

Circular

Title:	H5 Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Advice
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Department:	Lifesaving
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Audience:	SLSWA CLUBS , SLSWA Lifesaving Department
Summary:	Clubs and SLSWA staff are aware of the H5 Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) process

H5 bird flu (specifically high pathogenicity avian influenza H5N1strain 2.3.4.4b), is a serious and highly contagious strain of avian influenza, an infectious zoonotic viral disease that has spread quickly across the world.

[Australia confirmed its first case of H5 bird flu](#) in a vagrant migratory seabird (a brown skua) near Esperance on the WA south coast on 20 June 2026.

The **Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)** is Western Australia's lead agency for H5 bird flu. Their website is dpiird.wa.gov.au.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) is working alongside DPIRD and other State and Federal agencies to prepare for and respond to H5 bird flu in wildlife.

The risk of human health remains low.

An important instruction has been implemented by the State government, specifically:

If members of the public encounter a sick or dead bird, they should not touch or handle it. Instead, they should keep their distance and take a photograph, note the location, and report it to the 24-7 Emergency Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

This instruction should be followed by all SLSWA Clubs and SLSWA staff.

For the most up-to-date information on H5 bird flu in Australia, visit birdflu.gov.au

Any further information in relation to the content of this Circular, please contact Mr. Cam Robbins, SLSWA Lifesaving Department Manager Via phone (08) 9207 6666 or email crobbins@slswa.com.au



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