

EMERGENCY DISPOSAL & BIOSECURITY STRATEGY (EDBS)

**Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm
1582 Rushes Creek Road, Rushes Creek NSW 2346
Development Consent SSD 7704-Mod 3**

Prepared for:

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BASIS OF REPORT

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

ProTen obtained development consent from the Minister of Planning & Public Spaces on 15 June 2021 and other subsequent modifications thereafter. Consent was granted for the construction and operation of four poultry farms consisting of a total of 54 fully enclosed, tunnel ventilated poultry sheds with a maximum operational capacity of 3,051,000 birds at any one time.

The most recent approved modification is known as Modification 3 and is referred to as Consolidated Consent SSD 7704-Mod 3. Modification 3 was granted consent on 1 July 2022 and is to allow concurrent construction and operations of Stage 1 (Farm 2), while an alternate power supply solution is being approved and installed. Concurrent construction and operation are staged on Farm 2 as follows:

Table 1 Concurrent Construction & Operations

Stage	Sub-Stage	Construction Activities	Operational Activities	Estimated Operation Date
1	1A	Earthworks, northern site access road and internal roads	None	None
1	1B	Sheds 1 – 8 and ancillary infrastructure	None	None
1	1C	Sheds 9 – 12	Sheds 1 – 8	September 2022
1	1D	Sheds 13 – 16	Sheds 1 – 12	September 2022 – November 2022
1	1E	Sheds 17 – 18	Sheds 1 – 16	October 2022 – January 2023
1	1F	Nil	Sheds 1 – 18	December 2022 – March 2023

Stage 2 of the farm, being Farms 1, 3, and 4 shall be constructed after completion of concurrent construction of Stage 1, as described above. A future modification is being prepared that will allow the entire Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm to operate off-grid by solar, batteries and back-up generators.

For the purposes of this document, the Development is described in detail within the consolidated consent, Environmental Impact Statement (EME Advisory [EME] 2022) (EIS) and the appendices contained within. **Figure 1** shows the approved layout of the overall Development Site, including the four (4) poultry sheds. **Figure 2** is zoomed-in over Farm 2, demonstrating the Poultry Production Unit Layout.

1.2 Document Purpose and Aims

This Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (the Strategy) has been prepared to satisfy condition B31 of Consolidated Consent SSD 7704, which reads:

Prior to the commencement of operation, the Applicant must prepare an Emergency Disposal and Biosecurity Protocol, detailing the procedures for a biosecurity emergency including a mass mortality event, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The protocol must form part of the OEMP required by condition C5 and must:

(a) be prepared in consultation with Council, EPA, DPI and other relevant public authorities;

- (b) be consistent with the relevant AUSTVETPLAN manuals and supporting documents;*
- (c) describe the notification procedures;*
- (d) detail all transport routes to be used in a mass mortality event;*
- (e) detail any requirements to stage the mass disposal of dead livestock;*
- (f) detail the burial location(s) for the disposal of dead livestock, including plans and drawings;*
- (g) detail the measures to maintain quarantine control;*
- (h) detail measures to prevent ground water contamination; and*
- (i) detail the mass mortality disposal procedures and options.*

The Strategy has been prepared as an appendix to the Operational Environmental Management Plan (SLR Consulting 2022) (OEMP) prepared for ProTen and is to be read in conjunction with the OEMP.

The Strategy aims to assist ProTen to:

- Implement current best practice biosecurity measures;
- Prevent the introduction of infectious disease agents to the poultry farm;
- Prevent the spread of any infectious disease agents from an infected area to an uninfected area;
- Implement a coordinated management response in the unlikely event that biosecurity is breached and there is an emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreak; and
- Understand the viable options to dispose of bird mortalities in the unlikely event of an EAD outbreak and mass disposal is necessary.

