

Poultry Guidelines

Many residents like to keep poultry as a backyard hobby and to provide fresh eggs for their family. While this activity can be rewarding it is important to know that as a resident living in the Light Regional Council area, guidelines exist on the keeping of poultry to prevent offensive conditions such as noise, odours, rodent infestation and risks to public health from occurring. Should such conditions be proven, Council may undertake enforcement action under the Public Health Act 2011 or Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016

For the purpose of the guidelines:

'Poultry' means any fowls, geese, turkeys or ducks

'Building' means any dwelling, office, hotel, boarding house, hospital, club, warehouse, factory, or any other building (including a public building) which is used wholly or principally for human habitation or occupation.

The Keeping of Chickens

Council recommends that no more than 4-10 chickens are kept in an urban setting, dependant on property size; roosters are not recommended to be kept due to the possibility of noise complaints from crowing.

Poultry Enclosure

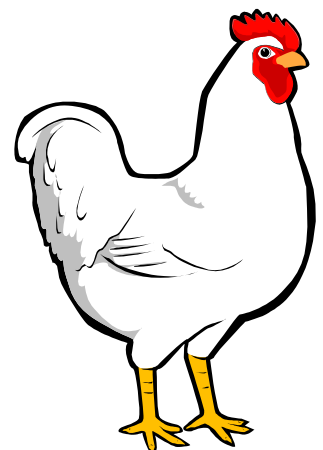
It is recommended that poultry be kept in an enclosure, which is:

- At the rear of the property.
- A distance that is as far as practicable from any **building**.
- A distance of at least 1m from any boundary fence, hedge or wall.
- Of an area of not less than 1m² for each bird confined in such place or enclosure.
- Complete with a shelter constructed of a suitable material, with a rainproof roof and with an area of not less than 0.3m² for each bird. Depending on the coupe size development approval may be required. Please check with Council if unsure.
- It is recommended to avoid keeping roosters due to possible noise complaints.

Food

Containers used to store poultry food should be vermin proof.

- Food should be served to poultry in containers adequate for the purposes of feeding.
- Food that is scattered outside of feed containers must only be done so in amounts that can be immediately consumed by the poultry.



Sanitation Requirements

All poultry enclosures must be kept and maintained in a clean condition, free of odour and vermin attraction at all times.

- Dead birds are to be disposed of immediately by burial or bagging and placement in the weekly garbage bin.
- Excess manure should be stored in a fly proof container and the contents disposed of weekly so as to prevent offensive odours and the breeding of flies.
- Replace soiled and wet litter frequently.

Nuisance Poultry

It is important to remember that poultry should be kept in such a location, structure and condition that they will not cause a nuisance or potential risk to health in any way. Poultry may be considered a nuisance and risk to health by reason of:

- the noise made by the bird(s).
- the dust or odour generated by the presence of the bird(s).
- the attraction of flies, rats, mice, or other vermin.
- the nature and location of housing facilities for the bird(s).
- the bird(s) not being adequately contained on the land.
- droppings emanating from the bird(s); or
- for any other justifiable reason.

Public Health Conditions

Property owners are advised that potential noise and odour issues/complaints resulting from the keeping of poultry may be investigated under the. *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*.

Any complaint will be investigated in a fair manner and must be proven.

This advice is a guideline only. For any further advice, please contact Council's Environmental Health Officer or Community Inspector to discuss your individual requirements for your property

For further information please contact Council
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