

## Keeping of Poultry - Information Sheet

### General

Chickens can be a great asset to any small landholding. They provide eggs, produce fertiliser, control insects and weeds, eat kitchen scraps and loosen soil while scratching.

But there are a few things you need to know if you intend to keep chickens, as while residents are permitted to keep poultry, there are a number of conditions that need to be complied with.

Please note: "*poultry*" includes, chickens, pea-fowls, turkeys, geese, ducks and other domestic fowls.

### Limitation on Numbers of Poultry

Within the Town, an owner or occupier of premises may keep up to 12 fowls or 6 ducks.

Keeping geese, turkeys, pea-fowls, or roosters, is not permitted without prior approval from the Town.

### Feeding and Chicken Health

By law, chickens must be provided with appropriate food, water and protection. The quality of food and water is also important as the wrong balance of nutrients and quantities of feed can lead to poor egg production and bird health.

Like all animals, chickens can experience health problems. Always call a vet to assist you with diagnosing and treating chicken health issues.

Poultry owners should monitor the health of their birds daily. A healthy bird should be alert, active, eat often, have clean eyes and nostrils and its breathing should be silent and unnoticeable.

### Conditions of Keeping Poultry

Poultry are to be kept in enclosures that are fully enclosed, with the chickens locked away every night. To comply with the Town's Local Law, you are required to ensure that:

- no poultry are kept within 9 metres of a neighbouring dwelling and 5 metres from an opening to any dwelling;
- no poultry can approach within 9 metres of a public street, public building, commercial premises or food premises;
- all poultry are kept in an enclosure not closer than 1.2 metres to any property boundary, within which is a properly constructed, weather proof structure for roosting, which shall:
  - allow a minimum of 0.3 square metres of floor area per fowl;

- have an impervious floor of 50 millimetre minimum thickness, graded to the front of the enclosure to facilitate easy cleaning;
  - be designed to allow easy access for cleaning; and
  - have the walls and roof constructed of an impervious material.
- all structures or enclosures within which poultry are kept are maintained at all times in a clean condition;
    - the enclosures have an otherwise unobstructed area of at least 2 square metres per bird; and
    - the occupier shall clean and disinfect the enclosure, structure and surrounds, and trap or bait flies, rodents and other vectors of disease when so directed by an authorised person.

An owner or occupier of a premises, may upon written application to the local government, request permission to vary the above provisions. Please contact the Town's Environmental Health Services on (08) 9377 8000.

**Figure 1 – Example of Poultry Enclosure Design**

