



Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 17 October, 2012

HAVE YOUR SAY ON NSW BIOSECURITY STRATEGY

Smaller landholders and hobby farmers are being encouraged to take part in finalising a new Biosecurity Strategy to safeguard NSW from plant and animal pests and diseases.

NSW Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson said that while larger scale farmers are familiar with the biosecurity threats to the 'clean, green' reputation enjoyed by NSW, smaller landholders are often overlooked.

"Governments need to manage biosecurity with the support of the entire community," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Everybody who has rural lands – primary producers, hobby farmers, boutique livestock breeders and small scale flower and vegetable growers – has a role to play in managing biosecurity risks.

"We can't always eliminate the risk of pests, weeds and diseases entering NSW, but we can be proactive and work together to reduce the risks."

There are over 29,000 'peri urban' landholders in NSW, a statistic which captures properties between four and 10 hectares, and many of these are in the Sydney Basin, along the coastline and around major regional centres.

The draft Biosecurity Strategy, released today for consultation, builds on existing measures to keep NSW pest and disease-free. The Strategy identifies a number of priority areas including biosecurity science and research; surveillance and tracing systems; and improving the State's capacity to respond to plant and animal health emergencies.

"While we already have one of the toughest biosecurity platforms in the world, it's critical we continually look at ways to strengthen these measures so we maintain our unique market advantage and keep the freedom to operate small landholdings according to personal preference," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Biosecurity can affect the entire economy and it's important that everyone has an opportunity to have a say as we finalise this new Strategy.

"Whether you're a large landholder or keen gardener in suburban Sydney, everyone has a role in managing biosecurity threats."

The NSW Department of Primary Industries will be coordinating community meetings across the State in order to gather feedback on the draft strategy from the community.

The draft biosecurity strategy can be downloaded from www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity. The closing date for submissions is Friday 16 November 2012.

Media: Fiona Dewar 0407 152 873

Seven biosecurity measures people may not know:

- **Feeding 'swill' to pigs** – some people like to collect food scraps from local supermarkets, grocers and bakeries to feed their pigs. Often these scraps may contain traces of meat which classifies the scraps as 'swill'. Swill feeding is illegal because it has been traced to foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks overseas.
- **Keeping non indigenous animals as pets** – reptiles like red eared slider turtles and corn snakes are highly invasive and pose a serious threat to agriculture and the natural environment.
- **Transporting grape vine cuttings** – phylloxera is considered the world's worst grapevine pest, and the Sydney Basin is a Phylloxera infested zone. Grapevines must not be taken out of the Sydney Basin into wine producing areas.
- **Feral cats / wild dogs** - domestic pets which are dumped or escape can become feral and cause widespread damage to native wildlife.
- **Property Identification Codes** - The NSW Government has recently expanded the Property Identification Code requirement to include anyone who keeps sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, deer, bison, buffalo, camels, horses, donkeys, llama, alpaca and / or 100 or more poultry birds. Property Identification Codes are a key part of livestock biosecurity measures.
- **Understanding 'notifiable' animal diseases** – all livestock owners need to know the risks surrounding animal disease emergencies, and understand the requirements to notify authorities such as in the case of Hendra.
- **Aquatic weeds** - the fishing and boating community play an important role in preventing the spread of aquatic weeds by checking propellers, trailers and equipment.

Community Information meetings – NSW draft Biosecurity Strategy

Tamworth	24 October 2012	4-6pm	Tamworth Golf Club Mahony Avenue
Coonabarabran	25 October 2012	4-6pm	Coonabarabran Bowling Club Edwards St
Cessnock	25 October 2012	4-6pm	Cessnock Ex-Services Club 201 Vincent Street
Glen Innes	25 October 2012	4-6pm	Glen Innes & District Services Club 120 Grey St
East Lismore	1 November 2012	4-6pm	East Lismore Bowling Club 76 Nielson Street
Grafton	1 November 2012	4-6pm	Grafton District Services Club 105-107 Mary Street
Coffs Harbour	1 November 2012	4-6pm	Coffs Ex-Services Club 1 Vernon Street
Wagga Wagga	7 November 2012	4-6pm	The Lawson 117-121 Tarcutta Street
Griffith	8 November 2012	4-6pm	Griffith Exies Club Jondaryan Ave
West Wyalong	8 November 2012	4-6pm	West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club 100 Monash St
Orange	15 November 2012	4-6pm	Orange Ex-Services' Club Ltd 231-243 Anson St
Cowra	15 November 2012	4-6pm	Cowra Services Club 101 Brisbane St
Young	15 November 2012	4-6pm	Young Services Club Cloete Street
Dubbo	15 November 2012	4-6pm	Dubbo RSL Club Resort Cnr Brisbane Street & Wingewarra Street

Additional community information meetings are planned for:

- the Hawkesbury
- Lower Blue Mountains
- Southern Highlands
- Camden/ Campbelltown
- South Coast

People are encouraged to RSVP by emailing registration.biosecuritystrategy@dpi.nsw.gov.au or by phoning 02 4640 6483.

For further details on community information meetings www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity