

FACT SHEET

CHICKEN KEEPING GUIDELINES



Information about keeping chickens on your property

Mid Murray Council poultry keeping recommendations

- No more than six (6) birds per property are recommended within standard residential Council areas. This number is more than adequate to provide your family with enough eggs.
- Roosters are not recommended for enclosures within residential Council areas. In fact, roosters are not necessary for hens to lay eggs.
- Maintaining vigilant chicken keeping practices will control flies and vermin.

Keeping chickens and being a good neighbour

Many residents like to keep chickens as a hobby or to provide their family with fresh eggs. Keeping chickens contributes to sustainability through recycling kitchen and garden scraps. While this activity can be rewarding, the owner must prevent the creation of nuisance activities such as odours and breeding of vermin, in relation to the chicken keeping.

Please note: This document is a guide only to ensure that a healthy relationship is maintained with the neighbouring properties and to provide guidance on reducing your risks of creating a nuisance.

Keeping chickens on your property

In a residential environment it is important to consider the impact of your chickens on your neighbours.

The following Guidelines will assist you to maintain sanitary conditions in and around your chook pen.

Designing your enclosure

Happy and healthy chickens need a well-designed enclosure. This will keep your neighbours happy by minimising dust, noise and odours, provide weather proofing as well as reducing the number of other pests in the vicinity of the enclosure. When designing your enclosure, be sure to allow 0.4m² for each bird. Refer to the picture at the end of this guideline for an example of a suitable enclosure design.

Locating your enclosure

Your chicken enclosure should be located in the rear half of your property, it is recommended to not be located within 3 metres of any boundary fence or any street boundary.

Protecting your enclosure

Good enclosure design will assist with weatherproofing. It is best to face your enclosure in a northerly or easterly direction and make sure that the roof has overhang to prevent rain entering.

Constructing your enclosure floor with concrete or paved materials will provide a smooth hard surface that sits above the surrounding area and will help protect against vermin gaining entry. Alternatively, you can use sheet metal and bury your enclosure at least 200 mm below ground.

Contact

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Principal Office

49 Adelaide Road
Mannum SA 5238

Cambrai Office

Main Street
Cambrai SA 5353

Morgan Office

Cnr Fourth & Eight Streets
Morgan SA 5320

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Minimising noise

Adhering to these Guidelines will assist in minimising the noise and odours coming from your enclosure.

If you plan to keep roosters, please be aware that they can be noisy and create a nuisance to your neighbours. It is recommended that you do not keep roosters if you live in a built up residential area.

Council staff may need to contact you if a complaint is received in relation to a rooster, with the possibility of rooster removal if the complaint cannot be resolved in any other manner.

Minimising odour and vermin

Ensuring that enclosures are cleaned out weekly and kept tidy will assist in minimising odour.

Chicken faeces and old food scraps need to be removed frequently and disposed of appropriately (either dug into the ground or into the bin) to avoid creating an offensive activity.

Food should be stored in suitable containers to prevent vermin from breeding and food that is scattered on the ground, should only be done in small amounts.

Nuisance Chickens

It is important to remember that birds should be kept in such a location, structure and condition that they will not cause a nuisance or potential risk to health. Poultry could be considered nuisance by reason of:

- The noise made by the birds;
- The dust or odour generated;
- The attraction of flies, rats, mice or other vermin;
- The nature and location of housing facilities for the birds;
- The birds not being adequately contained on the land;
- Droppings emanating from the birds;
- Or any other justifiable reason.

If Council receives complaints about odour or noise relating to chicken keeping, under the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*, Council can direct you to relocate your chicken enclosure, clean up the faeces or remove the chickens off the site altogether.

Chicken keeping in the flood plain

If you live along the River Murray and are planning to build a chicken enclosure, you may be required to lodge a development application under the requirements of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. It is best to speak to one of Council's Planning Officers for further information.



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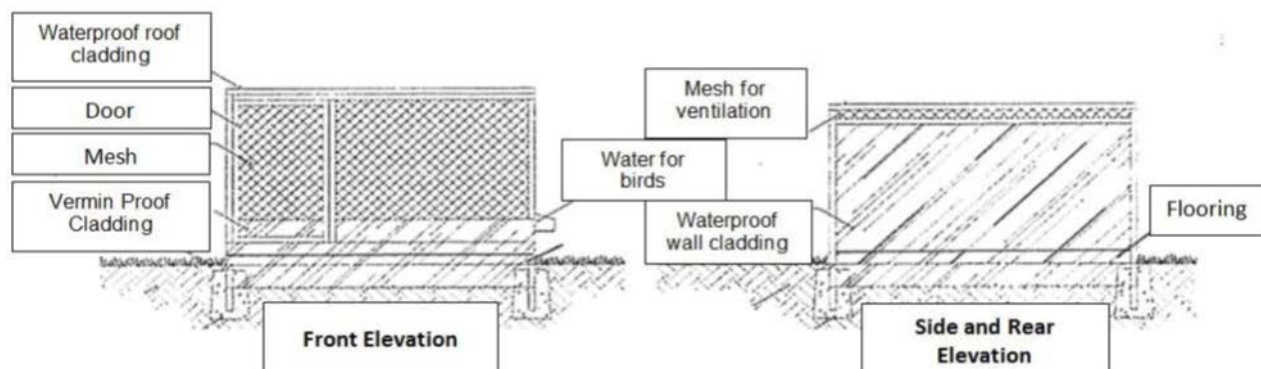
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Example of an appropriate chicken enclosure



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