

Frequently asked questions about Local Land Services rates

Why do I pay rates?

Thank you for protecting the NSW landscape and agricultural industry through your rates.

Your rates fund our biosecurity, animal health and emergency work:

- coordinating and supporting landholders to control pests and meet your legal obligations
- our vets' animal health programs
- supporting agriculture and animals during emergencies
- supporting stock identification systems.

The rates you pay mean we can maintain a secure, healthy and productive landscape.

Under the [Local Land Services Act 2013](#), we must charge rates on all parcels of land that are classified as ratable land under the Act.

This is generally land 10 hectares and above (40 hectares in the Western Region and 20 hectares in some parts of Murray and Riverina Regions). They are separate to council rates.

Why do I have a zero balance on my rates notice this year?

In 2018 the NSW Government announced a NSW Emergency Drought Relief Package to help farmers manage the effects of the current drought.

The package includes \$100 million for cutting the cost of farming fees and charges including the waiving of Local Land Services rates for 2019.

Around 130,000 rates notices will be sent to NSW ratepayers in January 2019, however, as part of the NSW Government's drought relief package, Local Land Services rates for the period will not be payable.

LLS rates for 2019 will not be payable by landholders. NSW Government will provide funding to LLS to deliver the services normally funded from rates.

What can Local Land Services do for me in the drought?

Almost all of NSW is now suffering from an extended dry period and the NSW government is supporting LLS ratepayers by waiving rates for this period.

The NSW government's commitment to drought impacted regional areas means Local Land Services can continue important work to protect NSW from biosecurity threats, help communities during emergencies and keep markets open for NSW produce while our ratepayers deal with the drought.

The Local Land Services team is here when it matters, helping you with knowledge, networks and experience.

The work of Local Land Services in maintaining biosecurity and animal health services continues, supported by the government in this time of drought.

Our biosecurity, animal health and emergency response services are part of what we do to protect agriculture and the environment from pests, diseases and environmental threats.

To find out how you can work with Local Land Services visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au or contact your local office.

Local Land Services is available to offer ongoing advice for farmers and landholders dealing with drought. We offer hands-on support where possible and endeavour to provide up to date localised information about managing and recovering from drought

- our Livestock Officers provide technical advice on feeding and nutrition
- our District Veterinarians manage and advise on livestock health and welfare
- our TSR rangers manage permits for grazing on TSRs and roads

We also assist in administering drought support packages and coordinate and conduct relevant



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www.lls.nsw.gov.au

We help secure the future of agriculture and the environment for NSW communities.

drought workshops with guest speakers, including rural support workers and rural financial counsellors.

Visit www.ils.nsw.gov.au or contact your local office to find out what events and programs are available.

What else can Local Land Services do for me?

We provide a broad range of services to support landholders in running a productive and healthy landscape.

Some of these services are supported by rates, such as the work of our biosecurity officers and district vets.

Others services such as our agricultural extension and natural resource management work are supported by NSW and Australian Government funding.

Some Local Land Services regions are also supported by local programs and partnerships, such as the Hunter Catchment Contribution.

Across the state, landholder rates make up around 18 per cent of our overall funding.

We give technical advice to help you manage your land

We live and work in regional NSW to provide independent and accessible advice to landholders.

Our specialist staff provide landholders technical support and advice on:

- how to control priority pest animals and insects, including free/subsidised training and access to baits, traps and chemicals
- herd health issues
- agricultural productivity
- managing native vegetation on your property
- being prepared for, responding to and recovering from natural disasters
- vegetation and restoration in bushland and wildlife habitats
- latest funding opportunities, news and events.

We regularly run free or low-cost workshops, training courses and field days to share leading practice in pest control, agricultural productivity, animal health and natural resource management.

Maintaining market confidence in our agricultural produce

The work of our staff in monitoring and traceability mean that consumers remain confident in Australia's 'clean and green' food reputation.

Export markets remain open and commodity prices can remain strong.

Examples include our work in livestock traceability, our district veterinary officer network and surveillance.

We support regional pest animal management

Our role in pest animal coordination means you have networks, information and advice you need.

You can deliver on your legal responsibility to control priority pests on your land.

Are you a member of your community pest control group? Speak to your local Biosecurity Officer to find out more.

We support you and your animals during emergencies

We are a support agency for agriculture and animals (including companion) under the NSW emergency management framework.

Our staff are trained and in place to help you and your animals prepare, respond and recover.

Likewise, when pest and disease outbreaks happen, we are on the ground to respond.

We help you improve your land and environment

Everyone wants to pass the land to the next generation in a better condition.

Our natural resource management programs support you to manage your land sustainably and improve our environment.

We invest in this work and regional NSW through the support of Catchment Action NSW, the National Landcare Program and other partners.

Touch base with your local Land Services Officer to see what field days and incentive programs are coming up.

Find out more

At the end of the day, we provide a broad range of services to support landholders to build a healthy, productive and resilient landscape.

We support you to manage your land, run a healthy enterprise and meet your legal obligations.

Visit your local office or [regional website](#) to find out more and sign up to your local newsletter.

Are rates the only source of income for Local Land Services?

Rates are not the only source of income for Local Land Services – they make up less than one quarter of our funding across the state.

We are also funded through the NSW Government, including the Catchment Action NSW program, 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 Program, which helps drive sustainable agriculture, as well as supporting the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of Australia's natural environment.

This funding also supports the activities of community groups, such as Landcare.

We also invest other Government funding programs into regional NSW such as the Drought Recovery Program.

We are also supported by specific programs regionally, such as the Hunter Catchment Contribution in the Hunter region.

More information

To find out more contact your regional Local Land Services Office.

© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services 2019. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing January 2019. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser. For updates go to www.ils.nsw.gov.au