BIRD FLU AT HAYS INLET

Public safety factsheet: What to do if you see sick or dead wildlife

DO NOT TOUCH SICK OR DEAD WILDLIFE
Report it: 1800 675 888

Why this matters

H5N1 bird flu can cause severe illness and death in birds. Hays Inlet supports large numbers of waterbirds, migratory shorebirds and birds of prey. Birds often feed or roost close together, which can help disease spread through shared water, contaminated ground and contact with infected animals.

Local surveys in Hays Inlet have recorded **153 bird species**. Waterbirds such as ducks, swans, pelicans, cormorants, herons, egrets, spoonbills, gulls, terns and stilts are among the groups most susceptible. Birds of prey may also be exposed when they eat infected prey or carcasses.

See a sick or dead animal? Avoid, Record and Report

1. AVOID

Do not touch, collect or move the animal. Keep children and pets well away. Do not enter water or mud near the animal.

2. RECORD

From a safe distance, take a photo or video. Note the date, time, exact location, number and type of animals, and any unusual behaviour.

3. REPORT

Call the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline
1800 675 888

Stay safe around Hays Inlet

Warning signs in birds

- Poor balance, stumbling or difficulty flying
- Tremors, shaking or unusual neck positions
- Weakness, unresponsiveness or unusual behaviour
- Several sick or dead birds in the same area

Find out more at birdflu.gov.au or scan QR Code

For visitors and pet owners

- Keep dogs leashed and away from wildlife, feathers, droppings and carcasses.
- Keep children away from sick or dead animals.
- Do not feed or handle wild birds.
- Stay clear of large feeding or roosting groups, especially on tidal flats and sandbars.
- Follow any temporary closures, warning signs or directions from authorities.

For workers, researchers and volunteers

- Plan work to avoid areas where birds are feeding or roosting.
- Do not handle wildlife unless authorised, trained and properly equipped.
- Clean and disinfect footwear, tools, vehicles and equipment before entering and after leaving wetland areas.
- Do not move mud, water, feathers or organic material between sites.
- Brief all team members on the Avoid, Record and Report procedure.

Remember: Your safest and most useful action is to keep your distance, record what you can from a safe place, and report the sighting promptly. Do not attempt to rescue or dispose of the animal yourself.

Emergency Animal Disease Hotline

1800 675 888 — 24 hours

This factsheet summarises the results of the REF Environmental Hays Inlet Bird Survey and the potential impact of H5N1 via the Australian Government risk-assessment sources. Risk ratings are a guide, not a forecast of what will happen locally.