



Department of
Primary Industries

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

Discussion Paper: Notifiable poultry diseases

December 2015



Photo: O. Ozols, NSW Department of Primary Industries

Submissions on this Paper close on 12 February 2016

Email your submission to: submissions.biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Biosecurity Bill 2015
NSW Department of Primary Industries
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For more information

See: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact

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Summary

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Biosecurity Act) will repeal the *Stock Diseases Act 1923* (SDA) and the *Animal Diseases and Animal Pests (Emergency Outbreaks) Act 1991* (ADAPEO), which currently include various regulatory controls and powers with respect to certain diseases in poultry.

Having considered existing management arrangements and risks associated with poultry diseases, it is proposed to implement similar management arrangements for poultry diseases under the Biosecurity Act. Specifically, it is proposed that emergency animal diseases (EADs) in poultry that are currently declared under ADAPEO will be listed as **prohibited matter** under the Biosecurity Act, while non-emergency diseases in poultry currently declared under the SDA will be managed under the **General Biosecurity Duty** (GBD) and supported by a **mandatory measure** to notify.

Background

What is the problem?

Australia is currently free of certain exotic diseases that if introduced could have a significant adverse impact on trade, poultry production and, in some cases, human health.

There are also some endemic poultry diseases that present a risk to the New South Wales (NSW) poultry industry. In recent years there has been a significant increase in avian influenza (AI) incidents in Australia. Wild birds (particularly waterfowl such as ducks) harbour low pathogenic AI viruses and are not usually affected by them. The birds pose a threat through direct or indirect contact with commercial poultry. Once introduced, low pathogenic AI infections of certain (H5 and H7) subtypes can undergo rapid circulation to evolve into virulent highly pathogenic AI infections causing high mortality rates.

Why is it important?

A number of poultry diseases are notifiable in NSW because they are exotic to Australia. If introduced here, these diseases could have serious impacts on trade, poultry production and/or human health.

Other poultry diseases that already exist in NSW are notifiable because they pose a risk to the Australian commercial poultry industry, trade and/or human health.

What is the outcome we are seeking?

The desired outcomes are:

- To keep NSW free of exotic and potentially significant poultry diseases by listing these diseases as prohibited matter under the Biosecurity Act
- To minimise the risks of endemic diseases in commercial poultry
- To maintain the integrity of the NSW animal health surveillance and accreditation programs by maintaining the reporting requirements for certain poultry diseases

Current management arrangements

Most diseases of poultry that are exotic to Australia are declared by the *Emergency Animal Diseases and Animal Pests Order 2014*, and include:

- Avian influenza
- Avian paramyxovirus
- Fowl typhoid (*Salmonella gallinarum*)
- Infectious bursal disease (hypervirulent and exotic antigenic variant forms)
- Newcastle disease

- Turkey rhinotracheitis (avian metapneumovirus)

The presence of any of these diseases in NSW will usually trigger an emergency response using the powers in ADAPEO and in accordance with the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and relevant AUSVETPLANs. The EADRA is a contractual arrangement between the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments and livestock industry groups. This collaborative approach significantly increases Australia's capacity to prepare for, and respond to, EADs.

Notifiable endemic diseases of poultry are declared by the [Stock Diseases \(Declaration of Diseases in Stock\) Proclamation 2014](#).

Vaccination of poultry for Newcastle disease is currently a requirement under the *Stock Diseases Act 1923* consistent with the national Newcastle Disease Management Plan (NDMP) 2013-2016.

Proposed Management under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015

Prohibited Matter

The following diseases of poultry are listed as **prohibited matter** in Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act:

- Avian influenza
- Fowl typhoid (*Salmonella gallinarum*)
- Infectious bursal disease (hypervirulent and exotic antigenic variant forms)
- Japanese encephalitis
- Newcastle disease (all strains other than non-pathogenic V4-like strains)
- Turkey rhinotracheitis (avian metapneumovirus)

'Prohibited matter' is a category of pests and diseases that present a high level of risk to NSW. It will be an offence to possess or 'deal with' prohibited matter, which would include selling or moving poultry infected with diseases that are listed as prohibited matter. The presence or suspected presence of prohibited matter will also be notifiable. Significant penalties apply for prohibited matter offences.

