

NSW Farm Trespass Policy

PROTECTING OUR FARMS

The NSW Government is introducing new measures to better protect farms from unauthorised and unlawful trespass and surveillance. People that illegally enter farms present a major biosecurity risk to our \$12 billion primary industries sector.

Not only does trespassing on farms potentially spread devastating diseases, it disrupts vital business practices and can distress, injure or even kill animals, causing widespread production losses.

New and bolstered measures in NSW will crack down on farm trespass and minimise biosecurity risks caused by illegal entries. The NSW Government has been working alongside farmers and NSW Police to develop a comprehensive cross-agency policy including:

- » Strict penalties, under the new **NSW Biosecurity Act**, to support the prosecution of and significant criminal penalties for people who deliberately and knowingly create biosecurity risks.
- » A **community awareness campaign** to provide vital education to the public about the economic, biosecurity and animal welfare implications of on-farm trespassing, as well as raising awareness of lawful, necessary animal husbandry practices.
- » **Proactive and preventative security strategies** will be developed with industry to further improve the biosecurity regimes by deterring trespassers through owner-initiated surveillance cameras, signage and fencing.
- » **Compliance and enforcement operations**, run in conjunction with NSW Police, to target high risk farms and respond to intelligence.

- » Existing trespassing laws will be supported by **new prosecution guidelines**, to crack down on farm trespass, nuisance and surveillance offences.

The reckless behaviour of trespassers significantly threatens the welfare of animals and farming families.

NSW proudly maintains some of the strictest biosecurity measures in the world, which ensures safe, disease-free and highly sought-after produce. The State's enviable biosecurity status maintains access to lucrative domestic and international trade markets. It is essential this is protected.

Unauthorised entry onto a farm breaches strict biosecurity protocols and puts the welfare of animals at risk. The impacts of serious biosecurity breaches can be widespread and potentially devastating. For example, it's estimated an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Australia could cost more than \$50 billion over 10 years.

Unauthorised entry onto a pig farm creates a high risk of spreading disease – such as **Classical Swine Fever**.

For a 500-sow breeding herd, an initial outbreak could last more than 17 weeks resulting in more than \$100,000 in lost production.

Unauthorised entry onto an egg farm creates a high risk of spreading disease – such as **Avian Influenza**.

A recent Avian Influenza outbreak in NSW resulted in the destruction of 500,000 hens and four million eggs.

ILLEGAL TRESPASSING ON NSW FARMS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED