

Technical manual

Wildlife management

Avian influenza and wild birds

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Purpose

This technical manual provides guidance about Department of Environment and Science (DES) responses to reports of dead or sick wild birds occurring outside State-managed protected areas state forests and marine parks, and the procedures required to coordinate those responses with the relevant lead agency for avian influenza (“bird flu”) matters, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) Biosecurity Queensland (BQ). This technical manual also provides background information about avian influenza and the correct procedures to follow when handling wild birds that appear sick or are found dead. Advice is also provided to enable DES staff to give members of the public appropriate information about avian influenza.

Background

Influenza A virus subtype H5N1, also known as bird flu, is a family of viral infections that can cause morbidity and mortality in bird species, particularly domestic poultry. It is now found globally in many species of wild birds, with waterfowl such as geese, ducks and swans acting as the natural reservoirs for the disease. These wild birds/waterfowl do not always show signs of infection. Once the virus is transferred from wild birds to domestic poultry, it is able to more easily express itself as a highly pathogenic form causing rapid and high mortality in these birds, as they are more susceptible to the disease.

In 1997 the first human infection from the H5N1 strain of avian influenza was recorded in Hong Kong. The H5N1 strain is a highly pathogenic form of avian influenza with mortality rates in bird populations reaching almost 100 percent. Since late 2009, approximately 447 cases of human infection from the H5N1 strain have been laboratory confirmed, including 263 fatalities. The H5N1 strain of avian influenza has not been recorded in any Australian birds to date.

Procedures

The following information guides DES staff when dealing with a report about sick or dead wild birds outside State-managed protected areas, state forests and marine parks. Reports may be referred to the relevant Northern or Southern Wildlife Operations within the Conservation & Biodiversity Operations (CBOB), DES (see Department contact list in [Appendix 1](#)) by DAF’s 24 hour Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888, or received directly from the public. BQ will screen incoming calls concerning wild birds in accordance with the information contained in the section “Suspect deaths or sickness in native birds” of this technical manual. Calls concerning wild birds meeting the “trigger” conditions established by that section will be referred to the Northern or Southern Wildlife Operations, CBOB. DES may assist BQ to investigate those situations identified as being suspect or out of the ordinary. The information in this technical manual will also guide DES staff who encounter instances of sick or dead native birds outside State-managed protected areas. The Department of Environment Science, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service are responsible for these issues within State-managed protected areas.

Reports and investigations (refer to flow chart at [Appendix 2](#))

If signs of disease including high numbers of sick or dead birds, respiratory difficulties and swollen heads, are seen in domestic birds, such as commercial or backyard poultry, it must be reported immediately to the DAF Hotline 1800 675 888.

Deaths or sickness in wild birds may be reported by the public to the DAF Hotline 1800 675 888. The DAF Hotline will query a caller about the basic known facts of a reported incident and, if the incident appears suspect by reference to agreed “screening” parameters (see “Suspect deaths or sickness in native birds” below), they will forward details of the incident to the Northern or Southern Wildlife Operations, CBOB. The DAF Hotline staff will not distinguish between native wild birds and feral wild birds, so the Northern or Southern Wildlife Operations, CBOB is to discuss the report with hotline staff if necessary.

If the report relates to native birds and satisfies the screening parameters, the Northern or Southern Wildlife Operations, CBOB will contact the relevant local DES officer responsible for avian influenza investigations. If the report relates to feral birds the Northern or Southern Wildlife Operations, CBOB will advise the DAF Hotline that the matter will not be investigated by DES and is under the DAF portfolio.

DES staff receiving reports directly from the public concerning deaths or sickness in wild birds should query the caller about the basic known facts of the incident and, if the incident appears suspect by reference to the screening parameters (see “Suspect deaths or sickness in native birds” below), should immediately contact the Northern or Southern Wildlife Operations, CBOB.

A reported incident involving suspect deaths or sickness in native birds that is forwarded by the Northern or Southern Wildlife Operations, CBOB to a DES office is to be investigated by relevant staff from that office as soon as possible. Prior to beginning the field investigation, liaison is to occur with the local BQ officer, contact DAF’s Customer Service number 13 25 23 to source this information.

