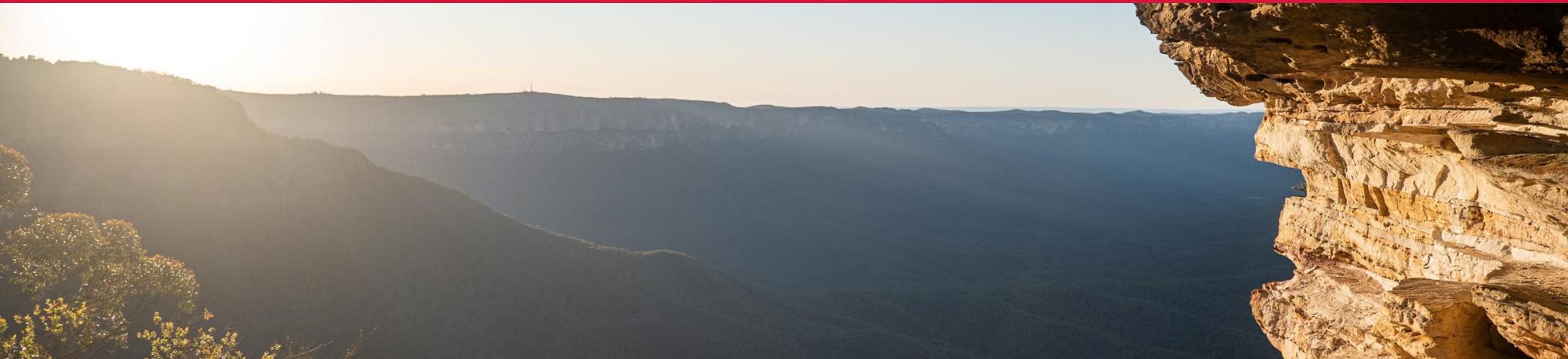


H5 Bird Flu

For tourism businesses, operators and community partners

13 August 2026



Current situation

1

Overview - H5 bird flu considerations



H5 bird flu has been detected in a small number of wild birds in NSW and also in other states.

This presentation is designed to help operators understand what H5 bird flu is, where to find current information and what to do if they see sick or dead birds or wildlife.

Avoid. Record. Report

If you see sick or dead birds or other wildlife

**Avoid.
Record.
Report.**

EMERGENCY ANIMAL
DISEASE HOTLINE
1800 675 888



 **NSW Biosecurity**
dpird.nsw.gov.au



Avoid.

Avoid contact with sick or dead birds and keep children and pets away.

Record.

Record what you see, including date, time, location, species and numbers. Take photos or video if safe to do so.

Report.

Report multiple sick or dead birds or other animals to the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888** and follow the advice given.

What we're doing

- Enhanced surveillance is underway across NSW
- Dedicated response teams have been activated
- Laboratory testing supports rapid detection
- Coordination occurs through the State Coordination Centre in Orange
- Governments, industry and environmental agencies are working together to manage risks



Official update



Please refer to www.birdflu.gov.au for the most up-to-date information regarding H5 bird flu and the areas of Australia currently impacted.



Australian Government

Bird flu (avian influenza)

Together we can help minimise the impacts of H5 bird flu on our people, wildlife and farms.

A photograph of two black swans swimming in calm blue water, with their reflections visible below them.

What is H5 bird flu

2

What is H5 bird flu

- H5 bird flu is a high pathogenicity variant of avian influenza that mainly affects wild and domestic birds, poultry and some mammals
- H5 bird flu is a global issue - Australia is the last continent to be impacted
- There have been no detections in NSW poultry flocks
- The risk to the public remains low
- Further spread in wild birds across Australia is anticipated and is being closely monitored

Signs to look out for

Clinical signs of infection with H5 bird flu in birds include:

- **Sudden death** without clinical signs, including mass mortality events
- Lethargy or reluctance to walk, eat or drink
- Do not move away when approached
- Droopy appearance or ruffled feathers
- **Neurological signs** such as tremors, poor co-ordination, unusual postures, inability to walk or stand, seizures
- **Respiratory signs** such as panting, nasal discharge, coughing or sneezing
- Swelling around the head and neck
- Watery or green diarrhoea.

Infected wild mammals may show a wide range of clinical signs, including:

- **Neurological signs** (paralysis, seizures and tremors)
- **Respiratory signs** (breathing difficulties)
- Unusual behaviour
- **Sudden death**, including the potential for mass mortality events.

