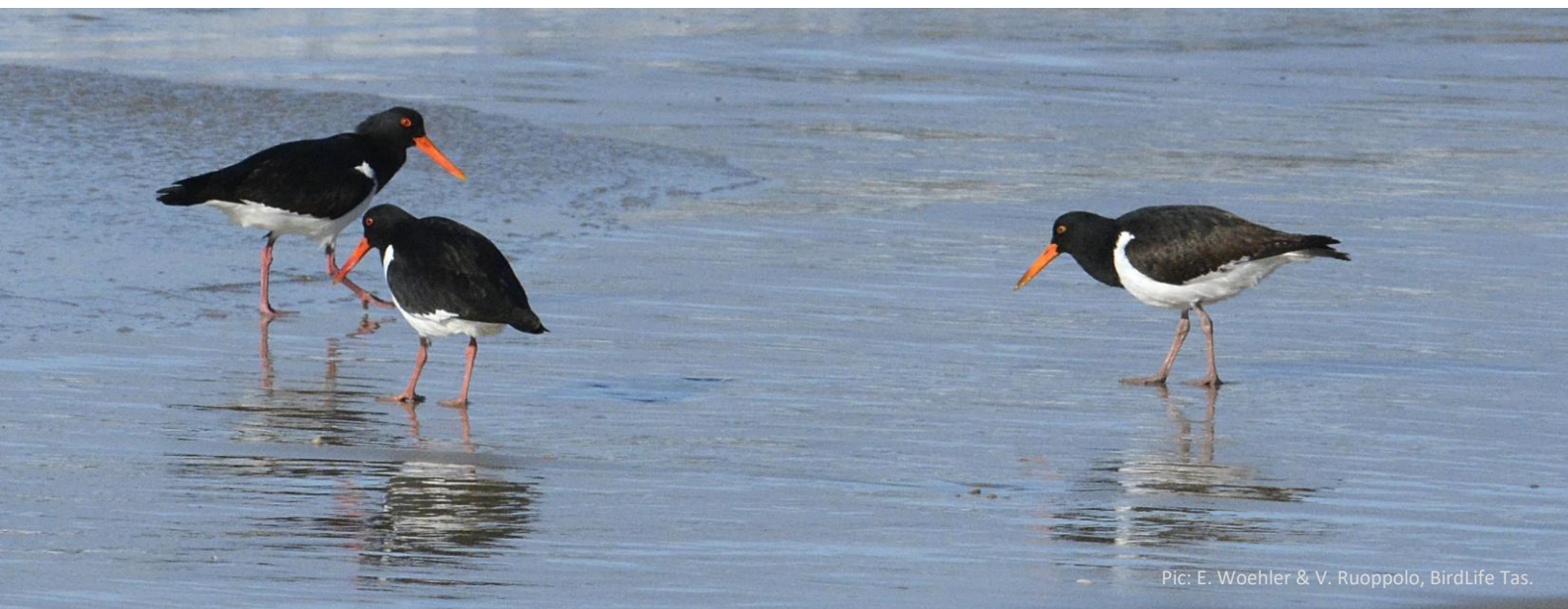




Break O'Day  
COUNCIL

# Interim Break O'Day Council Bird Flu Plan 2026



Pic: E. Woehler & V. Ruoppolo, BirdLife Tas.

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from the **mountains** to the **sea** | [www.bodc.tas.gov.au](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au)

Council has a role in helping implement the *Tasmanian Avian Influenza Readiness and Response Plan* for H5 Bird Flu and response and recovery in Break O'Day.

H5 Bird Flu (high pathogenicity avian influenza H5N1 2.3.4.4b) is a highly contagious viral disease that mainly affects birds but can also affect mammals (particularly scavenging and predatory species) and rarely, humans.

This Plan will be maintained and developed as Biosecurity Tasmania information and guidance for Councils evolves. 'Biosecurity Tasmania' is used to refer also to the Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, of which it is part.

## Readiness

- Early detection and reporting of suspected Bird Flu sightings to Biosecurity Tasmania. Council and the community should first *Avoid, Record* and *Report* - to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888. Or report with Biosecurity Tasmania's online reporting forms.
- [Biosecurity Tasmania's Bird Flu web pages](#) are the primary source of Bird flu information and awareness resources.
- Communication of Bird Flu information and advice, using Biosecurity Tasmania resources and messaging and responsive to local needs for Readiness, Response and Recovery.
- Response to Bird Flu incidents affecting Council will be coordinated and managed through the Break O'Day Municipal Emergency Management Committee (Coordinator), linked to Biosecurity Tasmania and the state Incident Management Team, and via the Regional Emergency Management Committee if stood up for the Biosecurity Emergency.
- Prepare to respond to local outbreaks: risk assessment, consultation with Biosecurity Tasmania, decision making, preposition resources.
- Council's Bird Flu Plan maintained and implemented by Council's management team and reporting to Council.