Similarly, a report that is received by a DES office directly from the public (i.e. not via the DAF Hotline) and meets the triggers which involves suspect deaths or sickness in native birds is to be investigated by the relevant local DES officer responsible for avian influenza investigations (in liaison with BQ) as soon as possible, or in any event within 24 hours of receiving the report.

As necessary, BQ officer(s) will accompany DES officer(s) to the field situation and assist as appropriate. Rapid action is generally required to get to an incident to collect samples as they are best taken from fresh specimens.

Where these reports are substantiated by investigation (i.e. they are considered to be suspect or out of the ordinary) then the DES officer should contact BQ via the DAF Hotline on 1800 675 888 immediately and state that:

- the call is in relation to avian influenza exclusion; and
- discussion is necessary to determine, in conjunction with BQ, the approach to be adopted in the situation.

Note that the transportation of a live bird suspected of being infected with a contagious disease must be avoided wherever possible. If necessary, the bird should be euthanased and samples collected for transportation by/to BQ. The carcass must be disposed of in accordance with the section ‘Procedures to follow for the disposal of bird carcasses’ below.

The investigating DES office will, immediately on completion of the investigation, provide a brief summary report of the outcome of the investigation to the Northern or Southern Wildlife Operations, CBOB by phone or email.

In addition, the investigating DES office will, within 5 working days of the completion of the investigation, compile a more detailed report of the incident and forward it to the Northern or Southern Wildlife Manager, CBOB through the relevant Senior Ranger.

Suspect deaths or sickness in native birds

What are “suspect deaths or sickness in native birds”? For the purposes of this technical manual, a reported incident having all of the following characteristics 1 to 3 is deemed “suspect” and requires on-ground investigation by DES (characteristic 4, while important, may not be known and is therefore not mandatory):

- 1) On the available information, it appears that the mortality or sickness is *not* due to a more conventional cause (such as poisoning , shooting or exhaustion caused by seasonal migration); AND
- 2) Any bird listed in [Part A of Appendix 3](#) of this technical manual is dead or obviously sick; OR At least 10 birds of one or more of the species listed in [Part B of Appendix 3](#) of this technical manual are dead or obviously sick; OR

A person has reportedly become ill after handling a bird listed in **Parts A or B of Appendix 3** of this technical manual and the bird is available for inspection; AND

- 3) Bird mortality or sickness has occurred within the same geographical area; AND
- 4) (if known) Bird mortality has occurred within a short period of time (such as a few days).

Who can take and move protected birds during a potential disease incident?

- 1) The Director-General, DES (chief executive) may, under section 173P of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, do any thing the chief executive reasonably considers is necessary to administer, or achieve the object, of the Act. A DES officer acting under direction and/or in accordance with this technical manual may “take” and move a dead or sick protected bird in the wild in order to provide tissue samples to BQ or another relevant body for the purpose of determining the possible presence of disease in the bird.
- 2) Note, however, that this power must be read in conjunction with section 154 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Other powers of conservation officers). Note also that **in all cases**, the permission of the landholder to enter a property **must** first be obtained as the warrant provisions of sections 148 and 149 of the Act are not applicable in these circumstances. Should a landholder refuse to give permission to enter the land, the matter should be referred to BQ for possible action under BQ-administered legislation.
- 3) In taking and moving a dead or sick protected bird, officers are to note the advice concerning hygiene contained in this technical manual and the requirements set down in ‘Procedures to follow for the disposal of bird carcasses’ (below) (also refer to “Reference materials”, below).
- 4) An inspector appointed under the *Stock Act 1915* has the power under section 29(1)(e) to inspect, test for disease, and treat any disease in any stock, animal product carcass or fodder. Section 15 of the *Stock Act 1915* authorises the Chief Inspector of Stock to order the destruction of infected or suspected stock. Poultry is included in the definition of stock.

‘Poultry’ means “fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowls, pheasants, Japanese quail, partridges and pigeons, and the young thereof, and any bird in captivity whether wild by nature or bred in captivity and whether native to Queensland or migratory or introduced, and any other birds declared by regulation to be poultry.”

Section 5 of the Stock Regulation 1988 states “as well as the animals mentioned in paragraph (a) of the definition *stock* in schedule 2 of the Act, other animals that are stock are terrestrial mammals not indigenous to Queensland.”

