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KEEPING POULTRY/FOWL

APRIL 2023
POLICY GUIDELINES

Keeping poultry in your backyard is legal in NSW, but there are still some regulations to keep in mind...



How many Poultry/Fowl can I keep in my backyard?

Under [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Exempt and Complying Development Codes\) 2008, part 2, subdivision 21](#) - there is a limit of no more than 10 chickens. (Large Lot Residential).

The chickens also must be maintained in accordance with the guidelines of that policy.

What should I consider when constructing or installing a chicken coop?

A fowl or poultry house can be constructed or installed as exempt development on land in either a residential or rural zone, but only if the development is:

- not constructed or installed on or in a heritage item or a draft heritage item, and
- not constructed or installed on land in a foreshore area, and
- not constructed on land that is a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* or declared critical habitat under Part 7A of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

When deciding to build a chicken coop, Council asks that consideration should be given to the impact on adjoining properties (ie noise, odour, waste, amenity).

NOTE: Council does not permit the keeping of roosters in residential areas except R5 Large Lot Residential.



The poultry yard must:

- be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, if applicable
- meet the relevant deemed-to-satisfy provisions of the Building Code of Australia, or if there are no such relevant provisions, must be structurally adequate
- not involve the removal or pruning of a tree or other vegetation that requires a permit, approval or development consent, unless the removal or pruning is carried out in accordance with the permit, approval or development consent
- be enclosed to prevent poultry from escaping
- at all times be kept clean and free from offensive odours
- be limited to a floor area of no greater than 15m square, for Residential or 50m square for Rural properties
- have a maximum height of 3m above ground for Residential and 7m for Rural properties
- be located in the rear yard (residential properties)
- be limited to one per property
- be a distance of 3m from any boundary
- be located at least 4.5m from any dwelling, public hall, school or premises used for the manufacture, preparation, sale or storage of food – if housing fowls (including guinea fowl)
- be located at least 30m from any dwelling, public hall, school or premises used for the manufacture, preparation or sale of food – if housing other types of poultry (other than Fowl)
- be constructed of low reflective, factory pre-coloured materials if it is located on land in a residential zone
- if it is located on bush fire prone land and is less than 10m from a dwelling, be constructed of non-combustible material
- be adequately drained
- be paved with concrete, mineral asphalt, or situated on clean sand underneath the roosts or perches
- for development on land in (Large Lot Residential), not house more than 10 fowl or poultry, and
- dispose of water run-off from the pen without causing a nuisance to adjoining property owners.