Figure 1 Approved Development Layout

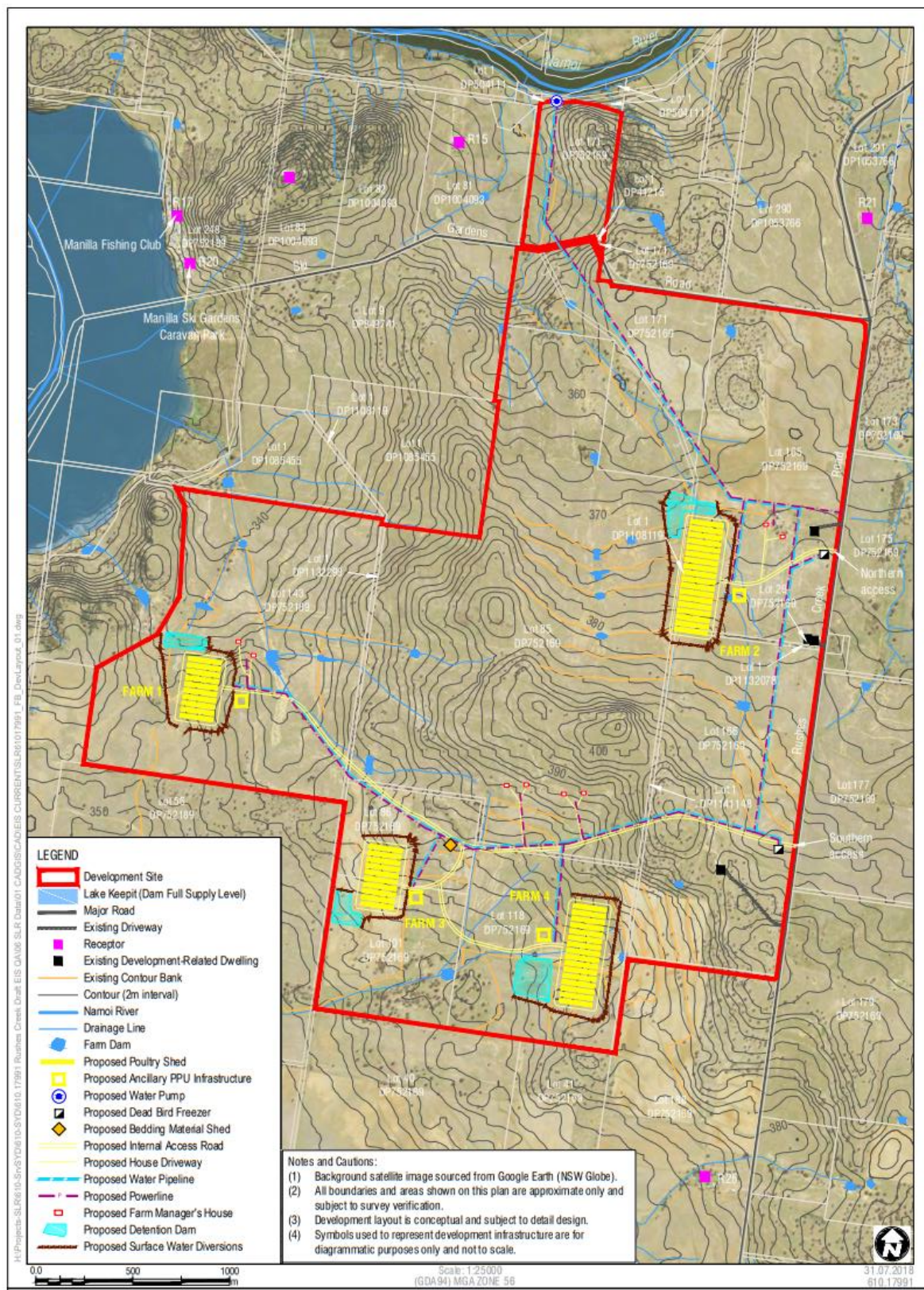
