

# RESPONDING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

Do you know what would happen during an avian influenza (AI) response? As a poultry or egg producer, it's important you know who does what in the event of an emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreak.

## My animals are displaying unusual symptoms. What do I do?

Call your local private or government veterinarian. They will conduct investigations to confirm or rule out the presence of disease.

Alternatively, you can also call the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888** if you've spotted something unusual. Key signs of AI include a drop in egg production, watery eyes, sinusitis, diarrhoea, discolouration of the head and legs, and mild to severe respiratory disease. Be alert for a sudden increase in unexplained deaths.

## What happens when an AI outbreak is confirmed?

State/territory governments are responsible for managing outbreaks in their jurisdictions, with support from industry and other agencies. The chicken and egg industries also have trained liaison representatives who can provide industry specific insights and skills during a response.

Depending on a property's risk of exposure to the disease, the state/territory government may implement control measures on your farm. These may include movement controls, disease tracing or surveillance activities.

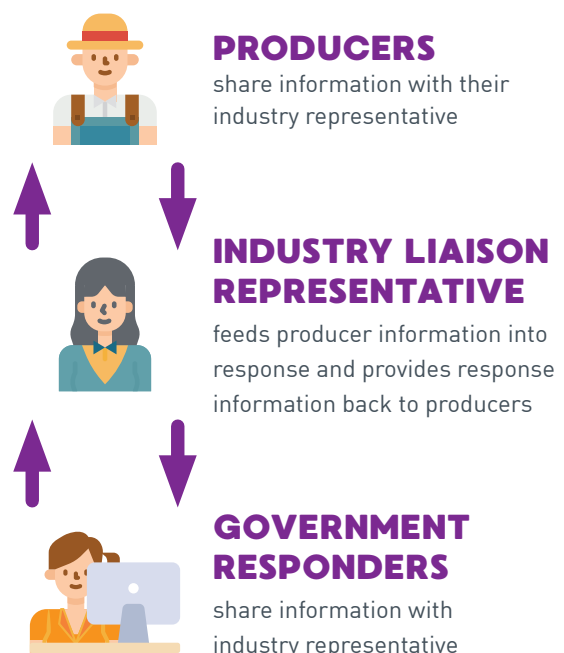
You can help states/territory governments control AI as quickly as possible by complying with their

directions. If you don't follow instructions, there may be legal ramifications. For more information about control measures that may be implemented, see our [Control Measures factsheet](#).

## I'm not directly affected by an outbreak. Is there anything I need to do?

Follow the directions of your local government department of agriculture or primary industries. They will provide information about the EAD outbreak, what activities are taking place in the response to the outbreak and whether there are any actions you should be taking.

### INFORMATION FLOW IN A RESPONSE



Your peak industry body - Australian Chicken Meat Federation or Australian Eggs - may also be able to provide guidance or information on the response. Continuing to follow your disease management protocols outlined in your farm biosecurity plan will be your best line of defence against an EAD.

## What will my industry be doing during the response?

Your peak industry body representative will be providing operational advice to responders, such as the size and location of the affected industry, to assist the response. They will also provide high level advice to government.

## Where do I go for information?

Head to [www.outbreak.gov.au](http://www.outbreak.gov.au). Depending on the scale of the outbreak, local, state or national government bodies will also share information on their social media channels and websites. Your state or territory department of agriculture or primary industries website will have specific information for your local area and your vet may also be able to assist with any queries.

## Who pays for the response?

The affected state or territory government will pay for the initial costs of the response to the outbreak. Ongoing costs may be cost-sharable under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement, and eligible costs will be shared between governments and the affected industry. Individual farmers do not pay for the cost of controlling the disease on their properties, but levies contributed by the industry may help to pay for the response.

## Should I talk to the media?

There are no restrictions in place to stop you from talking to the media. However, it's important that messaging about the outbreak is consistent to prevent the circulation of incorrect/confusing information, which could affect Australia's market access and your individual trade relationships.

In an EAD response, your peak industry body will have a representative in charge of feeding relevant industry information to the responders and sharing response information back to industry. Working with your industry representative is the best way for you to share information and have your voice heard.

## How do I protect my property?

- Implement strong on-farm biosecurity practices. Visit [www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au) for further information.
- Limit contact between domestic poultry and wild birds, especially waterfowl.

