

At this point there are varying things occurring.

To the best of our knowledge there are no restrictions in QLD. The government is asking people to look and report if anything changes; [Link](#)

There are two outbreaks in Canberra. The latest is in a backyard keepers chickens:

[Link https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8686327/backyard-chickens-in-latest-canberra-bird-flu-detection/](https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8686327/backyard-chickens-in-latest-canberra-bird-flu-detection/)

Other info: Last updated: 28 June 2024.

- **Victoria:** Meredith and Terang regions. Link to Vic Ag website. <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/.../avian-influenza-bird-flu>
- Note that SA does not currently permit any birds or eggs to come in from *any* part of Victoria at the moment.
- **NSW:** Restrictions of movement of all birds apply around emergency zones only. DPI website link: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/poultry-and-birds/health-disease/avian-influenza?>
- **ACT:** Belconnen region. Link to ACT website: <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/parks-conservation/plants-and-animals/biosecurity/biosecurity-alerts/avian-influenza>

Greater Sydney Local Land Services are holding an online info session this Wednesday 10th July at 7pm. [Link for more](#)

ACA reached out this week to Brendan Sharpe and he has sent the following tips:

With regards to avian influenza. I think it is important to have consistent and non-inflammatory messaging. Key points:

- Birds kept in enclosed aviaries and who's feed and water cannot be contaminated by wild birds are at low risk.
- Aviaries located in close vicinity to large commercial poultry farms (eg within several km) should take extra precautions in shielding aviaries from potential airborne viral contamination (relevant to all diseases at all times and not just avian influenza). Aviary design considerations and surrounding garden design may assist with this.
- Wild birds normally carry low pathogenicity avian influenza. In order to get 'bird flu'(high pathogenicity avian influenza) the virus being carried by wild birds needs to undergo a change in its genetic composition (ie it needs to mutate). History will tell us in Australia that this mutation has only ever occurred in large commercial flocks and the likely reason for this is the sheer number of birds kept in close proximity allowing for rapid cycling of the virus promoting mutation.
- Australia has a nationally agreed approach to eradication of 'bird flu' when we get it and have done so on all 8 occasions prior to the current outbreaks in 2024. The approach here is to:
 1. Contain the disease, by way of quarantine measures on infected premises and placing movement restrictions on zones around infected premises (Restricted and Control Emergency Zones)
 2. Conduct surveillance to establish the extent of infection and demonstrate freedom of disease subsequent to eradication efforts.
 3. Stamp the infection out by way of euthanising infected commercial flocks and decontaminating the premises.
- The responses in the impacted states are being managed in accordance with this national policy so no reason to panic.

-Common sense biosecurity should always apply, including:

- Quarantine introduced birds for minimum of 14 days
- Only source new stock from reputable sources
- Only offer chlorinated (eg domestic) water to birds
- Ensure hygiene of visitors to bird rooms/aviaries
- Regularly sanitise cages and equipment

-Minimise ability for contact between wild and domestic birds and ensure feed and water cannot be contaminated by wild birds.

ACA will be creating a post about this on our Facebook Page - and it would probably help if you shared Brendan's advice for those not following us on Facebook.

Hope that helps.

Cheers

Michael



*"Animal welfare by the experts—those who keep,
care for and breed animals"*

Michael Donnelly
President

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