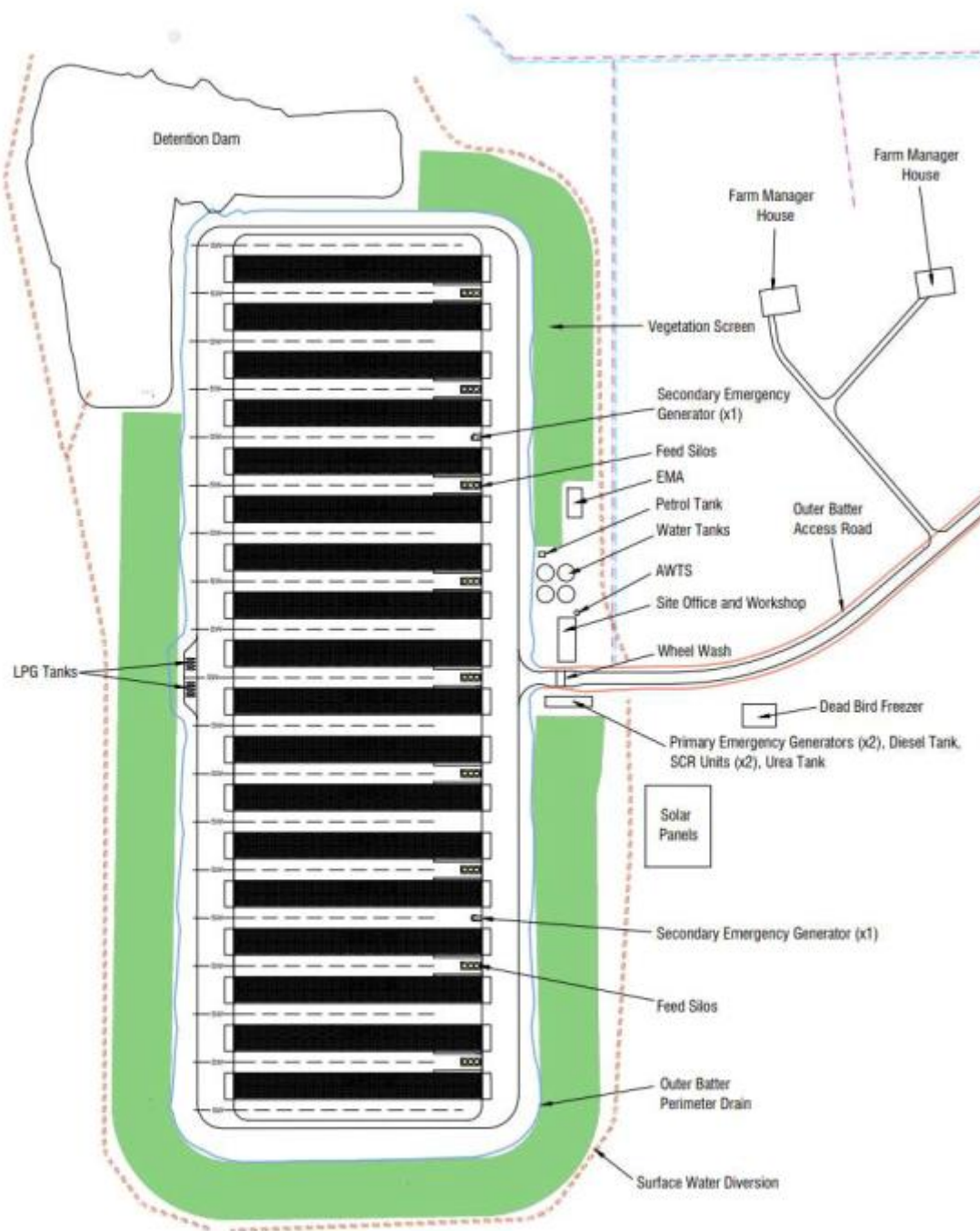