## MORE INFORMATION

### Animal Health Australia

[www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/avianinfluenza](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/avianinfluenza)

### Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

[www.agriculture.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.gov.au)



### Australian Chicken Meat Federation

[www.chicken.org.au](http://www.chicken.org.au)

### Australian Eggs

[www.australianeggs.org.au](http://www.australianeggs.org.au)

**You can also visit your relevant State or Territory Department of Agriculture websites for further information.**

## Want to know more about EADs?



Enrol today in the free EAD Foundation online course. It will help producers understand Australia's preparedness and response arrangements.

### For more information visit

[www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/emergency-animal-disease-training-program](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/emergency-animal-disease-training-program)

# RESPONDING TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

Do you know what would happen in an avian influenza (AI) response? As a stakeholder in the Australian poultry industries it's important to know who plays a role in an emergency animal disease (EAD) response, and what your involvement may look like.

## What happens when an AI outbreak is confirmed?

State/territory governments are responsible for managing outbreaks in their jurisdictions, with support from industry and other agencies. The chicken and egg industries also have trained liaison representatives who can provide industry specific insights and skills during a response.

The peak industry bodies, Australian Chicken Meat Federation (ACMF) and Australian Eggs will be providing operational advice to government responders and participating in high-level committees advising government. There are formal processes in place to identify and engage trained personnel to take on these roles.

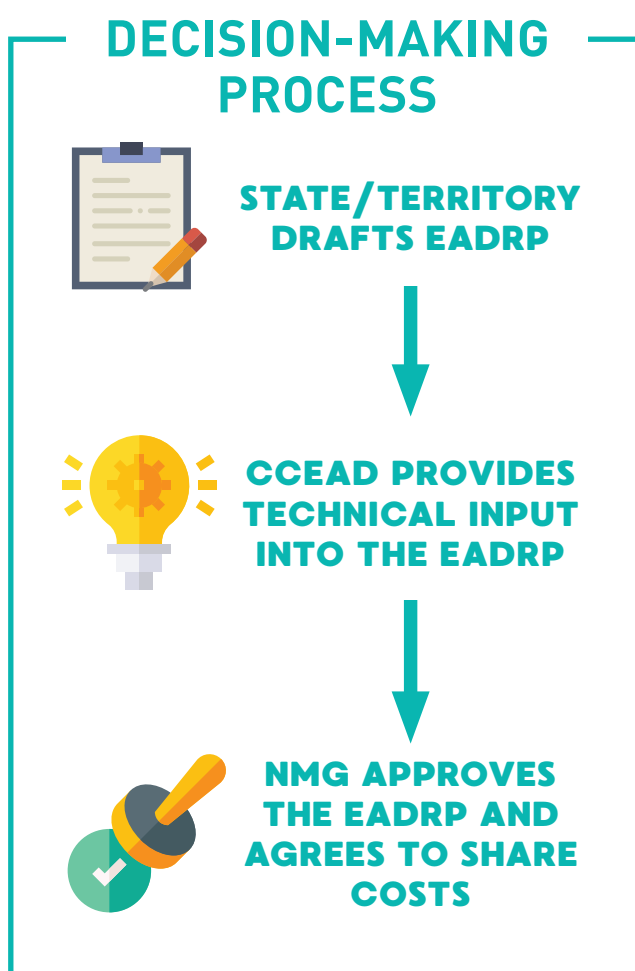
## Who makes the decisions?

There are arrangements in place to ensure a swift response to an AI outbreak.