In many situations, the presence of prohibited matter will trigger an emergency response. The Biosecurity Act includes emergency powers that can be exercised if the Secretary of the Department of Industry is satisfied or reasonably suspects that a biosecurity risk may have a significant biosecurity impact. An **Emergency Order** is designed to isolate, prevent the spread and eliminate the biosecurity matter. The Biosecurity Act allows the Secretary to take action regardless of whether the biosecurity matter is on the prohibited matter list.

General Biosecurity Duty

The Biosecurity Act introduces the concept of shared responsibility via the inclusion of a GBD. The GBD requires any person dealing with biosecurity matter, or a carrier of biosecurity matter (e.g. poultry), and who knows or ought to know of the biosecurity risks associated with that activity to take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the risk as far as is reasonably practicable. In some cases, **mandatory measures** will be prescribed in the regulations. These mandatory measures must be complied with in order to discharge the GBD.

Diseases of poultry that are currently declared under the SDA as notifiable are proposed to be managed under the **GBD** including a **mandatory measure** to notify DPI. Specifically, a

mandatory measure will be prescribed in the regulations requiring the presence or suspected presence of the following diseases to be notified to DPI:

- Avian paramyxovirus (including pigeon paramyxovirus)
- Chlamydiosis in poultry and other birds
- Duck virus enteritis (duck plague)
- Duck virus hepatitis
- Egg drop syndrome (EDS 76)
- Infectious laryngotracheitis
- Pullorum disease (*Salmonella pullorum*)
- *Salmonella enteritidis* infection in poultry
- Tuberculosis (in any mammal or avian)
- West Nile virus infection

NSW DPI is currently considering whether to prescribe an additional mandatory measure to vaccinate poultry for Newcastle disease, as currently required under the national NDMP 2013-2016. If compulsory Newcastle disease vaccination of poultry is no longer a requirement under future national NDMPs, then the corresponding mandatory measure about vaccination would be removed.

In addition to any prescribed mandatory measures, the GBD will require that anyone who deals with poultry, poultry product or poultry equipment and who knows or ought to know of the associated biosecurity risks must take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate those risks as far as is reasonably practicable.

Set out below are some potential examples of how to discharge your GBD especially in relation to carriers of notifiable poultry diseases.

To minimise the risk of avian influenza on farms poultry producers could:

- treat any potentially contaminated water supplies used for poultry drinking water and other purposes such as internal shed fogging and cleaning,
- prevent access of wild birds to areas where poultry are provided with feed and water,
- introduce measures to control the entry of vehicles, people and equipment into areas housing poultry, and
- make sure that poultry feed storages, such as silos, are secure from vermin and do not spill grain.

To minimise the risks of visitors to the poultry farm introducing infectious diseases to the poultry, poultry producers could have management standards that include:

- poultry farm biosecurity signage on the front gate,
- poultry farm visitors kept to a minimum,
- visitor sign-in book with contact details and last known contact with poultry recorded, and
- provision of boots/overalls for poultry farm visitors.

Further advice on how to discharge your GBD will be provided, before the Biosecurity Act commences, and after consultation with industry. How you can discharge your GBD may be outlined in Industry Standards, Codes of Practice, and Guidelines or through other advisory or education material.

What do you think?

We are seeking feedback from our stakeholders to assist in the development of regulations that will support the provisions of the Act. We look forward to receiving your input into this important process.

Please complete the following survey on 'Notifiable poultry diseases' at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/notifiablepoultrydiseases>.

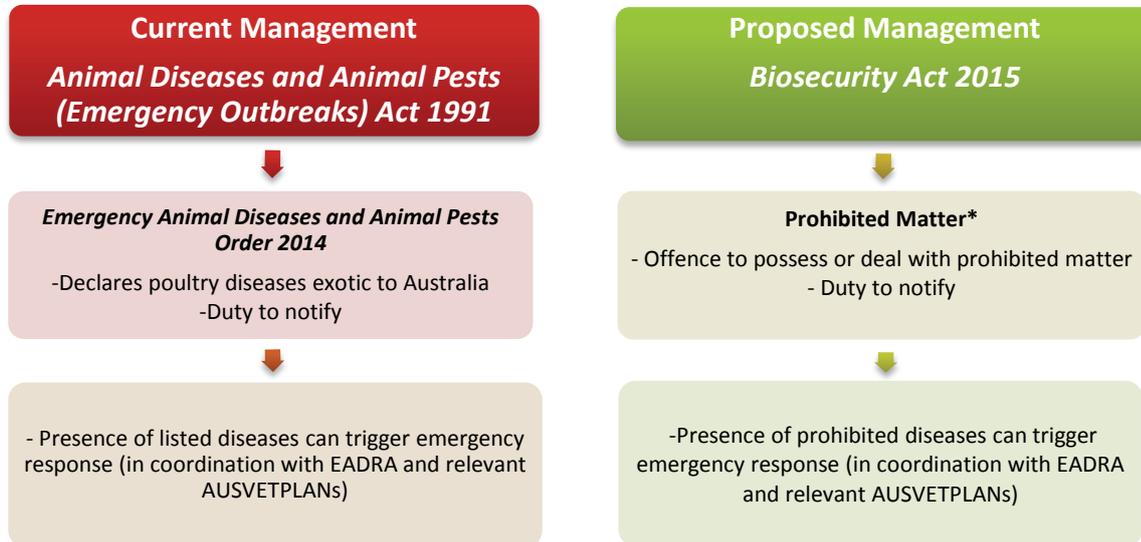
Alternatively, submit your feedback **by Friday, 12 February 2016** via [email](#) or post to:

