

Regulations for Backyard Chook Keeping

Guidelines for backyard chook keeping in Shellharbour are set out by the NSW Government. The following requirements listed under the Local Government Act (Local Government Regulation 2005) are enforceable with an order from Shellharbour City Council:

- Poultry not be kept under such conditions as to create a nuisance or to be dangerous or injurious to health, and poultry yards must at all times be kept clean and free from offensive odours.
- Poultry yards must be enclosed to prevent the escape of poultry.
- Chickens must be kept more than 4.5 metres from a dwelling, public hall, school or premises used for the manufacture, preparation, sale or storage of food.
- The floors of poultry houses must be paved with concrete or mineral asphalt underneath the roosts or perches. However, this does not apply to poultry houses that are not within 15.2 metres of a dwelling, public hall or school, or that are situated on clean sand.

You do not need permission from Council for a fowl or poultry house if you follow the below requirements set out in the NSW State Planning Policy State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008:

- Limit of one poultry house per property
- Poultry houses must be located at least 3m from each lot boundary
- If you are in a Residential Zone (R1, R2, R3, R4, R5 or RU5), the poultry house must be located in the rear yard, not be higher than 3m above ground level (existing) and not have a floor area of more than 15m². Any metals used must be low reflective.
- If you are on rural land in Zone (RU1, RU2, RU3, RU4 or RU6), the poultry house must not be higher than 7m above ground level (existing), and not have a floor area of more than 50m².
- Poultry houses must not house more than 5 fowl or poultry and not house any roosters unless you are in zone R5 – then you must not house more than 10 poultry.
- Care must be taken to ensure roofwater is disposed of without causing a nuisance to neighbouring property

(i) if the poultry house is located on bush fire prone land and is less than 5m from a dwelling it must be constructed of non-combustible material, and if it is constructed or installed in a heritage conservation area or a draft heritage conservation area it must be located in the rear yard.