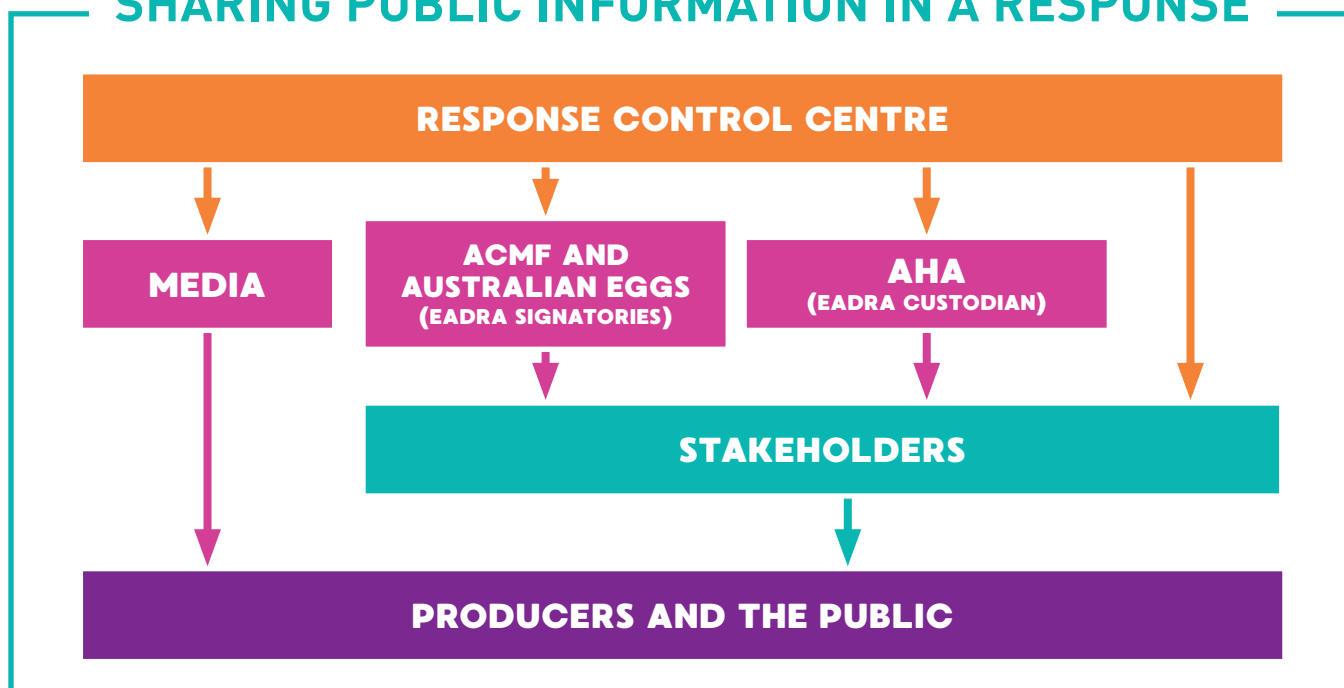
1. The relevant state/territory agency drafts an Emergency Animal Disease Response Plan (EADRP).
2. This will be sent to the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD), a group of technical experts who are responsible for providing input into the response management plan. In an AI response, the Australian government and state/territory governments provide input, as will ACMF and Australian Eggs.

3. CCEAD advises the National Management Group (NMG), a collective of high-level executives from the Australian Government, the state and territory governments and the affected livestock industries who approve the response management plan and commit the funding.

Participation on CCEAD and NMG is reserved for signatories to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA). This includes all Australian governments and many of the peak industry bodies, including ACMF and Australian Eggs.



## SHARING PUBLIC INFORMATION IN A RESPONSE



### What role do we play?

Public information in a response will be released by the response's control centre. This information is authorised for wider distribution and will filter out through official channels.

Stakeholders, such as state farming organisations and other industry groups, can assist the response by communicating public information to producers and providing relevant industry information as requested by the government responders.

If you have undergone training as a representative of your peak industry body, you may be called up to fill a number of roles within your organisation or as part of the control centre. It's important to make sure your contact details are current.

You also play a vital role in encouraging producers to implement proactive biosecurity measures to safeguard their properties and livelihood. For more information visit [www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au).

### Where do I get information?

Head to [www.outbreak.gov.au](http://www.outbreak.gov.au). Depending on the scale of the outbreak, local, state or national government bodies will also share information on their social media channels and websites. You may also receive information from ACMF, Australian Eggs or Animal Health Australia.

### More information

#### Animal Health Australia

[www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/avianinfluenza](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/avianinfluenza)

#### Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

[www.agriculture.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.gov.au)

#### Australian Chicken Meat Federation

[www.chicken.org.au](http://www.chicken.org.au)

#### Australian Eggs

[www.australianeggs.org.au](http://www.australianeggs.org.au)

You can also visit your relevant State or Territory Department of Agriculture websites for further information.



## Want to know more about EADs?

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#### For more information visit

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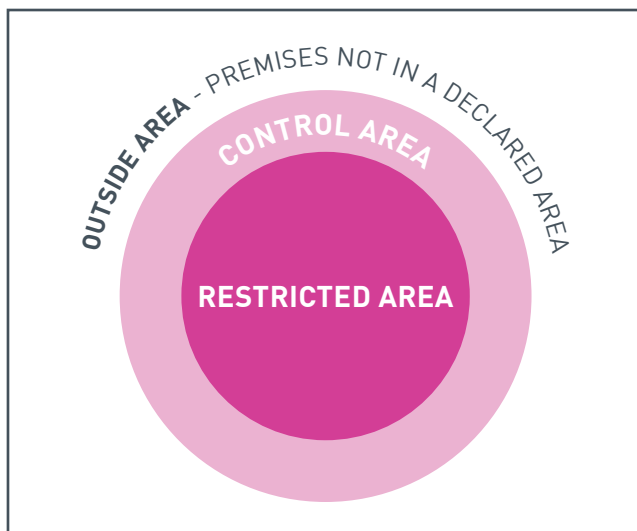
# CONTROL MEASURES



## AVIAN INFLUENZA

Your state or territory government is responsible for managing emergency animal disease outbreaks in their jurisdictions. You can help them to control an avian influenza (AI) outbreak by complying with their instructions (you may face legal penalties if you don't).