BQ will be collaborating with DES to identify procedures to enable a stock inspector to enter a property for disease testing in non-captive birds that are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

How is Queensland Health advised of a potential disease incident?

Under current inter-departmental arrangements, BQ will notify Queensland Health when BQ is investigating circumstances where avian influenza is confirmed, or where it is expected that avian influenza will be found. It is not necessary for BQ (or DES) to notify Queensland Health with respect to investigations of “suspect” reports of bird sickness or mortality.

Information to be obtained when native bird deaths are reported to Department staff

Department staff taking reports directly from the public of suspect sickness or mortality in native birds must record the following information:

- exact location of the birds and approximate time and date of incident;
- names and contact numbers of people present at the site, and of person reporting the incident;

- whether anyone has been in contact with or handled any birds;
- approximate number of sick birds or bird carcasses involved;
- species of birds involved or, if not known, type of bird (e.g. shorebird, parrot, etc.) and/or description;
- a brief assessment of why this is *not* considered to be a “normal” occurrence;
- accessibility of the site (name of nearest roads and access points to the incident site, etc.);
- whether other agencies have been notified; and
- any other relevant information.

Staff must use the proforma in [Appendix 4](#) for recording reports.

Symptoms

The clinical signs of avian influenza in birds are variable and can be affected by the existence of other diseases, the age of the birds, the environment and the severity of the virus itself.

In very severe forms the disease appears suddenly and birds die quickly, sometimes without classical signs of the disease. It is important to note, however, that the signs described below relate primarily to domestic poultry, as wild birds often do not show any clinical signs of the disease. Overseas experience indicates that wild birds may initially be found dead.

Signs in domestic poultry may include:

- depression (any or all of — isolation from group; not eating; reluctance to move; drooping eyelids; may look “fluffed up”, i.e. feathers not held smoothly along body and wings; apathetic to environment and other birds);
- decrease in egg production;
- production of soft-shelled eggs;
- profuse watery diarrhoea;
- combs and wattles may be swollen and become blue;
- reddening of the legs; or
- laboured respiration.

In less severe forms, signs may also include:

- respiratory signs suggestive of a cold;
- swelling of the face;
- possibly some nervous signs (un-coordination; easily alarmed; flighty; does not settle with other birds; excessive pecking and flapping; head tremors); or
- diarrhoea.

Risks to human health from wild birds

Transmission of avian influenza from birds to humans is mainly by:

- direct contact with live or dead birds infected with the virus;
- direct contact with faeces, nasal or eye discharges or other fluids from infected birds; and
- poor hygiene and cooking practices that do not ensure meat is cooked thoroughly.

As a consequence, it is believed that the risk of direct transmission from wild birds to humans is quite low. This is supported by the fact that there have been no known human infections from wild birds. Currently, all recorded cases of human infection have resulted from very close contact with infected domestic poultry, with poor hygiene being a contributing factor.

There have been suggestions that wild birds are responsible for transmitting the virus to domestic poultry; however, the role of wild birds in the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza to domestic fowl is not fully understood at this time. A list of the migratory birds that may potentially introduce avian influenza into Australia is included at **Appendix 3**. Also included is a list of the native species that have the potential to further spread the disease if it is introduced into Australia, due to their dispersive abilities and their proximity to people.

It is currently believed that there is a low risk of migratory birds introducing avian influenza into Australian wild bird populations.

In the event of an outbreak in Australian wild and domestic bird populations, there should be a low risk of human infection, primarily due to our high hygiene standards involved in the processing of poultry for human consumption and subsequent cooking and due to our ready access to personal protective equipment (PPE). The eating of raw or uncooked poultry meat and blood and living in close contact with infected poultry have been contributing factors in the transmission of the H5N1 strain from poultry to humans in a number of overseas countries.

Procedures to follow when handling native birds

As direct contact with infected birds or their faeces is responsible for transferring avian influenza from birds to people, the most effective way to minimise the risk of transmission is to avoid handling any wild birds. In situations where this is not practical, it is advisable to follow basic hygiene practices, such as thoroughly washing hands after handling birds (either dead or alive) and uncooked bird meat, or after contact with bird faeces or fluids. If any staff are required to handle native birds in the field the standard precautions outlined in the DES publication Guidelines for employees on risk of infection in handling of animals should be followed.

