

Tablelands landholder newsletter

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Message from the chairman

It is a welcome change for me to write this message when we are experiencing the best pastoral conditions for decades despite the floods late last year.

The Tablelands LHPA district veterinarians, supported by scientist Jeff Eppleston, are a valuable resource to stock producers on the tablelands. Bruce Watt, Mandi Carr at Bathurst, Bill Johnson in Goulburn and Jim McDonald in Yass are available to us all, make good use of their expertise and enthusiasm.

Our district vets and rangers are

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Wild dog collaboration delivers results for sheep producers

Producers in the Hampton/Hazelnut area have benefited from a collaborative interagency wild dog project. The program, involving Tablelands LHPA, private landholders, National Parks and Wildlife Service, State Forests and Sydney Catchment Authority, has highlighted the successful results that can be achieved when agencies work together with a common aim.

There has been a history of wild dogs in the area, which first started becoming a major problem during 2008. At the time landholders reported approximately 120 sheep deaths, two suspected calf deaths and many more sheep injuries from wild dog attacks. As a result, several landholders were no longer able to run any sheep and others considered destocking all of their sheep.

To tackle the issue the Hampton Wild Dog group was revived. It is a self-funded landholder organisation which meets quarterly to develop

coordinated plans for baiting and trapping of local wild dogs. For 2010 the group has carried out two baiting rounds, in May and October, and the LHPA has undertaken additional trapping. Remote cameras have also been used to assess dog numbers and activity, which has helped to target baiting and trapping areas.

The group has achieved excellent results, including the destruction of 40 dogs this year. With involvement from the NSW Farmers Association, the group looks set to further the good work they have already achieved.

Tablelands LHPA will continue to work with landholders on controlling wild dogs and are currently working towards a dog control buffer zone, which includes both National Parks and private land. Programs of this nature are most successful when landholders work together, both with the carrying out of control work and the reporting of all attacks and sightings to your local LHPA office.

Rates for 2011

Rates for 2011 have been set. The increase has been kept within the CPI of 2.8% as at 30th September 2010.

The base charges for 2011 are Livestock Health \$25.70, General \$51.40, Pest Insect \$16 and the Meat Industry levy \$5.

The cents per stock unit are Livestock Health 9.135; General 9.3500. The pest insect rate and meat industry levy are the same as the previous year.

The authority does not keep the money collected from the pest insect levy or the meat industry levy. The pest insect special purpose rate is

collected for I&I NSW to cover the cost of plague locust control campaigns. The pest insect rate includes a flat contribution per rate notice, plus a cents per dry sheep equivalent (DSE) amount. The meat industry levy is collected for the NSW Food Authority. LHPAs do not retain these funds.

The funds raised from rating to be used directly by the authority during 2011 are Livestock Health \$1,229,500 and General rates \$1,859,000.

The Minister for Primary Industries approves all LHPA rates increases.

Office contacts

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66 Corporation Avenue, (PO Box 20),
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UNDERSTANDING YOUR RATES NOTICE

The **general rate** consists of a base charge and an amount payable on the notional carrying capacity of your property*. This funds pest animal programs, TSR management and local administration and service delivery.

The **animal health rate** consists of a base charge and an amount payable on your notional carrying capacity*. This funds locally delivered livestock health programs and is payable if you told us on your annual land and stock return that you had at least 50 stock units on your property OR if you did not return your land and stock form by the due date.


The **pest insect special purpose rate** is collected for I&I NSW to cover the cost of plague locust control campaigns. LHPAs do not retain these funds. The pest insect rate includes a flat contribution per rate notice, plus a cents per dry sheep equivalent (DSE) amount. This year, the NSW Government provided \$18.5 million towards the spring/summer plague locust campaign.

The **meat industry levy** is collected for the NSW Food Authority. LHPAs do not retain these funds.

The **base charge** is a uniform charge within an authority, similar to a 'flag fall' in a taxi.

*The **notional carrying capacity** is an estimate, worked out by the local authority, of the number of stock a property would normally carry in an average year and is based on stock units per hectare.

RURAL LANDS PROTECTION ACT 1998 Section 63



LHPA
Safeguarding Agriculture in NSW

2011 RATE NOTICE
TAX INVOICE ABN 12XXXXX
Livestock Health and Pest Authority
Guns Gully Rd, GUNS GULLY, NSW

JOHN CITIZEN
PO BOX XXXX
GUNS GULLY NSW XXXX

Reference No: 12XXXXX
Date of Issue: 21 January 201
Payment Due Date: 21 February 2

Holding Name: J Citizen
Holding Address: Guns Gully
Associated Holdings: N/A

Area of Land (hectares): 61.75 Notional Carrying Capacity: 545.55 Notional Intensive Carrying C

Particulars of Rates and Charges		Units	Cents per Unit
RATES—GENERAL	BASE CHARGE \$62.90	545.56	13.5000
RATES—ANIMAL HEALTH	BASE CHARGE \$27.00	545.56	9.7000
SPECIAL PURPOSE RATE			
- PEST INSECTS	BASE CHARGE \$16.00+	545.56	3.6660
MEAT INDUSTRY LEVY	\$ 5.00+	545.56	0.6000
STOCK MOVEMENT PERMIT RENEWAL	\$ 11.00		

All rates and charges are exempt from GST under Division 81 of the Goods and Services Tax Act 1999 unless otherwise indicated.

The Meat Industry Levy is a statutory levy collected on behalf of the NSW Food Authority. The Pest Insect Special Purpose Rate is collected for I&I NSW to cover the cost of plague locust control campaigns. If a Routine Stock Movement Permit renewal is not required please notify your local LHPA.

