

Keeping of poultry

If you wish to keep poultry in the city of Wodonga, you must follow the rules set out in Wodonga Council's Environment and Community Protection Local Law.

These controls have been introduced to protect the amenity of the area and reduce the impact on neighbours from:

- Odours;
- Noise;
- Dust; and,
- Rats, mice, vermin and insects.

How many poultry can I keep?

- No poultry is to be kept on an allotment less than 450 square meters.
- Up to 10 poultry (excluding roosters) can be kept on all other size blocks without a permit.
- A permit application must be made to keep more than 10 poultry.
- No roosters are to be kept on any size block.

Where can I house my poultry?

Any structure used to house poultry must:

- Be placed a minimum distance of one metre from any boundary;
- Have impervious walls, flooring and roofing;
- Be constructed of a vermin proof material; and,
- Have guttering and spouting leading to adequate storm water drains.

Poultry housing conditions

The owner or occupier of the land where the poultry is kept must ensure that:

- The ground within three metres of the poultry enclosure is kept free from dry grass, weeds, refuse, rubbish and other material harbouring which may harbour rats or other vermin;
- The ground surrounding the enclosure must be drained to the satisfaction of the council;
- All food for the poultry must be stored in a vermin and fly-proof receptacle;
- The area is kept in a clean, inoffensive and sanitary condition;
- The poultry does not cause a nuisance;
- The property is adequately fenced to prevent the animal from escaping;
- The poultry is kept in accordance with standards set by the council;
- There is no noise or smell emanating from the premises; and,

- All manure, refuse or rubbish produced or accumulated by the animal is removed and disposed of at least once a week.

What will the council consider when deciding whether to grant a permit application?

- Complaints received in relation to the keeping of the poultry;
- The amenity of the area;
- The type and additional numbers of animals to be kept;
- The likely effects on adjoining owners or occupiers;
- The adequacy of the poultry enclosure;
- The proximity of any adjacent habitable dwelling to penning facilities;
- Whether the neighbours are in support of the application;
- Recommendations as result of an onsite inspection from a ranger/authorised officer; and,
- Any other matter relevant to the circumstances associated with the application.

What happens if the council receives a complaint?

If the council receives a complaint regarding poultry, the complaint will be investigated by council officers. If the complaint is found to be justified, you will be required to implement remedial measures. Such measures may include removing the poultry from your premises. Failure to comply with a direction from the council can result in an infringement notice being issued to the occupier of the premises.

For further information, advice or assistance, please contact Wodonga Council on (02) 6022 9300.