

Keeping of Fowl and Poultry

Fact sheet

The keeping of poultry as pets can reduce vegetable food waste, reward you with eggs and fertilise your garden with manure.

Poultry must not impact on neighbours by creating a nuisance, offensive odour, unhealthy conditions or effect the amenity of the neighbourhood.

What are the legal requirements?

To keep poultry as exempt development (no approvals required) compliance has to be demonstrated with [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Exempt and Complying Development Codes\) \(SEPP\) 2008](#) and the [Local Government \(General\) Regulation 2021](#).

SEPP - Housing Fowl and Poultry

Subdivision 21, 2.42 of the [SEPP](#) specifies the development standards, including but not limited to, the following information:

- For development on **Residential Zone R1, R2, R3, R4 or RU5**, you are not permitted to house more than five (5) fowl or poultry and **not house any roosters**.
- For development on **Zone R5**, you are not permitted to house more than ten (10) fowl or poultry.
- Poultry or fowl houses must be located in the rear yard, not be higher than 3 metres above existing ground level and not have a floor area of more than 15 square metres.
- Only one (1) poultry or fowl house is permitted per lot.
- Poultry cannot be kept on heritage listed land, or land in a foreshore area.
- Roosters should not be kept in residential zonings. Council may instruct the removal of nuisance animals such as roosters.
- Link to Council map to check your zone [Check Zoning](#)



If you are on Rural Land (RU) - RU1, RU2, RU3, RU4 or RU5 zoned land, the following is applicable:

- Poultry and fowl houses must not be higher than 7 metres above existing ground level and not have a floor area of more than 50 square metres.

Local Government Regulations

The Local Government (General) Regulation also includes standards to help prevent poultry or fowl houses causing a nuisance or health risk.

- A poultry or fowl house must be located at least 3 metres from each lot boundary.
- If housing fowls only (including guineafowls); it must be at least 4.5 metres from a dwelling or similar building.
- If it houses other types of poultry (i.e., ducks, geese, turkeys); it must be kept at least 30 metres from a dwelling or similar building.
- Poultry and fowl yards must be appropriately enclosed to prevent the escape of poultry or fowl.
- The floors of poultry houses must be paved with concrete or mineral asphalt. This does not apply if the floor is situated on clean sand or more than 15.2m from a dwelling, public hall or school.

Maintenance and Care

Important points for maintaining clean and healthy conditions:

- Ensure all food is stored and sealed in vermin proof containers.
- Ensure adequate clean water and shelter is always available.
- Regularly clean out the housing or yard to ensure all waste is removed and disposed of appropriately.
- Do not wash waste products into adjoining properties, watercourses, or stormwater drains.
- Do not overfeed or leave food scraps lying around which will attract vermin or nuisance bird species.
- Ensure the land is adequately maintained; fence and enclosures are constructed to

exclude entry of vermin. For example, install vermin proof mesh under the floor of aviaries and poultry house.

In the case of intensive livestock agriculture, please refer to the [Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan 2014](#) or contact Council's [Environmental Services Team](#).

Contact Us

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1.1 Diagram of requirements for keeping of chickens in residential zones

