

Lachlan landholder newsletter

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Chairman's message

The spring/summer plague locust campaign was an excellent example of the benefits of the LHPA's regional structure being seen in the Lachlan district. This season, our rangers were able to act on over 1000 reports of locust activity from landholders without the need for any outside staff participation. Being able to draw on a wider pool of experienced rangers and field assistants across the Condobolin, Forbes and Young areas means resources can be best directed where they are needed.

Landholders from the Lachlan LHPA are to be commended on their willingness to report locust hatchings and cooperate positively with our staff during

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Ranger Thomas Hamilton undertaking stock inspections at Cowra saleyards.

Be biosecurity aware before restocking, say LHPA vets

Lachlan LHPA vets are reminding producers to manage biosecurity risks when buying replacement stock following improved conditions.

Producers are urged to start planning to reduce the risk of diseases or health issues being introduced.

When sheep are being introduced the National Sheep Health Statement (NSHS) is a legal requirement that also provides valuable information to help reduce the risk of introducing unwanted problems. It contains information on Ovine Johne's disease risk, Ovine Brucellosis status, lice treatments and history, virulent footrot status and vaccination and drench history.

The National Vendor Declaration (NVD) provides information necessary for NLIS records, chemical residues and scabby mouth vaccination.

Cattle producers buying in stock should consider the risk of Johne's disease. Some parts of NSW are still a control zone so the risk is higher and dairy cattle generally are considered to be higher risk.

Producers can use the National Johne's Disease Health Statement to assess this risk.

Reproductive diseases such as Bovine Pestivirus, and Leptospirosis are controlled by vaccination so getting the vaccination history is useful. When considering buying cattle from coastal areas, there are risks associated with certain blood borne parasites (e.g., Theileria, Tick fever, Ephemeral Fever). The NVD for cattle provides necessary NLIS information necessary for your database transfers and information on chemical residue status and whether the cattle are vendor-bred or traded.

Once you have made the decision to purchase, it is still wise to isolate introduced stock for two to three months if possible to monitor them. This small step may be the difference between a big health problem for your farm or an isolated incident that can easily be controlled.

For more information on managing biosecurity risks contact one of the Lachlan LHPA district vets.

Contact us

Forbes (district main office)

46 Sherriff Street (PO Box 897)
Forbes NSW 2871
Ph 02 6852 1688 Fax 02 6852 4065

District vets

Nic Cronin 0427 453 643
Belinda Edmonstone 0428 521 699

Rangers

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Bradley Hazell 0428 521 677
Kim Rogers 0428 521 611
Kevin Smith 0428 521 656
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District vets

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Rangers

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Barry Maybury 0428 953 887
Kristy Saul 0458 717 922

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District vets

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Directors

Chris Sweeney (Chairman)
0414 762 775
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Alan McGufficke 0428 951 106
Gail Moxey 0402 277 160
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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



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

EXAMPLE

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.

Rangers get the jump on predicted rabbit increase



Lachlan LHPA rangers are taking a strategic approach to rabbit control amid reports that numbers are on the increase.

Over the next six months rangers will undertake a significant number of inspections across the district.

The inspections will give us an accurate picture of the rabbit prevalence and allow for future planning of the resources needed to ensure the rabbit population is under control.

Rangers will contact landholders to arrange for inspections to be completed.

Landholders requiring assistance with a rabbit problem should contact their nearest Lachlan LHPA office and speak to one of our rangers.

LHPA vets target emerging cattle disease

In recent months, vets in the Lachlan LHPA have diagnosed a number of Theileriosis cases – a cattle disease which was considered to be uncommon for inland areas.

The disease is caused by protozoa called Theileria, which inhabit red blood cells. The animals' immune system recognises these parasitised red blood cells as foreign to the body and destroys them. This causes varying degrees of anaemia and other complications in particular abortions in late pregnant cows, and potentially death.

The protozoon has been recognised for many years in Northern NSW coastal areas and Queensland.

Ticks are responsible for transmission and therefore the disease has not been seen in this part of the State until recently. For instance, in the last few months Theileriosis has been diagnosed in three cattle herds around Young, one herd at Condobolin and one at Forbes. There have been at least another five herds diagnosed further south as far as the Victorian border. In some of these herds there have been significant losses.

On the whole treatment with registered products has been unrewarding. Most cases appear to be linked with the introduction of cattle from the coast. However coastal cattle have been brought

into this region for many years.

Several theories have been proposed to explain why this disease has emerged in the Lachlan district, including that it is transmitted by means other than ticks, that ticks are now able to 'over winter' in this area as winters are milder and that the strain of Theileria has become more virulent.

The Lachlan vets will continue work on understanding this disease so we can develop strategies to mitigate it. This disease also highlights the importance of animal health surveillance as diseases affecting our livestock industries continue to emerge and impact these industries.

Chairman's message

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spring and summer. I ask you to remain vigilant moving into autumn.

The Lachlan LHPA continues to make good progress following the 2009 reforms. A challenge for the board of directors has been to bring about consistency in the rating bases of the former RLPB districts, some of which varied significantly. In the former Condobolin district, for example, smaller holdings may see an increase in 2011 of up to \$10 in rates, properties between 100 and 3000 hectares may see an increase of up to \$30 and those greater than 3000 hectares may see an increase of up to \$80. We are currently working towards achieving consistency across the entire district while remaining mindful of what conditions and problems landholders have experienced

over the past 10 years, prior to the December rainfall.

