

# Information Sheet: Chickens

## Benefits of keeping chickens

There are many benefits of having chickens in your own backyard and the first benefit is that you can get your chickens to produce you eggs.

Chickens will help take care of most of your insect problems.

Chickens will reduce the amount of biodegradable waste you throw away by feeding them waste fruit/vegetable matter.

Keeping chickens is fun – for all ages.



## Can I keep chickens in Randwick City?

Yes, residents who are looking to house chickens at their residential premises must consider and comply with a number of requirements. For example; distance requirements, construction of the pen and potential environmental health impacts such as noise, waste, vermin and odour nuisances on your surrounding neighbours.

A chicken shed **must not be kept within 4.5 metres** (or such greater distances as the Council may determine in a particular case) of a dwelling, public hall, school or premises used for the manufacture, preparation, sale or storage of food.

### Recommended number of chickens (Fowls) in a residential area

Chickens (Fowls) - 5

Roosters **are not permitted**



**Roosters, peacocks, guinea fowls, turkeys** are considered **inappropriate** to be kept in residential areas due to their vocalisation abilities. Their nature of crowing in the early hours of the morning and throughout the day can **cause noise disturbances** to your neighbours.

Should Council receive a justified complaint, an Order may be served to remove them.

## Ensure you comply with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*

Refer to;

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/subordleg+487+2005+cd+0+N>

Schedule 2 Standards enforceable by orders,

Part 5 Standards for keeping birds and animals

Division 2 Keeping of poultry

Clause **19** and **20**

## Clause 19 Poultry not to be a nuisance or health risk

- (1) Poultry must not be kept under such conditions as to create a nuisance or to be dangerous or injurious to health.
- (2) Poultry yards must at all times be kept clean and free from offensive odours.

## Clause 20 Poultry not to be kept near certain premises

- (1) Fowls (that is, birds of the species *Gallus gallus*) or guinea fowls must not be kept within 4.5 metres (or such greater distance as the Council may determine in a particular case) of a dwelling, public hall, school or premises used for the manufacture, preparation, sale or storage of food.
- (2) Poultry (other than fowls referred to in subclause (1)) must not be kept within 30 metres of any building referred to in subclause (1).
- (3) The floors of poultry houses must be paved with concrete or mineral asphalt underneath the roosts or perches. However, this subclause does not apply to poultry houses:
  - (a) that are not within 15.2 metres of a dwelling, public hall or school, or
  - (b) that are situated on clean sand.
- (4) Poultry yards must be so enclosed as to prevent the escape of poultry.
- (5) The standards in this clause apply to a person only if the council has served an order under section 124 of the Act to that effect on the person

## Construction of chicken (fowl) and poultry houses

Please contact Council's Planning & Assessment Officer (02 9399 0999) to discuss your proposal or refer to the **State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008**

Refer to; <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/epi+572+2008+cd+0+N>  
Subdivision 21 – Fowl and poultry house

### Checklist

- Consult with Council to discuss your proposal.
- Discuss with your neighbours, this allows your neighbours to raise any concerns they may have.
- Keep your poultry houses clean, safe and in a healthy condition free from offensive odours.
- Store food in vermin proof containers with close-fitting lids.
- Do not house roosters, peacocks, guinea fowls and turkeys as they can cause noise disturbances to your neighbours.
- Ensure your poultry houses are secure to prevent the poultry from escaping.

For more information or to receive this information sheet via email, please contact the Environmental Health Officers

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