



# 2021-2022 Floods

The impact on animals and the response

# Who is responsible for domestic animals in floods?

**Rescue** is defined by the State Emergency & Rescue Management (SERM) Act (1989) as the “***safe removal of persons or domestic animals from actual or threatened danger of physical harm***”.

The State Rescue Policy (2021) further defines a domestic animal as an “*animal that has been domesticated by humans so as to live and breed in a tame condition and depend on humankind for survival*”.

Who is responsible for domestic animals in floods?

**NSW SES is the legislated combat agency for flood operations and flood rescue**, as defined in the SERM Act, State Emergency Service Act 1989, NSW State Emergency Management Plan (2018), NSW State Flood Plan (2018) and the State Rescue Policy (2018)

# Who is responsible for domestic animals in floods?

In NSW, we also have the **Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area** Supporting Plan

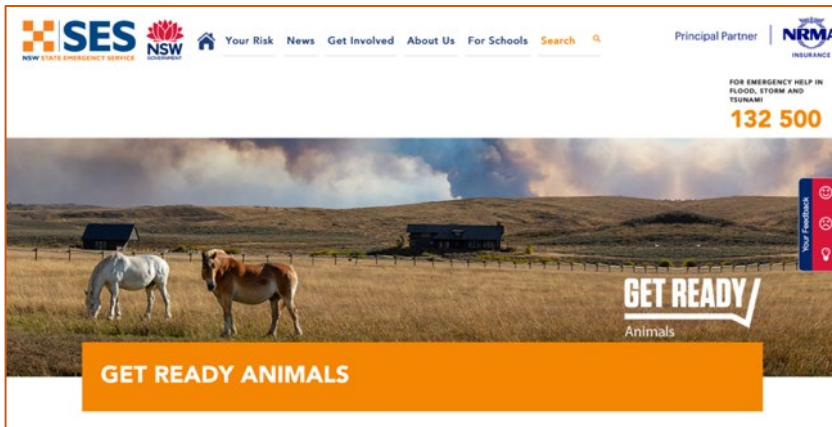
(supporting plan of New South Wales State Emergency Management Plan)

**NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Local Land Services (LLS)** support NSWSES in conducting emergency response operations; including support to primary producers, animal holding establishments and the community, including:

1. rescue, evacuation and emergency care for animals
2. assessment, humane destruction and disposal of affected animals.

# Community education

- [GET READY ANIMALS](#)
- Hawkesbury-Nepean Animal Ready Community





Department of  
Primary Industries

# Prepare yourself for evacuations of livestock and animals.

## Know where and how they will go.

For the latest rainfall and river level information see  
[www.bom.gov.au/nsw/flood](http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/flood)

For emergency assistance call the SES on 132 500

For life threatening emergencies, call 000 immediately

# Animal safe places



# FLOOD AFFECTED LANDHOLDERS

If you require assistance  
with stock or animal-  
welfare issues contact the  
Agricultural and Animal  
Services Hotline

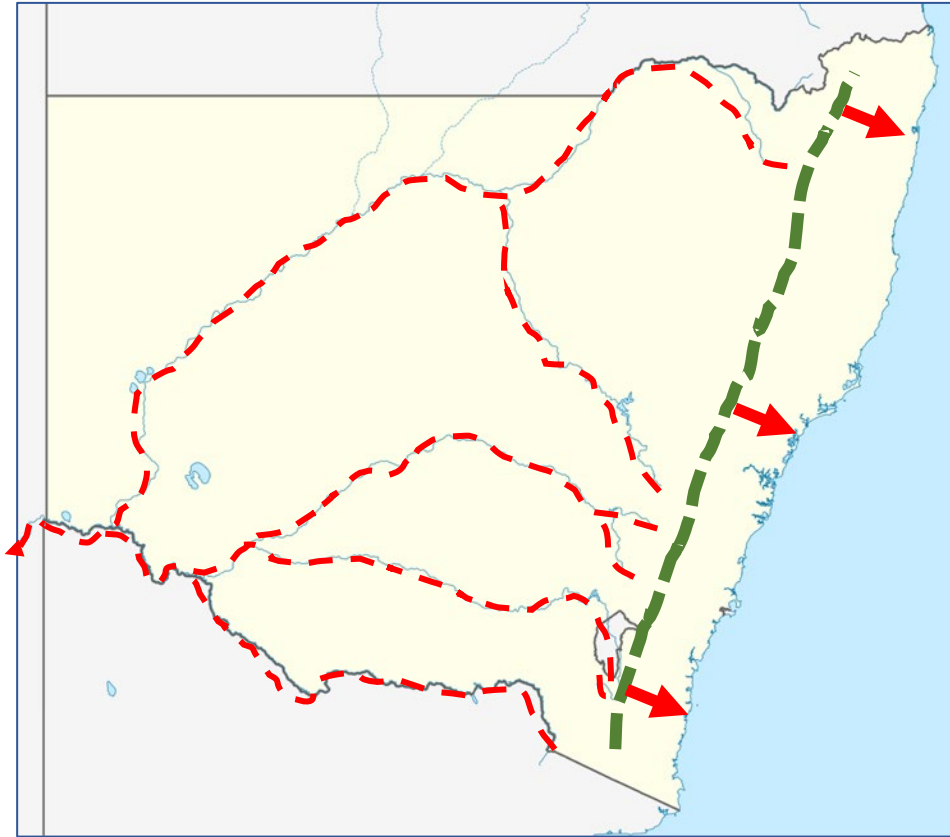


# 1800 814 647





# Types of floods



**Coastal 'rapid onset' flooding**

Flash flooding

**Inland 'slow' flooding**

# 2019-2020 bushfire season



# March 2021 Hawkesbury Flood

**36%** of all the flood rescues in the **Hawkesbury Area** (North-west of Sydney) were to relocate or rescue (large) animals from flood water.



*After nearly 30 years since our last flood event, many people just didn't believe it would get that high"*

# 'It was like a tidal wave'

Eugowra Flood – November 2022



# Warnings now include horses and livestock



**“Horses and livestock should be relocated to higher ground”**

# Rescue and relocation of large animals



Flood rescue operators were being tasked to **Flood Rescue 1 D** involving animals

# Rescue and relocation of large animals



**20 x horses rescued at Miller's Forest (Hunter)**



**3 x miniature horses rescued from Miller's Forest (Hunter)**

# Rescue and relocation of large animals



Flood rescue operators are being tasked to **Flood Rescue 1 D** involving domesticated **camels**



# Rescue and relocation of animals



Flood rescue operators are being tasked to **Flood Rescue 1 D** involving domesticated **goats and kids**

# Rescue and relocation of animals



AASFA relocating sheep using a helicopter and crate

# Supporting animals in place

AASFA does provided emergency fodder, animal assessments or veterinary advice

SES supports AASFA with logistics to deliver this service



## Some important lessons...

*“Who coordinates and manages spontaneous animal rescue, care, welfare groups?”*



## Some important lessons...

*“If our emergency services don’t respond to requests to relocate or rescue animals from flood waters, the public will.”*



**March 2022 -members of the public on jet-skis rescuing cattle (Hawkesbury-Nepean)**



March 2022 - 13 x miniature horses, 2x regular (paint) horses, 2x female calves, and 1x pony relocated at West Coraki (Northern Rivers) by local vets and members of the public

## Some important lessons...



*“There is a shortage of large animal veterinarians in Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong”*

## Some important lessons...

*“Introduce portable fencing panels and rubber mats into the NSWSES Bowloader fleet [flat bottom punts with drop down ramp] ...and procedures to transport horses, cattle and sheep”*





Questions?