The Lachlan LHPA has invested heavily in the Condobolin area over the past 18 months. We now have a fulltime district veterinarian, and have employed an additional ranger to ensure we can provide the services landholders expect. We have also purchased a block of land in Condobolin's new industrial estate for a depot and storage facility for plant and equipment.

Directors will continue to make the long term financial viability of the authority a priority, being mindful that the services we provide benefit not only our ratepayers but the wider community.

If people are experiencing difficulties in paying their rates they are encouraged to contact the general manager to make suitable arrangements.

We look forward to a positive year in 2011.

Chris Sweeney, Chairman

Be vigilant for Barber's Pole Worm this autumn

Heavy rain combined with the warm weather has provided ideal conditions for Barber's Pole Worm (*Haemonchus*) this autumn.

Unlike other worms, Barber's Pole Worm problem can have an insidious onset and major production losses may occur before producers are aware of the problem. In some cases deaths may be the first and only sign that Barber's Pole Worm is an issue. Other signs include lethargy and lying down when mustered, swelling under the jaw (bottle jaw), and the gums and inside of the eyelid becoming pale.

Producers should monitor their flock regularly for the signs listed above. Running the mob round on a bike can be a good way of checking for lethargic sheep but be aware that similar symptoms will be seen with other diseases

causing blood loss and anaemia. It is a good idea to perform regular Worm Tests. A *Haemonchus* dipstick test is also available which measures the amount of blood in sheep manure to assess the presence of Barber's Pole Worm. This test needs to be conducted regularly to determine 'normal' levels and accurately assess any rises in the amount of blood present.

Many drenches on the market are effective against this worm. However, only drenches containing the active ingredients closantel or moxidectin have sustained activity against Barber's Pole Worm, which is desirable when conditions favouring the worm are predicted to persist. There is also a new drench class, the orange class – monepantel, which will be active against Barber's Pole Worm and other scour worms.

Lachlan LHPA assists flood affected landholders

Rangers and vets from the Lachlan Livestock Health and Pest Authority were at the forefront in managing the local flood response for livestock related issues during the December floods, working closely with the SES and Industry and Investment NSW.

The rain across NSW wreaked havoc on many local landholders in the Lachlan LHPA area, particularly those situated along the Lachlan and Boorowa rivers and Bland creek.

The LHPA coordinated fodder drops for livestock, assisted with movement of livestock onto dry land and participated in aerial surveillance to help identify existing and potential problems for livestock caught by rising waters, allowing for a more strategic approach on the ground.

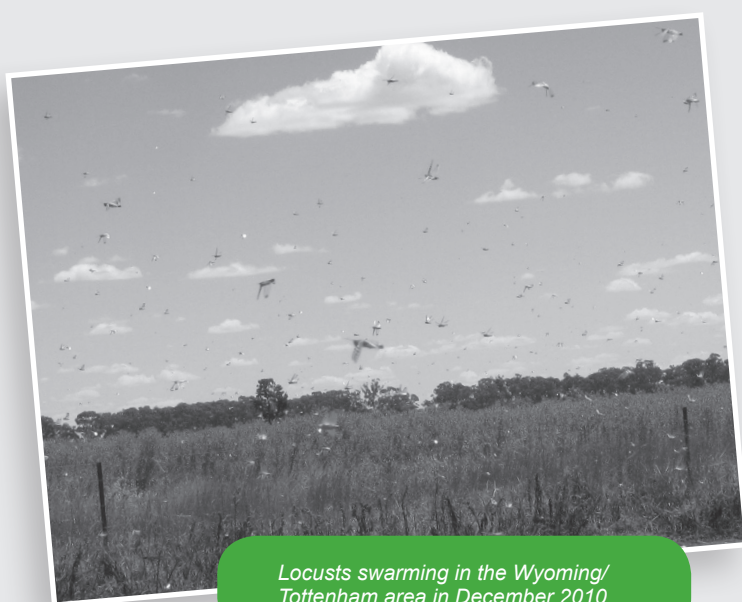
Popular 1080/Pindone course on again

During 2010 rangers from the Lachlan LHPA conducted new shorter training courses to allow landholders to use 1080 and Pindone baits on their properties. More than 50 landholders have attended the courses so far and more will be held this year.

The three hour course gives landholders a clear understanding of 1080 and Pindone use and their legal obligations. Landholders who participate receive a five year accreditation for the use of 1080 and Pindone products. Courses are around three hours and cost \$45 per participant.

With the fox baiting season approaching all landholders are reminded they must contact and make arrangements with LHPA rangers prior to any baits being issued. Office staff can no longer issue baits unless this has occurred.

We have found it necessary to increase the price of fox baits, the first increase in over 10 years. Baits will now be \$1.20 (GST inclusive) up from \$1.10.



Locusts swarming in the Wyoming/Tottenham area in December 2010.

Stay alert and report locust sightings to your local LHPA

The Lachlan LHPA received 1048 locust reports up to the end of December 2010, including reports of 11 low density swarms, two medium density swarms and three high density swarms. Second generation hatchings occurred in January.

Throughout the spring/summer locust season, rangers worked with landholders to ensure effective control of locusts, which resulted in minimal damage to crops and pastures in the authority.

The Lachlan LHPA would like to thank landholders for their vigilance in the control of locusts to date.

We encourage you to remain alert and to report locust activity so we can minimise the impact in the autumn.