Standard procedures to be followed to minimise the risk of infection when handling or in direct contact with any wild bird will include the following:

- ensure inoculations (such as tetanus) are up-to-date;
- note the advice contained in the above guidelines concerning reduced immunity;
- always wash hands after handling a bird, whether they appear sick or not;
- wear the appropriate protective clothing, including gloves, sturdy footwear, a long-sleeved shirt and if necessary, overalls as well. A face mask should be worn if there is a particular concern about the animal's disease status (a list of suggested personal protective equipment is included in [Appendix 5](#));
- ensure that birds are kept separate from human food and food preparation areas;
- when carrying live birds in a vehicle, do not carry them in the same air space as humans;
- do not eat, drink or smoke while handling birds;
- cover any cuts or scratches with a waterproof dressing prior to handling wildlife;
- thoroughly clean any wounds inflicted when handling a wild bird with soap and water; and
- have a First Aid kit (with eye-wash bottle) and a hazardous materials bag available.

Any birds suspected of carrying a disease of any type should be handled with extreme caution.

In the event of a suspected case of avian influenza, BQ should be contacted immediately.

Diseased birds not required by BQ for veterinary examination/necropsy should be disposed of in accordance with the following section.

Procedures to follow for the disposal of bird carcasses

Staff who find it necessary to transport bird carcasses are to make themselves familiar with the requirements set out in the wildlife management Procedural Guide – Transportation of animal carcasses, parts and specimens by DES staff.

Where avian influenza or other contagious disease is *not* suspected (for example, with respect to a report from a member of the public regarding a single dead crow, magpie, etc.), a caller should be advised to wet the carcass(es) using a hose or bucket to reduce the risk of dust and, using gloves and a shovel, place the carcass(es) on newspaper, wrap in the newspaper and dispose of in a general waste receptacle (such as a “wheelie bin”).

Where DES staff respond to a reported incident under this technical manual and a disease is suspected but an outbreak of avian influenza has *not* been confirmed, the carcass(es) may *at a minimum* be disposed of in a general waste receptacle after wetting and wrapping in newspaper, as above.

Note, however, that judgment should be exercised (informed by the particular circumstances) to determine whether a more rigorous disposal regime should be implemented (such as transportation of newspaper-wrapped carcass(es) to a supervised landfill, or implementation of all procedures described below).

Where DES staff respond to a reported incident under this technical manual and, following laboratory investigation, avian influenza or other contagious disease is *confirmed*, bird carcasses present at the site are to be regarded as clinical waste under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Preparation for disposal of these carcasses must be undertaken by:

- placing the carcasses inside rigid, leak-proof, air-tight container(s) and sealing with packing tape (recommended); or
- if rigid containers are not available, placing each carcass inside two strong plastic bags, each securely closed and sealed with packing tape.

Carcass disposal must be undertaken by:

- phoning a clinical waste contractor, such as Ace Waste or Collex, to arrange for collection and disposal (a fee for service will apply); or
- transporting the wrapped and sealed carcasses to a supervised landfill for burial (a fee for service may apply). Refer to the environmental operations Guideline – Managing clinical or related waste in scheduled areas, for the location of supervised landfill sites.

Note:

- Regional procedures under this technical manual should list the supervised landfill sites that are relevant to the Region. A list of these sites can be obtained from the above Guideline.
- Consultation with the supervised landfill operator or the relevant local government must be undertaken prior to transportation.
- Transportation is to be in accordance with the wildlife management Procedural Guide – Transportation of animal carcasses, parts and specimens by DES staff.

Further guidance on the disposal of regulated waste may be obtained from your district or regional Environmental Officer.

For further disposal information, contact the relevant local government for specific local advice and requirements.

Giving advice

As the H5N1 strain of avian influenza is highly pathogenic and potentially fatal to humans, the most important advice that DES staff can give the public is to completely avoid touching or handling all wild birds particularly where the birds appear to be sick or are dead.

