

# Environmental Health

## Keeping Poultry

### Conditions for keeping poultry

Keeping poultry can have a number of benefits - they supply fresh eggs, can eat your food scraps and supply you with natural fertiliser. However, if not properly managed they can be a nuisance to neighbours: causing noise and odour issues and possibly carrying diseases.

Poultry are permitted to be kept on residential premises in the Hawkesbury City Council area, provided that the following conditions, from the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, are complied with:

- Poultry must be kept under such conditions that they do not create a nuisance and are not dangerous or injurious to health.
- Poultry yards must at all times be kept clean and free from offensive odours.

### Suitable breeds and numbers

Purchase poultry from a reputable hatchery and ask advise on the best breed for your situation.

Council recommends that residents consider property size and potential impacts on neighbours, when deciding on whether to keep poultry in suburban areas and the number of poultry to be kept.

Council does not recommend the keeping of roosters, as they are likely to produce offensive noise.

### Construction and location of poultry enclosures

- The poultry shed should be well constructed and well-ventilated.
- Poultry yards should be enclosed in order to prevent the escape of poultry.
- It is recommended that poultry sheds are located at least one metre from the boundary.
- One shed may be constructed without development consent, if it meets the following requirements:
  - Maximum floor area of 16m<sup>2</sup>;
  - Maximum height of 2.1m above ground level;
  - Located a minimum of 600mm off the property boundary;
  - Located in the rear yard, in an area that is not prominent or highly visible;
  - Constructed to provide adequate disposal of stormwater that is not directed to adjoining properties;
  - Located in an area that will not impede floodways or overland flow paths;
  - Not constructed of highly flammable materials if located on land shown as high bushfire hazard on a map held by the Council; and
  - Installed to manufacturer's specifications or engineering design.

## Poultry house locations

The floors of poultry houses should be paved with concrete or mineral asphalt underneath the roosts or perches, unless the poultry house is either:

- Not located within 15.2 metres of a dwelling, public hall or school; or
- Situated on clean sand.

Fowls should not be kept within 4.5 metres of a dwelling, public hall, school, or premises used for the manufacture, preparation, sale or storage of food. Other poultry e.g. ducks, geese etc., should not be kept within 30 metres of a dwelling, public hall, school, or premises used for the manufacture, preparation or storage of food.

## Poultry care and maintenance of enclosures

Adequate feed and water must be provided to ensure the health of the poultry. The poultry shed should be kept clean and tidy and old litter removed regularly. It is recommended that poultry sheds be washed and sprayed with a disinfectant and insecticide at least once a year.

Regular inspection of birds for external parasites, such as lice and ticks is also recommended. If using insecticides ensure it is a safe product and follow the manufacturer's instruction. **Do not use** insecticides like DDT, BHC or dieldrin.

**For further information, please contact Council's Environmental Health Officers on (02) 4560 4444 during business hours.**



This document contains important information.  
If you do not understand it, contact the  
Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450.



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