Local Land Services works with land managers and the community to improve primary production and better manage our natural resources across NSW. We also work with rural and regional people and partner organisations to support profitable and sustainable regional communities.

We have around 800 staff across 11 local regions, providing frontline services that are in keeping with local strategic plans.

Your rates fund the wide range of biosecurity services provided to landholders and communities in your region. This newsletter provides an overview of what your rates and other funding sources deliver, as well as programs delivered in your region in the past year.

Your rates at work

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New tools for controlling pest animals

South East Local Land Services works with private and public land managers across the region to control pest animal populations – to help reduce their effects on livestock, agricultural returns, the environment and local communities.

We provide advice to land managers on control techniques, conduct regular training sessions on control methods, coordinate group and multi-agency control programs and undertake trapping, baiting and aerial baiting programs to help control foxes, wild dogs, rabbits, pigs and goats.

Last autumn and spring, 1,291 land managers across the region participated in the Feral Fighters program – a coordinated group control program launched in 2015 to target wild dogs and foxes using 1080 poisoned baits.

South East Local Land Services provided 50,287 baits and trained 850 program participants in vertebrate pesticide use as part of the program.

During 2016 we will have a range of new tools available and will undertake group control programs with land managers to target pest animal populations. Please contact your nearest Local Land Services office for more information (refer to page 3 for contact details).

If you sign up to receive our electronic newsletter, South East Circular, you will receive the latest information on our programs, projects and grant and funding opportunities. Visit www.southeast.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/newsletters to register.

Canid pest ejectors (CPEs)

CPEs were released in late 2015. These ejectors are a new way to carry out fox and wild dog control, utilising 1080 poison, which is contained in a capsule within the ejector. The spring-loaded device is activated by an upward pulling motion which delivers a dose of poison directly into the animal’s mouth. The benefit of using CPEs is that the poison remains viable for extended periods and the device does not have to be checked as often. CPEs were designed in such a way that the pulling action that is required to activate the ejector can easily be achieved by a dog or fox, eliminating the possibility of the baits being taken by non-target animals.

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New tools for controlling pest animals
continued from page 1
South East Local Land Services will offer training throughout 2016 in the use of 1080, pindone and CPE ejectors. Please contact your nearest Local Land Services office for more information.

Rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHDV) - K5 strain
A new RHDV strain, Korean 5 (K5) is expected to be released during 2016-17 to assist the control of wild rabbits. Currently there are two other viruses in the environment – RHDV1, which was released in 1995, and RHDV 2, which appeared in France in 2010 and was first reported near Canberra in 2015. RHDV K5 will overcome the protective effect of the benign calicivirus that is currently present in Australia. All strains of RHDVs rely on vectors, such as flies, mosquitos and fleas, being present to spread the virus. Further information will be circulated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services before the release. Rabbit owners are encouraged to consult with their veterinarian regarding the vaccination.

Pestivirus in cattle

During 2015 pestivirus was a commonly diagnosed cause of losses around calving on the Tablelands. Awareness of the presence of pestivirus and appropriate management strategies can assist you to minimise losses. If you suspect pestivirus in your herd your nearest Local Land Services district veterinarian can assist you with antibody testing and work with you to develop a plan to eliminate this costly disease.

According to Meat and Livestock Australia pestivirus is one of the most costly, infectious diseases in the Australian cattle herd, in spite of the fact that excellent diagnostic tests and disease control strategies make it a preventable cause of economic loss.

The disease is believed to be present in 80 per cent of herds, an estimate that is supported by antibody testing in this region.

Pestivirus commonly causes a problem in cow-calf herds when cows are exposed to the virus during pregnancy. Depending on when the cow is exposed to the disease, she can slip her calf in early pregnancy, abort mid-pregnancy, have a dead calf or a calf that dies shortly after birth, or have a calf that appears normal but carries and spreads large amounts of virus. It is these persistently infected calves that spread the virus to cows and their unborn calves during the following year, ensuring the disease stays within the herd.

In herds where the disease is endemic, producers experience ongoing financial losses through reduced numbers of calves at marking and feeding cows and heifers that fail to produce a calf. If you buy cows or heifers that are carrying persistently infected calves you are not buying an animal that is fit for its intended purpose of delivering a live, healthy calf.