The following advice should be given in response to enquiries about avian influenza and media enquiries should be directed to DAF or Queensland Health if appropriate:

- There is currently no evidence of direct transmission from infected wild birds to humans.
- Australia is at the southern extent of many migratory birds' flight paths so there is a lower risk of introduction of the virus by these birds to Australia's bird populations.
- Do not touch or handle wild birds.
- Thoroughly wash hands and any cuts or scratches with soap and water if the bird has been handled, as the avian influenza virus is highly susceptible to disinfectants and detergents.
- Single bird deaths are of less concern, as birds are susceptible to other diseases and exhaustion. Of greater concern are large numbers of bird fatalities in the same area.
- General information about avian influenza can be found on the DAF website at:
http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/4790_12235.htm.
- Suspected cases of avian influenza in domestic birds, such as commercial or backyard poultry, should be reported to the Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888.
- Contact your GP if you become concerned about your own health.

Reference materials

DES publication — Guidelines for employees on risk of infection in handling of animals.

Procedural Guide - Transportation of animal carcasses, parts and specimens by DES staff.

Guideline - Managing clinical or related waste in scheduled areas.

Information Sheet - Clinical or related waste management.

Further Information

Public Health Fact Sheets: Avian Influenza "Bird Flu":

http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/ViralInfections/avianInfluenzaBirdFlu_fs.asp

Queensland Health website www.health.qld.gov.au

Animal Health Australia AUSVETPLAN home page (Commonwealth):

http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/eadp/ausvetplan_home.cfm

Animal Health Australia AUSVETPLAN Manuals: Avian Influenza Interim Draft Disease Strategy (Commonwealth):

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

Australian Wildlife Health Network: Sick and Dead Bird Health Surveillance.

<http://www.wildlifehealth.org.au/AWHN/home.aspx>

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Commonwealth) website: www.daf.gov.au

Department of Emergency Services website: www.emergency.qld.gov.au

Department of Health and Ageing website (Commonwealth): www.health.gov.au

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (State) website: http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/4790_12235.htm

World Health Organisation website (International): www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en

World Organisation for Animal Health website (International): <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/web-portal-on-avian-influenza/>

Convention on Migratory Species website (International - site contains much information on the relationship between migratory birds and AI – search “avian influenza”): http://www.cms.int/about/welcome_en.htm

Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 (Queensland)

Disclaimer:

While this document has been prepared with care it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Department of Environment and Science should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

Appendix 1

Contact list of Department staff

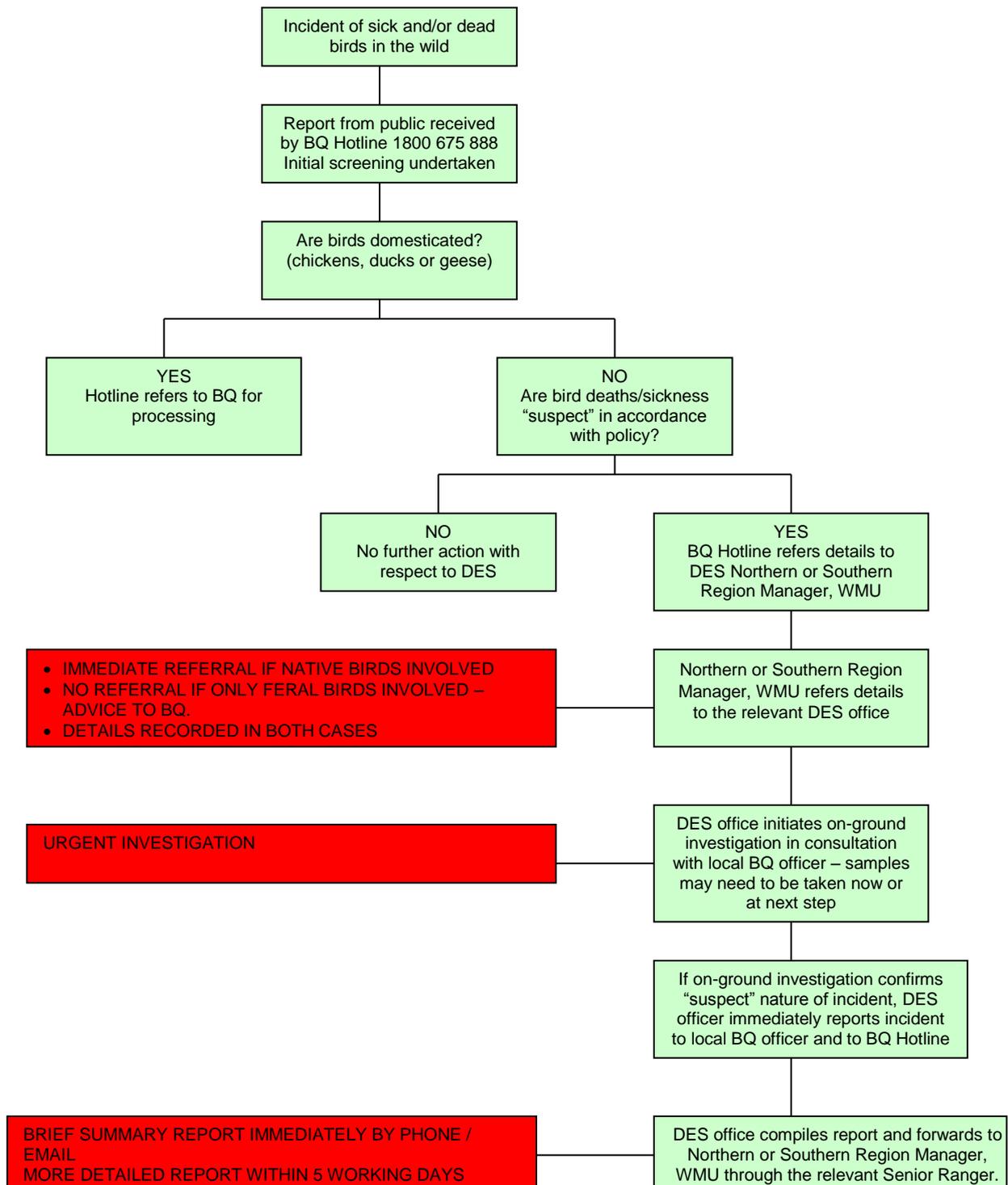
Designated to coordinate, investigate or provide advice concerning reports of suspect deaths or sickness in native birds