Figure 2 Farm 2 Poultry Production Unit Layout (Source: SSD 7704-Mod 3)



PROPOSED FARM 2 LAYOUT

Note: Layout is conceptual. Symbols have been used to represent ancillaries.



Figure 3: Modified Farm 2 Layout

1.3 Relevant Guidelines

The *Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy* has been prepared in consideration of the following guideline documents:

- *RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standard - Meat Chickens* (RSPCA Australia 2020) (RSPCA Standard);
- *Best Practice Management for Meat Chicken Production in NSW, Manual 2 – Meat Chicken Growing Management* (Department of Primary Industries [DPI] 2012) (Best Practice Guidelines);
- *National Animal Welfare Standards for the Chicken Meat Industry* (Australian Poultry Cooperative Research Centre 2008);
- *National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers* (Australian Chicken Meat Federation [ACMF] 2020);
- *National Water Biosecurity Manual - Poultry Production* (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry [DAFF] 2009);
- *How to comply with the Biosecurity (Salmonella Enteritidis) Control Order 2020* (DPI 2020);
- *Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan, AUSVETPLAN, Operational Manual, Destruction of Animals* (Animal Health Australia [AHA] 2015a);
- *Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan, AUSVETPLAN, Operational Manual, Disposal* (AHA 2015b);
- *Mass Disposal Preparedness for the Poultry Industries* (AgriFutures Australia 2020); and
- *Biosecurity of Mass Poultry Mortality Composting* (Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation [RIRDC] 2014).

Additionally, reference has been made to the *ProTen Biosecurity Manual* (ProTen 2020), a copy of which is included in **Appendix A**.

1.4 Consultation

This EDBS has been prepared in align with previous strategies prepared for existing ProTen Poultry Production Farms. The format and details within these strategies have previously been endorsed by DPI Agriculture and accordingly, this strategy shall follow suite.

As required by condition B31 of Consolidated Consent SSD 7704 (see **Section 1.2**), this Strategy has been prepared in consultation with the Biosecurity and Food Safety Unit of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), EPA, and Tamworth Regional Council. **Table 2** provides a summary of the consultation activities with DPI, including the key issues raised and the related responses.

Table 2 Consultation

Authority	Date	Method	Purposes / Issues Raised / Outcomes
DPI	9/8/2022	Email	Invitation to provide comment
DPI	18/8/2022	Email	DPI provided input and minor amendments to EDBS. All edits accepted and amendments adopted in EDBS.
EPA	11/8/2022	Email	Invitation to provide comment

Authority	Date	Method	Purposes / Issues Raised / Outcomes
EPA	23/8/2022	Email	EPA request that Narrabri Regional Office be removed from the strategy and update the EPA contact number. EPA have no other comments on the strategy. Minor contact amendments adopted.
Tamworth Council	11/8/2022	Email	Invitation to provide comment
Tamworth Regional Council	11/8/2022	Email	Tamworth Regional Council acknowledge receipt of document.
Tamworth Regional Council			

2 Environmental Management Framework

2.1 ProTen Operational Team

2.1.1 Contact Details

Table 3 lists the key ProTen contacts for the Rushes Creek poultry farm.

Table 3 ProTen Contacts

Role	Name	Contact Details
ProTen Management		
NSW Operations Manager	Graham Kirby	Ph: 02 6962 1770 / 0438 842 459 Email: graham@proten.com.au
Regional Operations Manager	Graeme Attwell	Ph: 02 6769 7706 / 0447 048 321 Email: graemea@proten.com.au
SHEQ Advisor	Kathryn Singh	Ph: 02 6962 1770 / 0434 550 789 Email: kates@proten.com.au
SHEQ Officer – Tamworth	Richard Bullock	Ph: 0407 659 997 Email: richardb@proten.com.au
Risk Manager	Jim Rimmer	Ph: 02 6962 1770 / 0438 750 974 Email: jrimmer@proten.com.au
Rushes Creek Site Management		
Farm Manager	Jae St Leon	Ph: 0476 507 171 Email: jaestl@proten.com.au
Farm Assistant Manager	TBA	TBA
ProTen Environmental Hotline		
Toll-free environmental hotline	-	Ph: 1800 776 994

SHEQ – Safety, Health, Environment and Quality

2.1.2 Roles and Responsibility

The key personnel responsible for biosecurity and EAD management at Rushes Creek are listed in **Table 4** along with their respective key responsibilities.