## Communications

- Develop and maintain communications strategy and operations progressively through readiness, response and recovery phases using Council's existing tools and channels.
- Public information and advice to community and industry on the disease and Tasmanian plans and information, risks, safety and wellbeing, reducing spread, what to do before, during and after outbreaks.
- Stakeholder engagement and reporting communications: Biosecurity Tasmania/state Incident Management Team, Regional Emergency Management Committee, Parks & Wildlife Service and other local land managers and stakeholders, and Local Government Association Tasmania.
- 'Avoid/Record/Report'. 'Avoid' will persist.

## Response

### Aims

Rapid, proportionate, and risk-based responses to detections of H5NI Bird Flu by Council that

- Minimise spread to uninfected areas and high-risk places (EG. critical services, busy places and poultry facilities)
- Control as soon as possible and with reasonable and practical actions for the risks faced
- Minimise the impacts of the disease on Council and its land, facilities and services, and on Break O'Day's natural values, community and industry
- Eliminate or minimise health and safety risks to public and in the workplace
- Raise awareness and keep the community, industry and partners and staff informed
- Cooperate with the state Bird Flu response and local partners for the best outcomes for Break O'Day

### Scope

Detections and outbreaks may affect Council's land, public facilities and services, and internal operations. Council's responsibilities are as land manager, local government authority and service provider, and to its community. Cooperative response actions may call for Council support and resources.

Where detections or outbreaks elsewhere pose significant risk of impacting the municipality, for example tourism, essential services or primary producers, Council may raise the risk with Biosecurity Tasmania and the affected local land managers and cooperate with response operations.

Recovery begins during this phase, response operations should be considerate of recovery of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing, and the environment.

### Risk-based Action

The risks a detection or local outbreak of Bird Flu poses and Council response options will be evaluated and actions decided by the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator in consultation with Biosecurity Tasmania and the General Manager:

- On advice from Biosecurity Tasmania of a detection affecting Council land, assets or services,
- Or Council receives information of a local suspected and likely detection, has reported it to Biosecurity Tasmania, and risk assessment indicates rapid no-regrets actions are needed to mitigate high risks,
- And may include requests for assistance with other detections from Biosecurity Tasmania or local stakeholders.

## Response Actions - for mass mortality/illness events

- A. Monitoring and surveillance of response actions and progress of controls.
- B. Modify people's activity with encouragement or directions. Such as not touching or removing sick or dead wildlife, pet owners to keep their pets away and isolate food, advice on risks at home, in businesses and public areas.
- C. Restriction of access to areas as a reasonable and practical means for local outbreaks to reduce disease spread, public health risk and for significant wildlife species at risk. May include cordoning off, signage and public communications, or closure where there is authority.
- D. Carcass management will be decided with robust risk assessment, guided by Biosecurity Tasmania and national principles for wildlife carcass management (Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry). Generally consideration will be given to disease spread, human health (staff and public), domestic animals and wildlife (particularly threatened/endangered wildlife), and the benefits to be gained for human health, wildlife populations, safety, industry and the community.

### Priorities for carcass management

1. Sick and dead animals will be left *in situ* wherever safely possible, with other risk-based actions in place, then
  2. Collection and burial on site (approvals may be required) and
  3. Lastly, collection and removal for disposal at an appropriate facility (approvals may be required).
- Council will not undertake euthanasia. With Biosecurity Tasmania advice it may assist others to achieve good animal welfare.
  - Council guidance on safe practices, procedures and PPE to be developed from state and national information resources on carcass management.

## Recovery

Planning for recovery activity has started at a state level and with Recovery and Resilience Tasmania. Ways national and state programs could support recovery actions are also being explored.

To support delivery in the municipality Council will provide local information and advice on community sectors, networks and recovery needs to Biosecurity Tasmania. This will consider recovery of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing, and the environment.

Transition to routine management will be with Bird Flu continuing to be present in the environment. It is likely there will be a need for continued monitoring and reporting of cases, flexible responses and adaptation in recovery.