**H5 bird flu can only be confirmed
by testing at government
laboratories.**

How does H5 bird flu spread

- H5 bird flu spreads mainly through direct contact with infected animals, their droppings or bodily fluids
- It can also spread indirectly via contaminated surfaces, equipment, vehicles, water or dust
- The current risk of H5 bird flu to humans is considered low
- There has been no human case of this strain of H5 bird flu reported in Australia, but there have been some cases reported overseas
- Chicken meat and eggs remain safe to eat, provided they are handled and cooked properly



Why H5 bird flu matters for visitors and tourism in NSW

3

Possible impacts of H5 bird flu in NSW

Economic and social

- Social amenity disruption (due to the presence of sick or dead wildlife)
- Decreased biodiversity
- Egg and poultry meat shortages
- Transport disruption
 - Movement restrictions
 - Increased truck movements
- Economic costs
- Mental health of the community
- Potential human health impacts



Protecting visitor experience

- Wildlife and natural environments are key tourism assets in NSW
- Visitor confidence is critical to regional tourism
- Tourism operators may be the first to observe and report unusual wildlife events
- Clear and reliable information helps reduce uncertainty and misinformation
- Early reporting of sick or dead wildlife supports both wildlife protection and tourism continuity



What tourism operators
should do

4

Where to keep a lookout for signs of H5 bird flu

- Beaches
- Lakes, rivers and estuaries
- Wetlands
- Parks and public spaces
- Jetties and boat ramps
- Walking/hiking trails
- Wildlife viewing areas
- Picnic areas
- Offshore fishing locations



Strengthen biosecurity practices

- **Come clean. Go clean.** Clean footwear, clothing and equipment after visiting beaches, wetlands, parks, farms or reserves
- **Secure bins and food waste** to avoid attracting wildlife
- **Avoid contact** between wild birds and domestic animals
- **Do not feed** birds or wildlife
- **Keep children and pets away** from wildlife
- **Practice good hand hygiene** after handling animals, eggs or raw meat
- **Keep dogs on leads** and cats contained where possible



What visitors need to know

Simple messaging to keep people safe



-
- The risk of H5 bird flu to people is currently low
 - Do not touch wildlife or attempt to move any sick or dead animals
 - Observe wildlife from a distance
 - Report unusual sickness or death in wildlife to the EAD Hotline
 - Properly handled and cooked poultry products remain safe to consume
 - There is currently a nationally coordinated response to H5 bird flu across Australia
-

Support visitor confidence

Communicate clearly and consistently



- Provide accurate and balanced information
- Focus on practical safety advice
- Reinforce that the risk to people remains low
- Direct visitors to official information sources: **www.birdflu.gov.au**
- Help manage concerns about wildlife mortality events and tourism impacts

The tourism industry's role in early detection

5

Responding to wildlife incidents

What to do if you see sick or dead birds or wildlife

- Report sick or dead birds and other animals to the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline** on **1800 675 888**
- Investigation of reports is risk-based, and not all birds will be collected or tested
- Land managers are responsible for coordinating site and carcass management
- Tourism operators should avoid handling sick or dead birds or wildlife and report anything unusual to the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline**.



How to report

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FAQ's

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Frequently asked questions

Addressing key concerns



- Can tourism businesses continue operating?
- Are visitors at risk?
- Will attractions or parks close?
- What should staff do if they find dead birds?
- How are agencies managing the response?
- Where can operators find the latest information?

Resources and support

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Key takeaways

- The risk to people remains low
- Tourism businesses can continue operating normally
- Do not handle sick or dead wildlife
- Report unusual wildlife illness or deaths
- NSW Government and partner agencies have activated response and preparedness arrangements
- Early reporting supports wildlife protection and minimises impacts on communities and industry



For more information

Please visit www.dpiird.nsw.gov.au/ai for more information regarding H5 bird flu in NSW.

A graphic with a dark teal background on the left and a photograph of cormorants on a sandy beach on the right. The teal section contains white text and a logo. The photograph shows several cormorants standing on the sand, with waves in the background.

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 **NSW**
GOVERNMENT

 **NSW Biosecurity**
dpiird.nsw.gov.au

- Reporting guidance
- Factsheets
- Resources for councils, land managers and tourism operators, including Disposal Guidelines
- Ongoing stakeholder briefings and updates