NOTE: The rates and charges amounts shown left are indicative only. Actual amounts will vary according to where you live.

Message from the chairman

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working closely with landholders, having undertaken training in basic livestock health diagnostic practices, increasing the LHPA ability to meet the increasing requests for information from producers.

Rangers will be on farms inspecting for pest animals and can offer helpful advice. Due to current seasonal conditions landholders are being urged to remain vigilant with their pest management.

I encourage all ratepayers to make use of the LHPA conducted training allowing ratepayers to effectively and safely use 1080 and Pindone (see page 4 for further information).

Your LHPA continues to work hard to meet our regulatory role, monitoring stock identification and stock health and inspecting land for pest animals. We are well prepared and practiced for emergency response.

It is our intention to ensure that the cost to farmers for providing this regulatory function is returned with good service delivery in the form of professional accurate and local advice.

Local producer involvement is a central part of the LHPA organisation across NSW and there are process in place, through the State Management Council and State Policy Council to ensure that Tablelands directors can raise local issues and have input into change.

I urge all of you to contact your local LHPA office and make use of the knowledge and skills of the staff.

John Seaman, chairman

Rangers work with producers on NLIS compliance

The Tablelands Livestock Health and Pest Authority continues to undertake audits of local saleyards, including the Central Tablelands Livestock Exchange (CTLX), Goulburn and Yass saleyards. The audits form compliance monitoring for stock movement and identification, including NLIS requirements, and allows assessment of animal health and welfare.

Audit procedures vary depending on the size of the saleyard but rangers attend every sale held at the saleyards. Rangers also regularly communicate with agents, saleyard managers and landholders involved in the sale process.

Based on audits conducted over the past twelve to eighteen months, rangers have observed some interesting trends at cattle sales. The percentage of emergency tags issued has remained roughly the same, at approximately 1 to 1.5 per cent for CTLX. Variations to this are observed primarily when numbers fluctuate, for example, there are more emergency tags issued during



Ranger Neville Collins and trainee Cameron Thomas conducting NLIS audits at the CTLX.

weaner sales when numbers are generally higher.

A positive development with regard to stock at CTLX cattle sales has been the reduction in infringements issued over the past twelve to eighteen months. Furthermore, of the infringements issued, there were no second warning letters issued, which indicates that where non-compliance has occurred this has been rectified.

A vast improvement in compliance has been observed at CTLX sheep sales. The percentage of infringements have reduced from

approximately 18 per cent to 4 per cent from October 2009 to August 2010. Interestingly, most of the infringements are due to NVD non-compliance. As at August 2010, NLIS infringements were zero per cent.

Rangers will continue to work with producers to continue the good results which we are seeing, particularly with NLIS compliance and will work with producers to improve NVD compliance.

Remember the success of NLIS relies on you.

Popular 1080/Pindone baiting course on again

During 2010 rangers from the Tablelands LHPA conducted new shorter training courses to allow landholders to use 1080 and Pindone baits on their properties.

The three-hour course gives landholders a clear understanding of 1080 and Pindone use and their legal obligations. The authority will be holding courses across the region again in 2011 at a cost of \$22 for ratepayers and \$44 for non ratepayers, scheduled based on demand.

All landholders must have a current chemical users certificate or card from the 1080/Pindone training to order 1080 products.

Before ordering 1080, landholders should:

- attend an LHPA 1080/Pindone baiting course;
- advise the authority if they have a current certificate so this can be recorded against your property on the database; or
- attend a full training course and advise the authority when you have received your certificate.

Landholders should be aware that this new course doesn't replace the AQF training that is required for the purchase and use of other pesticides.

Landholders interested in attending should contact their local LHPA office.

Study shows long term vaccination is key to managing OJD

The Tablelands LHPA has had a long history of involvement in OJD research. We played a key role in getting the Gudair™ vaccine registered in NSW, which has enabled sheep producers to prevent the losses the disease was causing back in 2000.

Our original trials with Gudair™ were conducted in heavily infected local flocks and showed huge reductions in both sheep mortalities and shedding of the causative bacteria in dung. Importantly this resulted in less pasture contamination and a reduced risk of further infections.

These results supported the use of Gudair™ in the short term; however we needed to know how effective vaccination was after longer term use. In particular we wanted to know if producers could stop vaccinating after a period.

To investigate further, in collaboration with the University of Sydney, we have been actively

monitoring shedding in local flocks subject to a long term vaccination program.

The study found that although shedding continued to be reduced it was not eliminated after 6 years of vaccinating. Further, if vaccination was stopped it was likely that clinical disease would recur given enough time.

In contrast, some other trial work in South Australia has not been able to detect shedding in second generation vaccinates. In this study, all sheep were both vaccinated as lambs and the progeny of approved vaccinated sheep.

The Tablelands LHPA has been funded to continue monitoring our trial flocks as they become second generations to see if shedding can be eliminated. In the meantime the message is to keep vaccinating – it not only reduces losses from the disease and pasture contamination but also improves the sale value of your sheep and provides protection from outside risks.



Results of a recent sheep lice survey has helped to better determine the prevalence of lice across the district.

Lice survey helps put LHPA vets, rangers in the picture

The results of a recent sheep lice survey have better informed Tablelands LHPA to advise producers on lice control options across the district.

Tablelands LHPA undertook the survey during 2010 to better determine the prevalence of lice across the district.

Flocks with more than 50 sheep were selected at random and a total of 160 flocks were eventually inspected. Sheep were inspected visually, with Lice Detection Tests recently released by I&I NSW also carried out on about 30 sheep.

Lice was found on 17% of flocks with an overall estimated 27% of flocks infested.