Biosecurity Act 2015
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Locked Bag 21
Orange NSW 2800

For more information about the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and regulatory framework, please visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact.

Appendix 1

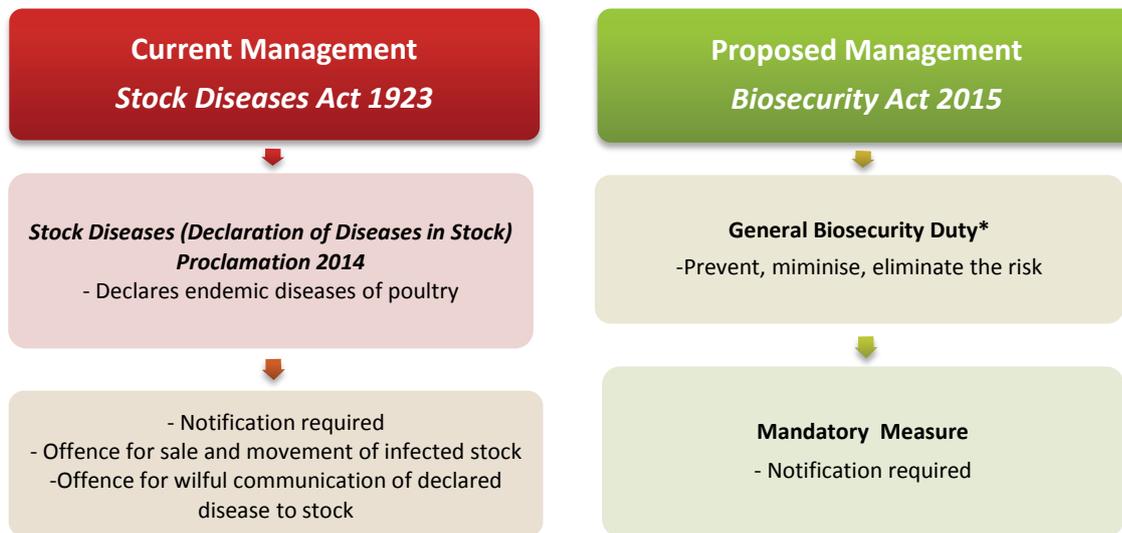
Summary of current poultry diseases under the *Animal Diseases and Animal Pests (Emergency Outbreaks) Act 1991* and proposed management



***Diseases listed as prohibited matter are as follows:**

- Avian influenza
- Fowl typhoid (*Salmonella gallinarum*)
- Japanese encephalitis
- Infectious bursal disease (hypervirulent and exotic antigenic variant forms)
- Newcastle disease (all strains other than non-pathogenic V4-like strains)
- Turkey rhinotracheitis (avian metapneumovirus)

Summary of current management of poultry diseases under the *Stock Diseases Act 1923* and proposed management



***Diseases proposed for management under GBD and mandatory measure to notify is as follows:**

- Avian paramyxovirus (including pigeon paramyxovirus)
- Chlamydiosis in poultry and other birds
- Duck virus enteritis (duck plague)
- Duck virus hepatitis
- Egg drop syndrome (EDS 76)
- Infectious laryngotracheitis
- Pullorum disease (*Salmonella pullorum*)
- *Salmonella enteritidis* infection in poultry
- Tuberculosis (in any mammal or avian)
- West Nile virus infection

Appendix 2

This is a hypothetical scenario of how an outbreak of Avian Influenza *might* be managed under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and is provided for *consultation purposes only*.