To protect your investment when buying in-calf heifers and cows:

- Ask the vendor about the infection status of the herd of origin and the steps taken to control pestivirus.
- Request a National Cattle Health Statement in addition to a National Vendor Declaration as it contains information about pestivirus vaccination and testing.
- Purchase in-calf heifers and cows that have not gone through a saleyard and that are from properties with a history of limited trading, agistment and cattle turnover. Such animals are at lower risk for contact with a persistently infected animal.
- Only purchase cows or heifers that were vaccinated for pestivirus before joining.
- Segregate any newly-purchased mobs, paying particular attention to mobs containing young steers or heifers that could be persistently infected.
- Don’t forget about pestivirus when replacing bulls – ensure all newly-purchased bulls have tested negative for pestivirus.

If there is no evidence of pestivirus in your herd then you should vaccinate as naïve herds are at high risk of a major outbreak.

The benefits of pestivirus control and prevention will far exceed the costs.
All rates are used by Local Land Services to pay for biosecurity and emergency services to landholders. This includes:

- activities relating to the control of declared pest animals and insects
- the provision of animal health and welfare services
- support for stock identification systems
- emergency management assistance for drought and other natural disaster relief such as bushfires and floods.

Biosecurity services provide insurance against pests and disease and help maintain vital market access for producers. Examples of biosecurity and emergency response projects in the past year include outbreaks of fire ants, supporting the recovery effort after the Hunter floods, as well as statewide wild dog management programs.

As well as rates, Local Land Services receives funding from the NSW Government through Catchment Action NSW, which provides on-ground programs to support biodiversity, native vegetation, threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage initiatives.

The Australian Government also contributes funding through the National Landcare Programme, which helps drive sustainable agriculture, as well as supporting the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of Australia’s natural environment.

What rates and other funds provide

Contact us

Our customer service staff can provide you with advice and assistance relating to your 2016 Rates Tax Invoice or your notional carrying capacity.

Call 1300 795 299 to speak with a South East Local Land Services staff member or contact your nearest Local Land Services office listed below to speak directly with a customer service officer.

Email: enquiry.southeast@lls.nsw.gov.au
Visit: www.southeast.lls.nsw.gov.au

Administrative offices:

Bega
02 6491 7800

Goulburn
02 4824 1900

Berry
02 4464 6000

Wollongong
02 4224 9700

Braidwood
02 4842 2536

Yass
02 6118 7700

Cooma
02 6452 1122

South East Local Land Services 2016 Rates Newsletter
Understanding your annual rates notice

General rate
This rate is calculated using the notional carrying capacity of your property*.

Base charge
This charge is payable for each rate type levied on each property. It is similar to flag fall in a taxi.

Animal health rate
This rate is calculated using the notional carrying capacity of your property*. It is payable if your annual land and stock return showed at least 50 units of stock on your property. This charge also applies if you did not lodge a 2015 land and stock return by the due date.

Meat industry levy
This levy is collected on behalf of the NSW Food Authority and is not retained by Local Land Services.

Pest insect special purpose levy
This levy is collected for the NSW Department of Primary Industries to cover the cost of plague locust control campaigns. It is not retained by Local Land Services.

*Notional carrying capacity
The notional carrying capacity of your property is calculated by Local Land Services in your local region. It is based on the number of stock your property would normally carry in an average year if the property was used solely for livestock purposes. This figure is based on stock units per hectare.

Preferred payment methods
1. online at www.lls.nsw.gov.au
2. using BPAY by phone or internet
3. by phone using credit card on 1300 738 070.
A 0.4% surcharge applies to payments by Mastercard or Visa.

Changes to this year’s rates

There have been some increases in rates as part of a move towards a more consistent and standardised rate base that treats all ratepayers equally.

The 2016 increases also ensure that Local Land Services can meet community expectations for managing pest animals and providing biosecurity, animal health and welfare and emergency management support.

General rate
Some regions had more than one base charge under the general rate. This has been standardised across NSW.

Animal health rate
The base component of the animal health rate has been standardised to $30 across NSW.

General and animal health cents per unit
This charge increased by approximately three per cent to meet rising costs.

Stock ID fees
This fee supports stock identification systems. It is the same as the base charge of the general rate for each local region, with GST applied.

For more information about Local Land Services
Visit: www.lls.nsw.gov.au
Call: 1300 795 299
Email: my.feedback@lls.nsw.gov.au

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