

H5 Bird Flu – Industry Stakeholder Update

H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza (bird flu) latest information as at 24 June 2026

Current situation

Victorians are being urged to stay alert following confirmation of H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza (H5 bird flu) in wild birds in Western Australia and South Australia. At this stage, there is no evidence that the virus has spread beyond migratory birds, and it is too early to say whether H5 bird flu is established in Australian wildlife.

This is a significant development as it is the first time this strain of bird flu has been detected in Australia. It is a highly contagious strain that can cause serious disease in birds and some other wild animals.

There are currently no detections in Victoria and no evidence of any mass mortality in wildlife or spread to other animals in Western Australia. There has been no detection in poultry.

The current risk of bird flu to people in Australia is low. Bird flu is not a food safety risk for chicken meat and eggs if they are handled and cooked correctly.

As we have seen the global spread of the H5 bird flu virus, Victoria has been focusing on preparedness and is well-advanced in support of early detection, assessment and response. If you see something unusual, don't ignore it.

Victoria's response

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), as the lead agency, has established an Incident Management Team (IMT) to coordinate Victoria's preparedness and response.

The IMT is focused on:

- scenario planning
- communications and public awareness
- stakeholder engagement
- coordination across agriculture, wildlife, health and public land sectors.

The IMT is designed to scale as the situation evolves.

DEECA is working closely with industry, farmers, wildlife carers, First Nations communities and health and partner agencies, with a scalable ensuring scalability as the situation evolves.

Victoria is also supporting national efforts to monitor and respond to this cross-border biosecurity threat.

Victoria's reporting and surveillance systems are operating as intended, with increased wildlife reports since the Western Australian detection. DEECA is assessing these reports and following up as appropriate.

Further updates will be provided as the situation evolves.

What can you do

For poultry:

If you suspect avian influenza in **poultry**, please call the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on [1800 675 888](tel:1800675888).

For birds and wildlife:

- **AVOID** contact with sick or dead birds, wildlife or their environment
- **RECORD** what you see
- **REPORT** wildlife sickness or deaths to DEECA using the [online form](#) or call the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on [1800 675 888](tel:1800675888).

Report clusters of 5 or more sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria. Please do not unnecessarily handle or move sick or dead wild animals as this may spread the virus.

Report even one sick or dead:

- wild seabird, waterbird, shorebird or bird of prey.
- marine mammal (e.g. seal, sea lion, dolphin).

Following a report, DEECA will assess each report and decide if testing is needed.

Key links

Victoria

- Media release: [H5 bird flu detection in Western Australia | Media releases | Media centre | About | Agriculture Victoria](#)
- [Agriculture Victoria website](#) for advice for landholders and wildlife carers
- [Agriculture Victoria Facebook](#)
- Advice about [managing dead birds on your land](#)
- Advice about [backyard poultry](#).

National

- [DAFF website](#)
- [Wildlife Health Australia](#)
- [Bird flu \(avian influenza\) | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)