



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

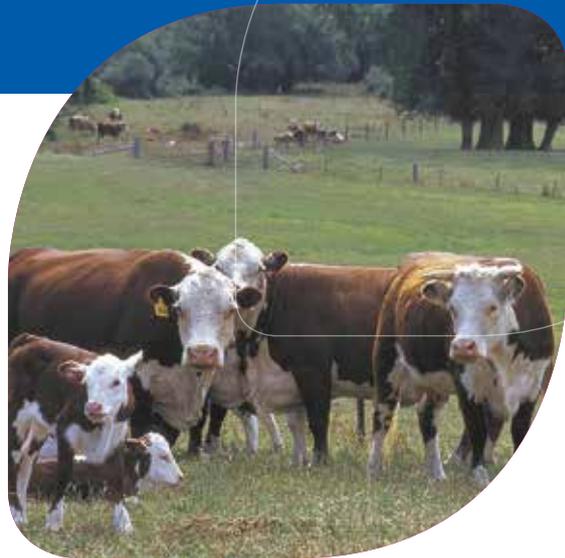
The due date for lodging your Annual Land and Stock Return is **31 August 2017**. It is a legal requirement under the *Local Land Services Act 2013* that landholders lodge an Annual Land and Stock Return.

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 2018 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 Look up 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



Changes to Biosecurity Act from 1 July 2017

On **1 July 2017** the new *Biosecurity Act 2015* will commence. The Biosecurity Regulations 2017 will also be in place to support biosecurity in NSW. Make sure you're prepared for the changes by signing up for the latest news at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation or email biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015



Frequently asked questions

What should I do if the information in Section A of the Return 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 and return it to your local office.

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 over six months old on the holding listed as at 30 June should be included, regardless of whether it is yours, agisted or other. Pigs of any age should be counted, as well as flocks of 100 or more poultry.

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.

Your local office can confirm if you need to lodge a 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.

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?

Rates charges are primarily based on your land's notional carrying capacity and size.

Stock numbers provided on your completed Annual Land and Stock Return are used to support our work in responding to emergencies, and in determining the animal health rate and meat industry levy components of your rates notice.

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 used for intensive livestock

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

Capacity of intensive area

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.

Bringing everyone to the table to better manage wild dogs

The trauma of losing livestock to wild dog attacks takes a serious economic and emotional toll on producers.

Hunter Local Land Services is working with land managers in areas affected by wild dog predation across our region to review 12 wild dog management plans, bringing them into line with current wild dog control best practice.

Guided by detailed mapping, best available research, and the local knowledge of landholders and stakeholders, Local Land Services biosecurity staff are working to engage landholders in areas where control has previously been lacking.

Covering public and private lands, the plans include a calendar of control activities for all parties to ensure maximum coverage of affected areas at times most conducive to high knock down of dog populations.

"All major control methods are being integrated into the plans to ensure we cover our bases for maximum knock down in population numbers," said Invasive Species Team Leader, Luke Booth.

"The plans provide direction and coordination for the management of wild dogs, using a best practise approach, and are being supported by all stakeholders within the region.

"There's been a significant increase in the Hunter Local Land Services annual budget for wild dog management, from \$80,000 in 2014 to \$230,000 in 2017, and this will support the implementation of these plans."

To find out more about wild dog management plans being developed for your area, contact your nearest Local Land Services office.

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From the General Manager

Thank you for taking the time to fill out your Annual Land and Stock Return.

The information collected from these Returns is vital for managing animal diseases and natural disasters.

In submitting your Annual Land and Stock Return you are helping protect our region's \$1.2 billion agricultural industries and the jobs and communities that rely on our ability to produce safe, high quality food for the world's markets.

The results from ABARES' recent national *Pest Animal and Weed Management Survey* reveal the average Hunter farmer spends around \$4,600 per property per year on pest and weed management and over 40 days of effort. Our teams work to connect landholders with expertise, resources and networks to support them in tackling these issues.

We have also recently updated our *Information for Rural Landholders* publication which outlines how Local Land Services assists landholders with their various responsibilities in land management. Contact your nearest Local Land Services office for your copy or download it from our website.

The year ahead will see many changes in the areas of biosecurity and biodiversity management. To help keep up to date on what these changes mean for you please subscribe to our quarterly Regional Outlook newsletter or follow us on Facebook:

- www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/newsletters
- www.facebook.com/HunterLLS

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Email

admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au

Web

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/hunter

Social media



@HunterLLS

Recovering from the Sir Ivan bushfire

Producers and landholders are still recovering from the Sir Ivan bushfire that blazed through the west of our region in February, burning over 55,000 hectares across three Local Land Services regions, and causing an estimated loss of agricultural productivity of almost \$97 million.

In the days and weeks following the fires, Hunter Local Land Services staff relied heavily on our database of ratepayer contact details and stock numbers to begin assisting those who were affected.

“Our ratepayer database was critical in those early days after the fires, to determine stock numbers in fire affected areas, and to prioritise field response including stock assessment by our district vets and biosecurity officers,” Emergency Response Coordinator Jamie Maddocks said.

Annual Land and Stock Returns provide invaluable information in the event of a natural disaster or emergency disease outbreak affecting livestock, such as avian influenza or Hendra virus, which could threaten our local and national economy.

Please submit your Annual Land and Stock Returns by 31 August and if your contact details have changed recently, contact your nearest Local Land Services office or send an email to admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au.

To hear more about how Hunter Local Land Services staff assisted landholders following the Sir Ivan Bushfire, go to our Facebook page:

- www.facebook.com/HunterLLS/videos.

A new approach to weed management

In the next couple of months, the *Biosecurity Act 2015* will supersede the *Noxious Weeds Act 1997*, resulting in greater flexibility and improved management of weeds across NSW.

The new act adopts the concept of a general biosecurity duty, which means that anyone who is aware of a potential biosecurity risk should take all reasonable practical measures to minimise or eliminate it. All land managers, whether public or private, now have the same responsibilities under the legislation.

The Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022, developed collaboratively with the Hunter Regional Weeds Committee establishes the priority weeds for the region and the outcomes land managers must achieve to fulfil their responsibilities under the act.

The plan enables greater collaboration in the management of weeds on public and private land.

For the first time there will be a set of agreed priorities and actions for weed management across public and private land in NSW. Greater collaboration in the management of weeds will improve biosecurity outcomes and agricultural productivity across the state.

Local government remain the local control authorities for weeds, so for more information on the changes to weed management and how they will affect you, contact your local council weeds officer.



For more information about Local Land Services:

Visit: www.lls.nsw.gov.au

Call: 1300 795 299

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