

What is happening?

High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) was recently detected in commercial egg and meat poultry farms in the Greater Sydney Basin.

Avian influenza is a low risk to the public as it rarely affects humans.

Eggs and poultry meat remain safe to eat provided they are handled and cooked according to safe food handling practices.

The impacted properties are under quarantine, and NSW DPI is working closely with the impacted properties using well-established national response arrangements to manage the outbreak.

Importantly the HPAI detected in NSW is not the same as the strain that is causing concern globally, and is not part of the H5N1 strain.

The NSW strain is also not connected to the Victorian outbreak.

HPAI has been eradicated from NSW three times before, the most recent being in Young in 2013.



Avian Influenza

Requirements for all poultry and captive bird keepers

- ✓ Birds should be kept housed, if possible, during this period of risk.
- ✓ If birds cannot be housed, netting should be used to prevent contact between your birds and other free roaming birds.
- ✓ Inspect outdoor areas, removing wild bird contaminants like faeces, feathers and wild bird carcasses.
- ✓ Provide feed and water undercover to prevent wild bird access.
- ✓ Keep ducks and geese separate from other poultry.
- ✓ Store bedding under cover to reduce the risk of contamination.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect footwear before and after tending to your birds.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect equipment and vehicles to avoid disease spread between premises.
- ✓ Minimise the movement of people, vehicles and equipment to and from bird areas and keep records of movements.
- ✓ Keep records of poultry, captive bird and egg movements.
- ✓ Implement effective pest control.



EMERGENCY ANIMAL
DISEASE HOTLINE
1800 675 888

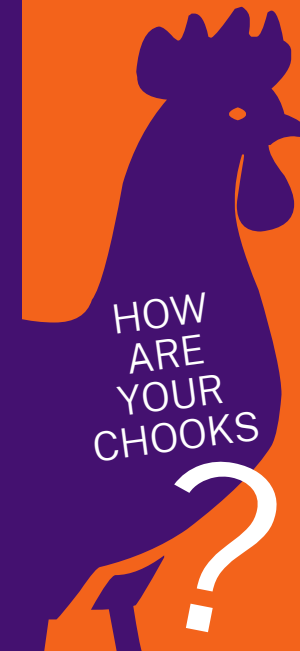
dpi.nsw.gov.au/ai

Avian Influenza

(AI) is a serious, highly contagious disease of birds. It is notifiable in Australia, meaning any suspected cases need to be reported immediately.

Stay alert and report any sick or dead poultry or wild birds

Know the signs:



- ✓ Birds with swelling around the head and neck
- Birds with nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing or difficulty breathing
- ! Purple discolouration of wattles, combs and legs

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What can you do?

There are things we can all do to help, particularly if you have birds or backyard chickens.

Regardless of whether you are a commercial producer, or you only keep a few chickens in your backyard, you need biosecurity practices in place to protect your birds from disease:

- Restrict contact between your birds and wild birds. Contact with wild birds can be minimised by making the free-range environment less attractive to them, for example, place feeders and water sources inside sheds, rather than in the open where wild birds will have easier access. Using fencing or netting for free-ranging birds, are other options.
- Keep poultry sheds, yards and aviaries clean, including equipment. Clean thoroughly with detergent before applying a disinfectant.
- Provide clean water. Keep your birds away from potentially contaminated water sources such as streams, dams, ponds and puddles.
- Change nesting materials on a regular basis.
- Quarantine new birds before introducing them to the resident flock.

- Limit visitors to your birds. Check if essential visitors have recently visited other premises where poultry are kept.
- If you attend bird shows, don't allow your birds to mix directly with others.
- Always wash your hands before and after handling birds and eggs.
- Poultry farmers should change into clean clothing and footwear before entering poultry houses or enclosures, to stop the potential transfer of disease-causing agents from outside.
- Provide chlorinated domestic water as the only water source for poultry and captive birds

What is being done?

NSW DPI has implemented an emergency order to help manage the current case of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

The requirements include:

- Implementation of an AI restricted emergency zone within a two kilometre radius around the most recent NSW detection, with a surrounding control emergency zone buffer.
- Movement restrictions of all avian influenza susceptible birds into and out of the restricted and control emergency zones.

- All avian influenza susceptible birds within the control and restricted emergency zones to be housed to prevent contact with wild birds.

The emergency order will remain in place for a period of six months.

The full requirements of the emergency order are available on the Department of Primary Industries website.

If you keep chickens, you are urged to visit the Department of Primary Industries website to check whether you are impacted by an emergency zone, or if any restrictions apply to you.

If you see unusual signs of illness or death in your poultry or wild birds, immediately call your veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Hotline **1800 675 888**.



dpi.nsw.gov.au/ai

Scan the QR code for more information or to check if you're in an emergency zone

