



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted: 28 June 2023

TRIM 214005.2023



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

DIRECTORATE: Operations

BUSINESS UNIT: City Environment

1. PURPOSE/ OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework for the effective management of priority pest species within the Liverpool Local Government Area (LGA) in a manner that minimises potential harm to human health and the environment. The Policy will be supported by an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategy and Pest Management Plans for specific priority pests.

The objective of this Policy is to set an IPM framework that aims to:

- Manage pests in a manner that is consistent with legislative requirements and regional plans;
- Adopt a strategic approach to pest management to prevent pest populations becoming established;
- Adopt pest control techniques that minimise potential harm to human health and the environment; and
- Ensure that pest control measures are efficient, effective and appropriately target species that are of the greatest risk to the community, environment and economy.

2. DEFINITIONS

DPI - Department of Primary Industries. DPI is responsible for the legislative and policy framework for biosecurity matters within NSW and works with stakeholders to manage and mitigate pests.

IPM - Integrated Pest Management. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations defines IPM as *“the careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimise risks to human health and the environment”*.

LLS - Local Land Services. LLS is responsible for delivering regional weed management plans and assists with education and community engagement initiatives.

Pest (as defined under section 15 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*) - A plant or animal (other than a human) that has an adverse effect on, or is suspected of having an adverse effect on, the environment, the economy or the community because it has the potential to:

- out-compete other organisms for resources, including food, water, nutrients, habitat and sunlight;
- prey or feed on other organisms;

- transmit disease to other organisms;
- cause harm to other organisms through its toxicity;
- otherwise reduce the productivity of agricultural systems or the value of agricultural products;
- damage infrastructure;
- reduce the amenity or aesthetic value of premises;
- harm or reduce biodiversity; or
- do any other thing, or have any other effect, prescribed by the regulations.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

3.1. *Background*

This Policy provides the broad framework and principles for IPM within Liverpool LGA. It will be supported by an IPM Strategy (to be developed), which will expand upon this Policy and provide details on priority species and actions. Where required, Pest Management Plans will then be developed to target specific priority pests that warrant detailed planning and action delivery.

3.2. *Standard Pest Management Practices*

Control measures that prevent or minimise the impacts caused by pests are generally the most effective. Measures that aim for pest eradication are undertaken when feasible, such as for highly localised incursions.

If not implemented in a strategic manner, pest control can be resource intensive, harmful, and of limited success. Without the appropriate planning, monitoring and coordination, pest management measures can result in negligible impact on the pest and can cause harm to off-target entities and the environment.

Control measures that rely heavily on chemical pesticides (including herbicides) can pose a risk to humans, beneficial species and the environment if incorrectly used. Pesticide use can also contribute to the development of pesticide resistance in some target species, limiting the long-term effectiveness of this treatment.

3.3. *Integrated Pest Management*

IPM recognises the importance of minimising control measures that may be environmentally harmful, and prioritising alternative measures to prevent and control pests. These measures include, but are not limited to:

- biological control such as predators, parasites or pathogens;
- physical measures such as barriers, traps or removal;
- environmental measures to make conditions less favourable for the pest;
- regulatory measures to prevent entry or spread of pests; and
- chemical measures that are less toxic.

Stakeholder education and engagement are also important aspects that can help prevent pest outbreaks and facilitate early intervention measures.

The benefits of IPM include reduced:

- health risks;
- chemical contamination risks;
- public concern about potential harm to humans or the environment; and
- pesticide resistance risks.

IPM can also have the additional benefit of offering the best value for money for control programs.

The enhanced pest management approach outlined within this Policy systematically prioritises target pest species via an IPM Strategy. The Strategy will also identify measures that aim to prevent outbreaks of pests and to minimise potential harm associated with control techniques.

Pest Management Plans, which prescribe detailed actions for a single species or for a group of similar species, will be developed when warranted. The development of Pest Management Plans will be progressive, with species that pose the greatest risk to the environment, community or economy being prioritised.

3.4. Applicability

This Policy primarily applies to the management of priority pests on land under the care, control or management of Council.

Community engagement and participation will also be encouraged to maximise the likelihood of success at a landscape scale. Inspections will also be undertaken on private land for high-risk pests in accordance with Council's responsibilities under the *Biosecurity Act*. Council also fulfils a health-related regulatory role on private land, which at times can involve pest species.

For pests that are not considered a priority for control measures, Council will work collaboratively with the community and key agencies to assist where practicable.

3.5. Responsibilities and Stakeholders

Pest control is a shared responsibility for government, industry and the community. Council will work collaboratively with NSW DPI, LLS, NSW Health, Regional Weed Committees and the community.

Pest management responsibilities are distributed across multiple departments of Council, as listed below:

- City Presentation has an operational responsibility for pest management within land under the care, control or management of Council, focusing on species that pose a risk to the environment and the community. City Presentation is also

responsible for implementing and enforcing compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*;

- Economy and Growth (Community Standards) has a regulatory function investigating pest related complaints on private property that pose a risk to human health during routine inspections of regulated premises;
- City Environment provides strategic support for the planning phase of pest management and will lead the development of the IPM Strategy;
- Subsequent Pest Management Plans that respond to a specific pest or local outbreak will be developed by the section of Council tasked with the pest control action, which will depend on the primary risks of the target pest (such as biosecurity, health or environment); and
- Communications assists with the distribution of information on pests and control measures to the community.

4. RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992 (Commonwealth)

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Commonwealth)

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)

Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW)

Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)

Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 (NSW)

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW)

Pesticides Act 1999 (NSW)

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW)

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW)

RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURE REFERENCES

Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan 2018-2023

Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022

Liverpool City Council Animal Management Policy

Liverpool City Council Environment Restoration Plan

Liverpool City Council Overgrown Vegetation Enforcement Policy

Liverpool City Council Pesticide Use Notification Plan for Outdoor Public Places

Liverpool City Council Work Health and Safety Policy

Model codes of practice and standard operating procedures for the humane capture, handling or destruction of feral animals in Australia

National Threat Abatement Plans (various species)

NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013 -2021

NSW Invasive Species Plan 2018-2021

Standard for Weed Management Capacity in NSW.

Weeds and the Biosecurity Act: A handbook for local councils and councillors in NSW

AUTHORISED BY

Council Resolution

EFFECTIVE FROM

28/6/2023

REVIEW DATE

The policy will be reviewed every two years.

VERSIONS

Version	Amended by	Changes made	Date	TRIM Number
1	Not applicable	New policy	28/6/2023	214005.2023

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH

City Presentation

City Economy and Growth (Community Standards)

City Corporate (Governance)

Environment Advisory Committee

Companion Animals Advisory Committee

The policy was placed on public exhibition in June 2022 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

ATTACHMENTS

Integrated Pest Management Strategy