



Annual Land and Stock Returns

Local Land Services works with land managers and the community to improve primary production and better manage our natural resources across NSW.

We 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 to support our communities, primary industries and landscape.

The Annual Land and Stock Return is an important tool for us not only to manage biosecurity threats but also respond to emergencies. This newsletter outlines how we use this information and other local updates.



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 also 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.

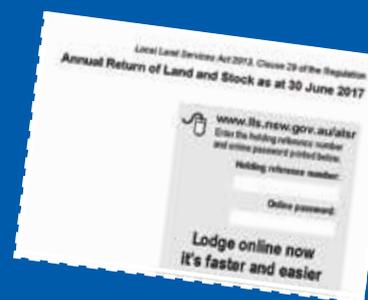
If you don't lodge an Annual Land and Stock Return by the due date, an animal health rate and meat industry levy will be automatically applied to your 2017 rates notice.

Lodge your return online

The easiest way to lodge your return is online by visiting 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 Get 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
- 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



Frequently asked questions

What do I do if the information in Section A 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.

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 on the holding listed as at 30 June should be included, regardless of whether it is yours, agisted or other.

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. You do not need to complete an Annual Land and Stock 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. You can lodge your details online.

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?

These figures trigger whether or not you are charged the animal health rate and the meat industry levy.

Please note that rates charges are based on the notional carrying capacity and size of your land, not how many stock you have on your property on 30 June.

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

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

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

Capacity

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.

Small talks, big dividends

Murray Local Land Services' vets and biosecurity officers spend a substantial portion of their time working to spread information on animal health, diseases, nutrition and biosecurity.

Whether it's talking with landholders at the local fox bait drop-off, or engaging with patrons at the Henty Machinery Field Days, there are plenty of opportunities to help people understand how they can play their role in keeping their animals, the surrounding district and ultimately the country as free from disease as possible.

From lamb post-mortem workshops to 'biosecurity in beef' talks, these workshops allow groups of stock owners to hear the latest information and the services available to them and to ask questions relevant for their properties.

This leads to better relationships with farmers and more district surveillance visits on farms to help our staff be aware of any problems that are occurring in our area at any given time.

Our animal health and biosecurity functions are part of landholders' insurance policy against serious threats like exotic pests and diseases, helping to protect commodity markets, farm assets and the environment.

We are interested in working with you on ways to reduce your biosecurity risks – call us to ask us how.



Our District Veterinarians, like Linda Searle (right), regularly engage with farmers to help them understand their role in maintaining good biosecurity.

Threatened southern pygmy perch are on the move

A population of threatened southern pygmy perch has been found at a new location along Coppabella Creek, north of Jingellic, suggesting that they are breeding.

The fish were discovered during routine monitoring of the creek last month by Murray Local Land Services, local landholders, Forestry NSW and other government agencies, including the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

The find indicates that the fish's distribution has increased upstream by approximately four kilometres.

The fact that juvenile fish were recorded suggests that they are breeding.

The exciting discovery is a result of critical conservation work undertaken by local landholders and Forestry NSW, with support from Murray Local Land Services, to rehabilitate southern pygmy perch habitat in Coppabella Creek.

Southern pygmy perch is a small fish that grows up to eight centimetres long.

It was once common throughout southern NSW but is now only found in two locations: Spring Creek near Holbrook and Coppabella Creek near Jingellic.

Coppabella Creek is also home to the threatened Booroolong frog. Murray Local Land Services and our partners are working together to reduce threats to key habitat areas.

This includes controlling blackberries and willows, which often shade out the creek system, making growth difficult for aquatic plants crucial to the fish's survival.

Willows are also controlled in this system to reduce the tree root ball mass in rocky crevices that are used by the Booroolong frog.

Funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, Catchment Action NSW and Environmental Trust Saving our Species projects has supported the work to date.

The work include weed control, creek fencing, revegetation and pest control, but the project relies on the continuous support of landholders and Forestry NSW.

Follow-up spraying of weeds, sediment control, grazing management and pest control will ensure these threatened species have the best chance of survival.



Contact us

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(03) 5880 1400

315 Victoria St, Deniliquin

Albury

(02) 6051 2200

931 Garland Ave, North Albury

Corowa

(02) 6033 1196

74 Short St, Corowa

Jerilderie

(03) 5886 1203

6 Jerilderie St, Jerilderie

Moulamein

(03) 5887 5006

34 Sainsberry St

Tumbarumba

(02) 6948 9197

Cnr Bridge/Winton streets

Email

admin.murray@lls.nsw.gov.au

Social media



Murray.LLS



@MLLSEnviro

Feral pigs and deer on the decline in Werai

Hundreds of feral pests have been removed from the Werai Forest, west of Deniliquin, as part of Murray Local Land Services' Ramsar wetland and buffer zone project.

More than 300 pigs and 130 deer have been trapped or shot as part of the project, significantly reducing their environmental and agricultural impacts.

A recent aerial shoot in March noted only a few feral pigs and little sign of pig activity or its associated environmental damage.

We have worked closely with public land managers and surrounding landholders to achieve this result.

The project steering committee, comprising local landholders, Indigenous representatives and agency staff, has worked to identify and implement pest control measures throughout the internationally-listed Central Murray Ramsar site, which also takes in the Koondrook and Millewa forests.

These measures have included baiting, trapping and aerial shooting.

Feral pigs not only cause environmental damage, but are also potential carriers of exotic diseases such as foot and mouth and swine flu.

Deer can carry the same diseases that infect other hoofed animals such as cattle and horses. They also contribute to erosion, degrade the water quality in wetlands, creeks and rivers, and assist the spread of weeds.

The large reduction in the number of both pests is a pleasing result, and we plan to continue to work with land managers and landholders to maintain the pressure on pest numbers in and around these internationally important wetlands.

For more information, please contact our staff members Jamie Hearn (0447 420 789) or Michael Mullins (0428 629 336).



A work crew with a feral pig trap in the Millewa Forest, similar to those that are successfully reducing pig numbers in the nearby Werai Forest. Photo: Vera Hong.

"A recent aerial shoot, in March, noted only a few feral pigs and little sign of pig activity or its associated environmental damage."

For more information about Local Land Services:

Visit: www.lls.nsw.gov.au

Call: 1300 795 299

Email: admin.murray@lls.nsw.gov.au