



STRAYING STOCK ON PUBLIC ROADS



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU LOCATE STRAYING STOCK ON A PUBLIC ROAD ?



If you are able to identify the owner of the stock, notify the owner who should recover the stock immediately



Due to biosecurity issues, do not move the livestock into a paddock without prior consent from the land owner



Report the straying stock to your local Council Ranger or Local Land Services

THE ROLE OF THE NSW POLICE FORCE

The presence of straying stock on public roads in rural areas poses a very significant risk for oncoming motorists, especially after dark.

The NSW Police Force has the responsibility to protect people from injury or death and property from damage, whether arising from criminal acts or in any other way.

If police are called to an incident of stock straying on a public road they will:

Assume immediate responsibility for taking practical and appropriate measures to warn oncoming traffic of the imminent danger of the straying stock on the roadway, pending handover of the site to the nearest local Impounding Authority.

Handover control of the site, as soon as it is safe to do so, to the nearest local Impounding Authority which has both the statutory authority and specialised training and equipment, to remove the straying stock from the roadway.



The most appropriate local Impounding Authority will be either:

Your Local Council, or
Your Local Land Services,

The most appropriate animal Biosecurity Authority (expert) will be:

Your Local Land Services, and
Your Department of Primary Industries.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY ?

If you are an owner of livestock you must reduce the risk of your stock straying from your property onto public land. You should:



Ensure your boundary fences are stock proof



Lock your boundary gates



Regularly maintain your fences and attend to repairs immediately



If your stock stray onto public land an authorised officer under the Impounding Act 1993 can seize your livestock. You may be issued with an infringement notice and required to reimburse the relevant authority for costs incurred to care for the impounded stock.

If your stock stray onto a public road and are a contributing factor in a motor vehicle accident, or worse, you may be charged with a criminal offence.