

Keeping Poultry

How many chickens or poultry can I keep

Alexandrina Council receives numerous calls a week enquiring about whether there is a limit on how many chickens, roosters or poultry that can be kept on one property, within our Council district.

Currently, there are no restrictions on the amount of birds allowed per property, instead, Council requires that any poultry kept on a property does not interfere with the peace and quality of life of residents in neighbouring properties.

Council will investigate any formal complaint in relation to poultry which is causing:-

- Nuisance Noise (particularly relevant to roosters)
- Excessive odour
- Attracting excessive rats, mice or insects

With the recent trends towards smaller housing blocks and subdivisions, there is greater potential for poultry keeping to cause these offences, particularly in built-up areas.

Nuisance noise complaints can be quite complex to resolve. Council requires the assistance of the complainant in order to undertake this process.

The first step is to contact Council and complete a formal complaint form. Council will then investigate the complaint and take the appropriate actions.

Council may request clean up work on the property, change of living conditions for the birds or a reasonable reduction in the amount of fowl on the property. Failure from the mediation process can result in expiations or an order being placed on the owner of the fowls.



Roosters

It is recommended that residential properties within townships refrain from keeping roosters.

You don't need a rooster in order to have a hen lay eggs, they just aren't fertile without a rooster.

Keeping a rooster within your chicken farm can protect your chickens from harmful predators, however it can also create nuisance noise for neighboring properties.

When considering purchasing a rooster, it is important to assess

- the reasons why you want a rooster
- the location of the housing in relation to neighboring properties and
- how you are going to keep the noise from the Rooster to a minimum.

Guidelines for keeping poultry

- All receptacles for the storage of any food for the feeding of poultry are to be vermin-proof, clean, sanitary and in good order.
- No such food should be outside of the receptacles unless for the purposes of immediate consumption.
- The area is to be free of rats and mice.
- Ensure that the noise from the birds does not cause a nuisance to any neighboring property.
- Use dry materials only, such as straw or wood shavings on the floor of the cage. Spread it to a depth of about 150mm.
- The shelter should be of solid construction with a solid impervious floor and situated at least 0.6 metres from any boundary of the property.