### Declared areas

The state/territory government will establish declared areas as part of their response to prevent the spread of AI. Depending on their proximity to the disease, premises will be located in a Restricted Area, Control Area or Outside Area. The category your property falls into will determine which disease control measures may apply.



- 
**RESTRICTED AREA** - includes premises that are infected or believed to be infected or contaminated with AI, as well as premises close to infected properties.
- 
**CONTROL AREA** - forms a buffer between a Restricted Area and areas considered to be free from AI. It includes premises in the area neighbouring a Restricted Area.

### Types of control measures



**MOVEMENT CONTROLS:** restrictions on movements - onto and off premises - of poultry, eggs, vehicles, equipment, poultry products and byproducts, wastes and other items that might be contaminated



**BIOSECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PEOPLE:** such as requiring decontamination or changes of clothing and footwear when people move on or off premises



**TRACING:** reviewing movements of birds, people and things on and off infected premises to help identify where infection may have come from - and where it may now be



**SURVEILLANCE:** checking for signs of disease or contamination, investigating anything suspicious and taking samples for laboratory testing if needed



**DESTRUCTION:** culling of poultry that are infected or are a high disease risk; high risk things that can't be decontaminated might also be destroyed



**VALUATION AND COMPENSATION:** for birds that have died from AI and for birds or property destroyed as part of the official disease response - this is governed by state or territory legislation



**DISPOSAL:** biosecure disposal of carcasses and poultry products, by-products, wastes or things that are, or might be, contaminated



**DECONTAMINATION:** chemical or other treatment of premises, vehicles, equipment, clothing, footwear and other things that might be contaminated to inactivate any AI virus that may be present.

## Control measures that may apply to you

Different measures may be applied depending on what type of premises you are and what declared area you're in. Premises can include farms, saleyards, processing facilities etc.

TYPE OF PREMISES	LOCATED IN	POTENTIAL DISEASE CONTROLS
<b>Premises known or believed to be infected</b> (infected premises)	Restricted Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement controls</li> <li>• Biosecurity controls for people</li> <li>• Tracing</li> <li>• Surveillance</li> <li>• Destruction of all poultry (with valuation and compensation)</li> <li>• Disposal</li> <li>• Decontamination</li> </ul>
<b>Premises that require investigation</b> (a suspect or trace premises)	Restricted Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement controls</li> <li>• Biosecurity requirements for people</li> <li>• Surveillance</li> </ul>
<b>Premises highly likely to be infected or to contain contaminated items</b> (dangerous contact premises/ processing facility)	Restricted Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement controls</li> <li>• Biosecurity controls for people</li> <li>• Surveillance</li> <li>• Destruction of poultry at high risk of infection (with valuation and compensation)</li> <li>• Disposal</li> <li>• Decontamination</li> </ul>
<b>Other premises with poultry in a legally declared area</b> ("At risk premises" in a Restricted Area; "premises of relevance" in a Control Area)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement controls may apply particularly to premises in a Restricted Area</li> <li>• Surveillance</li> </ul>
<b>Other premises with poultry that are not in a legally declared area</b>	Outside Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement controls may still apply to some items (particularly for movements to or from premises in declared areas)</li> <li>• Surveillance</li> </ul>
<b>Processing facilities, saleyards, etc. that are not captured above</b>	Outside Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be affected by movement controls on some items (particularly for movements to or from premises in declared areas)</li> <li>• Surveillance</li> </ul>

### MORE INFORMATION



- AUSVETPLAN Disease strategy manual: avian influenza  
[www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents)
- Implement on-farm biosecurity practices on your property using the manuals available at  
[www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/plans-manuals](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/plans-manuals)
- In a response, information about control measures will be available at [www.outbreak.gov.au](http://www.outbreak.gov.au)

# COMPENSATION AND VALUATION IN AN AVIAN INFLUENZA RESPONSE

## What is compensation?

Compensation is money that is paid by governments to the legal owners of poultry that have died from an emergency animal disease (EAD) such as avian influenza (AI), or poultry or property that are damaged or destroyed as part of the official EAD response. It's important to note that while compensation is often made available during EAD responses, its payment is determined by the affected jurisdiction's legislation and procedures.

