	✓

Further information

NSW Department of Primary Industries: **www.dpi.nsw.gov.au**
Livestock Health and Pest Authorities: **www.lhpa.org.au**

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (May 2013). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.