



# Livestock and bushfires

## Have a bushfire plan

It's important to have a plan of action for how you will keep your livestock safe during a bushfire. Starting to develop your bushfire plan could be as simple as having a conversation with your staff or household, making sure that everyone knows:

- ☐ what your triggers are for evacuation or moving livestock to safer areas (high fire risk days, emergency alerts)
- ☐ evacuation routes, planning for fire travelling in several possible directions
- ☐ where livestock can be agisted during a fire
- ☐ how you will protect animals if they are unable to be evacuated, such as moving animals to paddocks with no vegetation
- ☐ how you will maintain containment (fencing) and provision of food and water for your animals after the fire has passed
- ☐ your plan for working dogs and household pets.

## Prepare your property

- Ensure your property has access to large volumes of water in case of fire – mains supplied water is likely to be unavailable during a fire.
- Ensure your animals always have a water supply that will last them at least five days, even if you expect to return home that evening.

- Fit gates on internal fences to avoid moving stock along public roads.
- Install sprinkler systems for livestock housed within structures (e.g. poultry or pig sheds).
- purchase emergency fodder or food to last at least five days and store in a place safe from fire.

## Evacuate or move animals as early as possible

If you plan on evacuating large animals out of the area, early is best. Traffic congestion and access to routes for evacuating larger animals may become difficult if a fire develops.

## Identification

Ensure PIC, NLIS and insurance details are up to date and easily accessible (e.g. electronically on cloud, hard copies with your emergency kit). Update NLIS details as soon as reasonably practicable when moving livestock in an emergency.

**Remember:** Do not cut fences or leave external property gates open during a fire – this can pose a safety risk to people evacuating and emergency responders.



# Pause for your PAWE

Bushfires are stressful and making last minute decisions can be deadly. By writing down a **Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (PAWE)** and including it in your bushfire survival plan, you can help ensure you make the best possible decisions to protect the safety of your animals.

Ensure all members of your household/workplace are familiar with your bushfire plan at the start of each bushfire season.

## Survival plan for your animals' welfare in an emergency

### 1. Evacuating animals

Which animals will we evacuate?

---

---

---

How will we know when it's time for us to evacuate the animals? (high risk days, smell/see smoke, emergency alerts)

---

---

---

How will we transport all of the animals being evacuated?

---

---

---

Where can we take the animals? (e.g. agistment or boarding options)

---

---

---

What are the possible evacuation routes? (consider the fire moving in different directions)

---

---

---

### 2. Safer areas for animals

Which animals can't be evacuated?

---

---

---

How will we keep them safe on our property during the fire?

---

---

---

### What's our plan for after the fire?

How will we keep animals contained if fencing is destroyed, and provide food and water (in the case of burnt paddocks, destroyed sheds, mains water unavailable, contaminated dams)

---

---

---

### Emergency contacts

Regular vet \_\_\_\_\_

24hr emergency vet clinic \_\_\_\_\_

#### Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

ABN: 18 951 343 745