POSITION	RESPONSIBILITIES	CONTACT NUMBERS	
		Phone	Mobile
<p><u>Northern Wildlife Operation</u> (Mackay and north)</p> <p><u>Southern Wildlife Operations</u> (south of Mackay)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primary point of Department reference for the DAF Hotline ▪ Liaison with BQ Manager (Emergency Response Capability) ▪ Advise Manager (Emergency Response Capability) of changes to Department contact list ▪ Liaison with DES Manager, Coastal Sciences ▪ Coordinate Department field investigation of “suspect” incidents ▪ Receive and evaluate field reports on those incidents ▪ Ensure Department contact list is at all times up to date in this technical manual ▪ Brief Department Executive as necessary 	<p>Northern Wildlife Operations 07 4722 5206</p> <p>Southern Wildlife Operations 07 3330 4648</p>	
<p>Manager, Northern Operations</p> <p>Manager Southern Operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Back-up, in the absence of Regional Wildlife Operations, CBOB 	<p>(07) 4222 5110</p> <p>(07) 4936 0521</p>	<p>0477 370 853</p> <p>0427 005 419</p>
<p>Director, Northern Operations</p> <p>Director, Southern Operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Back-up, in the absence of Managers Wildlife Operations, CBOB 	<p>(07) 33305393</p> <p>(07) 4796 7787</p>	<p>0418 723 356</p> <p>0427 838 008</p>

Appendix 2

BQ/DES Coordination arrangements

POTENTIAL AVIAN INFLUENZA INCIDENTS
REPORTED TO THE DAF HOTLINE



Appendix 3

Native birds of concern — potential introduction and spread of avian influenza in Queensland

Part A — native migratory and water birds that may potentially carry avian influenza

Common name	Scientific name
Any cormorant	
Any duck, goose or swan	
Any heron, egret, ibis, spoonbill, crane or stork	
Curlew, eastern	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
Curlew, little	<i>Numenius minutus</i>
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Godwit, bar-tailed	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Godwit, black-tailed	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularis</i>
Gull, silver	<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>
Pelican, Australian	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>
Sandpiper, curlew	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Sandpiper, marsh	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Sandpiper, sharp-tailed	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
Shearwater, short-tailed	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>
Shearwater, wedge-tailed	<i>Puffinus pacificus</i>
Stint, red-necked	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
Tattler, grey-tailed	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
Tern, little	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Tern, roseate	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>