The main aim of compensation is to encourage early reporting of emergency diseases, so that they can be identified and a response initiated in the shortest possible timeframe. Compensation arrangements are in place to ensure that people who report suspicion of disease early are not financially disadvantaged.

Compensation issues are dealt with by the government officials at the Local Control Centre set up to manage the response.

## How is compensation determined?

Compensation is determined and managed by state and territory governments under their own legislation. The payment of compensation, the process for claims, and the timeframe in which a claim may be made can vary between states and territories.

## DETERMINING COMPENSATION



**STATE/TERRITORY INCLUDES COMPENSATION IN THE RESPONSE PLAN**



**VALUE OF LOST LIVESTOCK OR DAMAGED PROPERTY IS AGREED**



**AFFECTED OWNER MAKES A CLAIM**



**OWNER IS PAID COMPENSATION**



The process involves the valuation of poultry on the property that have died from AI or poultry or property that have been destroyed or damaged, followed by the owner making a claim through the Local Control Centre.

## What is valuation?

The aim of valuation is to achieve agreement between the owner and the state or territory on the amount to be paid in compensation.

There are consistent standard valuations for most classes of commercial livestock, which have been discussed and agreed by industry. Local market value, or 'farm gate value' is the primary basis for valuation.

Owners may submit a dispute with the Local Control Centre if they disagree with the valuation, subject to the state or territory's rules and procedures governing compensation and dispute resolution.

## What is covered by compensation?

While the value of the poultry and other property damaged or destroyed in the response effort may be eligible for compensation, states and territories usually exclude paying compensation for consequential losses, such as loss of profit, loss of production, loss of markets or losses incurred by breach of contract.

Following the response, owners who have been authorised to restock their property may be eligible for a second compensation, or 'top-up' payment, if the cost of the replacement livestock outweighs the compensation paid for the loss of the original stock. This payment balances the potential fluctuations in the value of livestock during and after a response to an EAD.





## Animal welfare in a response

Response activities such as the application of quarantine measures and movement controls may result in risks to animal welfare on poultry or egg farms. If these risks cannot be adequately managed, jurisdictional welfare legislation may require affected animals to be humanely destroyed. Compensation or financial assistance may then be available for the animal owner and such payments may be eligible for Cost Sharing if they meet the conditions outlined below:

- Eligibility for compensation and cost sharing is at the discretion of and agreed by the relevant Chief Veterinary Officer.
- Must be clearly identifiable as directly contributing to the disease management outcomes of the response or have arisen as a direct result of disease management measures in an approved response plan.
- All alternative non-destruction options must have been considered.

## Who pays the compensation claim?

The compensation claim is submitted by the owner to the Local Control Centre and assessed and paid by the state or territory department of agriculture or primary industries.

## Who pays for the costs of compensation?

During an EAD response governed by the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA), compensation costs may be shareable as part of the overall response costs, if compensation forms part of an approved response plan. As AI can be either a category 2 or category 3 disease in the EADRA, eligible costs (including compensation) will therefore be shared between governments and the affected industries, depending on the relevant formula.

The Commonwealth initially pays (underwrites) industry's share of the costs and industry repays the loan through levies over a period of up to 10 years. Individual farmers do not pay for the cost of controlling the disease on their property, but a dedicated response levy activated after the response may help to pay for the response.

The response levy is in addition to other levies charged on animal products outside of a response.

## What's the difference between compensation and recovery?

Compensation should not be confused with recovery or business continuity processes. Costs associated with recovery from an EAD, just as with other emergency incident management programs, are managed by processes outside the EADRA or disease control legislation and procedures and have separate funding mechanisms.

Recovery and business continuity services during and after emergencies are provided by recovery agencies from all levels of government and non-government organisations.

Compensation is not intended to maintain profitability or business continuity. Its primary intention is to promote early reporting, which promotes rapid response and early return to trade. As such, owners should have their own business continuity plans in place.

## Report an EAD Call: 1800 675 888

### Find out more

Contact your local government department of agriculture or primary industries.

### EADRA Guidance Document

Interpretation of Compensation and Cost Sharing in the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement.

[www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/download/17168/](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/download/17168/)

### Online EAD course

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[www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/emergency-animal-disease-training-program](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/emergency-animal-disease-training-program)