

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD POLICY

TITLE	Goats (Keeping of Domestic) Policy		
DATE ADOPTED	March 2002	AGENDA ITEM	27 ii March 2002
CURRENT VERSION	July 2015	AGENDA ITEM	CEO Approved
REVIEW	5 years	FILE REFERENCE	CO0016
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION	<i>Lord Howe Island Act 1953 (NSW)</i> <i>Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014 (NSW)</i> <i>Veterinary Surgeons Act 1986</i> <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1996</i> <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>		
ASSOCIATED POLICIES	Lord Howe Island Biodiversity Management Plan 2007 Lord Howe Island Board Biosecurity Strategy 2015		

1 Introduction

This document sets out specific policies and procedures for the keeping of domestic goats on Lord Howe Island (LHI). The policy has been prepared in accordance with the *Lord Howe Island Act 1953* (the Act) and the *Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014* (LHI Regulation).

Competition and land degradation by Feral Goats is listed as a Key Threatening Process under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1996* (TSC Act), and the *Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). A significant investment has been made by the Lord Howe Island Board (LHIB) to control goats on the island. Goat browsing on vegetation, particularly in the southern mountains, was a cause for concern as early as the late 1800s and prompted an eradication program in the 1990s.

As of July 2015, the number of domestic goats is now restricted to a seven animals (one de-sexed male, six females) held by two leaseholders. All animals are kept as pets and are not used for milk or meat production. Three wild nanny goats remain in the southern mountains, which are nearing their life expectancy.

1.1 Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Minimise the potential for re-establishment of a goat population in the wild.
- Allow those who owned and kept goats on the Island as at 8 September 1999 to continue to keep those goats.
- Prevent any further introduction of goats to the Island.
- Prevent the breeding of goats on the Island.
- Eventually phase out the keeping of domestic goats on the Island through natural attrition.

2 Permit Arrangements

No further applications to keep goats will be accepted by the LHIB after March 2011.

Approval to keep goats will only be granted to Island residents who own a lease and who owned goats as at 8 September 1999.

A licence will be issued to keep goats under Clause 51 (Duration of Licences) of the LHI Regulation which states:

- “Except during any period of suspension, a licence continues to be in force until such time as it is cancelled or, in the case of a licence that is granted for a specific term, when that term expires”.

The maximum term of a licence to keep goats will be five years.

A permit administration fee equivalent to the LHIB’s animal registration fee will apply for each goat. The LHIB may vary the fee from time to time.

Any breach of the conditions of approval to keep goats or the LHI Regulation as they relate to the keeping of goats will result in immediate withdrawal of approval to keep goats.

3 Purposes for the Keeping of Goats

Approval may only be granted to keep goats as pets.

Any approval granted to keep goats for milk and/or meat production on the Island for that purpose as issued by the LHIB after 8 September 1999 will not be renewed. No additional or future applications to keep goats for milk and/or meat production will be considered by the LHIB.

4 Locations where Goats may be Kept

Goats must be kept on the lease specified on the permit and in such a site within the lease so as not to cause annoyance or inconvenience to neighbouring leaseholders.

No approval will be granted for the keeping of goats on leases south of Portion 114 (S Fenton).

Not more than six adult goats (more than six months old) shall be kept at any one time on any one lease or by any one owner.

5 Fencing Requirements

Goats shall be kept in enclosures or on tethers. Goat owners are responsible for ensuring that goats are kept within specified enclosures or are securely tethered.

Where goats are kept in enclosures the fencing requirements will be as follows:

- Electric fence system - shall consist of not less than four strands of pulsed wire.

6 Importation of Goats

No approval will be granted to import a goat onto the Island or to import any other material which will enable the breeding of goats on the Island.

7 Identification of Goats and Record Keeping

All goats shall be ear tagged and ear tattooed.

Records of tag numbers, tattoo codes and the sex of each goat shall be provided to the LHIB by the permit holder.

8 Transfer of Disposal of Goats

No goat, is to be transferred to another person or distributed on the Island without the prior approval of the LHIB.

Goat owners are to advise the LHIB within seven days of any increase or decrease in the number of goats held.

9 Escape of Goats

Should a goat escape, the owner must notify the LHIB immediately and make every effort to recover the animal.

If the LHIB is required to assist or undertake recovery of a goat the owner shall be charged with the full recovery costs. The decision to assist or undertake the recovery, and the extent of that assistance or effort, will be at the discretion of the LHIB dependent on the prevailing circumstances, including the potential for the animal to escape from the settlement area.