Part B — native birds of potential concern due to their dispersive abilities and/or their proximity to people

Common name	Scientific name
Butcherbird, grey	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
Butcherbird, pied	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>
Crow, little	<i>Corvus bennetti</i>
Crow, Torresian	<i>Corvus orru</i>
Currawong, pied	<i>Strepera graculina</i>
Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>
Magpie, Australian	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>
Magpie-lark, Australian	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>
Pigeon, crested	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>
Raven, Australian	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>

Appendix 4

Recording of reports taken by Department staff of deaths or sickness in birds (Sample only)

1. Report to DES

Staff member taking report (name, position, office)								
Date & time of report								
How report was received	Phoned QPWS office or DES office	()	Phoned staff direct	()	Referred from DAF Customer Service Centre	()	Other (specify)	()

2. Details of person reporting incident

Caller's name	
Contact details	

3. Incident site details

Location	
Accessibility to site (names of nearest roads & access points) (attach a separate sheet if necessary)	

4. Incident details

Date & approximate time of incident	
Species involved (or description) (attach a separate sheet if necessary)	
Approximate number of birds sick or dead	
Why are these deaths/sickness suspect or out of the ordinary?	

5. Witnesses present at the site

Names & contact details of anyone present at site (attach a separate sheet if necessary)	
Has anyone been in contact with or handled any birds?	
If so, who & when?	

6. Notification of other agencies or interested parties

Has anyone else been notified? (e.g. BQ)	
If so, who & when?	
Report referred for DES field investigation? (include date if 'Yes')	

7. Action Required

Was any action required by DES staff?	
If so, when and what?	
If no action required was this incident referred to anybody else? If so, who and when?	

Appendix 5

Personal protective equipment (PPE) and procedures

Suggested PPE that should be worn when handling sick or dead native birds, particularly if avian influenza infection is suspected.

- Protective clothing, preferably disposable overalls over a long-sleeved shirt and long trousers (and an impermeable apron, if necessary). If disposable clothing is not worn, then contaminated clothes must be kept separate from street clothes in a hazardous materials bag, or a sealed plastic bag, and deposited directly into a washing machine for hot laundering.
- Disposable gloves or heavy-duty rubber work gloves that can be disinfected. Gloves should be changed if torn or damaged.
- A disposable P2 (N95) respirator should be the minimum level of respiratory protection worn.
NOTE: A powered-air purifying respirator (PAPR) provides a higher level of protection for higher-risk activities, such as culling of birds in an enclosed space such as an aviary. Staff with beards should consider using a PAPR with a hood or head top.
- A face shield, goggles or safety glasses to prevent eye splash.
NOTE: Goggles and eye glasses can become fogged under conditions of high humidity. A face shield is recommended under such conditions as it allows air movement and frees the user from fogging and, while providing adequate protection, reduces the need to wipe away sweat from the eyes and forehead, thereby improving biosafety. A face shield is not a substitute for a respirator.
- Disposable footwear or rubber or polyurethane boots that can be disinfected.

NOTE: Enclosed spaces pose particular risks should a contagious disease be present, and an increased level of respiratory protection is required to work in such circumstances. If sick or dead birds are found in an enclosed space such as an aviary and a contagious disease is suspected, consult with your local BQ officer, or the DAF Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Captive birds, whether native or not, are “poultry” for the purposes of the *Stock Act 1915*.

A First Aid kit with eye-wash bottle should be available when handling sick or dead native birds.

If further specialist advice is required, consult with your local BQ officer, or the DAF Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Procedures to follow after handling native birds

- Thoroughly wash hands and body with soap after removal of PPE. A shower is the best option.
- Reusable items, such as heavy-duty gloves, boots and PAPRs should be cleaned and disinfected according to the AUSVETPLAN Decontamination Manual:
<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/publications/reports.cfm>
- Note that avian influenza virus is susceptible to detergents as well as a range of disinfectants.
- Discard all disposable PPE according to the AUSVETPLAN Decontamination Manual.
- After cleaning and disinfection, store PPE in a clean location to avoid contamination.