Table 4 ProTen Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Key Responsibilities
Site Management – farm managers	- Overall responsibility for biosecurity in accordance with this Strategy, National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers (ACMF 2020) and ProTen Biosecurity Manual (2020). - Ensure employees and contractors are appropriately inducted, trained and aware of their general obligations for biosecurity, environmental protection and the health and safety of fellow workers. - Notify the NSW Operations Manager and SHEQ Advisor in relation to any biosecurity breach and/or suspected EAD. - Ensure the appropriate management response is instigated and carried through in the event of an EAD outbreak. - Record, notify, investigate and respond to any environmental incidents, including biosecurity breaches and/or EAD outbreaks.
NSW Operations Manager	- Oversee the implementation of this Strategy and provide adequate resources to enable its effective implementation. - Notifications to regulatory authorities for any incident that causes or threatens to cause material harm to the environment, which may include a biosecurity breach and/or EAD. - Coordinate any reporting and/or liaisons with regulatory authorities.
SHEQ Advisor	- Support the NSW Operations Manager and Site Management in relation to biosecurity matters and any environmental incidents. - Support Site Management with site induction and training requirements for employees and contractors.
All employees and contractors	- Ensure familiarity, implementation and compliance with this Strategy and the ProTen Biosecurity Manual (2020). - Support ProTen's commitment to strict biosecurity. - Work in a manner that will not breach site biosecurity. - Report any biosecurity breaches and/or suspected diseases to Site Management without delay.

2.1.3 Inductions and Training

Site Management, with the assistance of the SHEQ Advisor/Officer, will ensure that all employees and contractors are suitably inducted and trained prior to commencing any work on site. Training will take place initially through the site induction and then on an on-going basis through "toolbox talks" (or similar).

Topics to be covered in relation to biosecurity include:

- General site biosecurity expectations and requirements;
- Familiarisation with this Strategy and the ProTen Biosecurity Manual (2020);
- How to recognise the signs of disease in poultry so that sick and/or higher than normal mortality numbers can be reported to Site Management and immediate action can be taken;
- Appropriate response and management of biosecurity breaches and any suspected EAD outbreak; and

- Proper use, care and maintenance of personal protective equipment (PPE).

2.2 Regulatory Authorities

Table 5 lists the regulatory authorities and organisations that may have an interest in relation to the biosecurity and any suspected EAD outbreak at the Rushes Creek poultry farm.

Table 5 Regulatory Authorities Contacts

Regulatory Agency	Contact Details
Department of Primary Industries (DPI)	
Biosecurity	Ph: 1800 675 888 Email: quarantine@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Emergency Animal Disease Hotline	Ph: 1800 675 888
North West Local Lands Services (LLS)	
Tamworth Office	Ph: 02 6764 5900 Email: admin.northwest@lls.nsw.gov.au
Tamworth Regional Council	
Customer service call centre	Ph: (02) 6767 5555 or 1300 733 625 Email: trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	
Armidale Regional Office	Ph: 02 6773 7000
Environment Line	Ph: 131 555 for pollution and environmental incidents Ph: 02 9995 5555 for other enquiries Email: info@epa.nsw.gov.au
NSW Health	
Tamworth Local Health District – Public Health	Ph: 02 6764 8000 / 1300 066 055
Safework NSW	
Incident Notification Hotline	Ph: 131 050

3 Biosecurity

Biosecurity refers to those measures taken to prevent or control the introduction and spread of infectious agents to a flock. It aims to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases and prevent the spread of disease from an infected area to an uninfected area. Biosecurity plays a vital role in the incidence of disease and is an integral part of any successful poultry production system.

There is a major economic incentive for ProTen to ensure birds are kept disease free. As well as affecting bird health and welfare, disease can significantly reduce production efficiency. If a flock requires depopulating, the economic gain from the flock is immediately lost. In addition, there is considerable cost associated with euthanasia and removal of birds, carcass disposal, shed disinfection and remediation activities. On this basis, ProTen places an extremely high importance on maintaining flock health through vaccination, farm hygiene and biosecurity.

3.1 Primary Routes for Disease Transmission

It is important to know and understand the potential routes for disease and pathogen transmission at a poultry farm. According to the *National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers* (ACMF 2020) and *ProTen Biosecurity Manual* (ProTen 2020), the primary routes (main risks) are:

Poultry

- Movement of birds between sheds/farms
- Dead bird disposal

Other Animals

- Domestic and wild birds
- Domestic and feral animals, including other livestock and pets
- Insects
- Rodents (rats/mice)

People

- Farm personnel and family members
- Contractors, maintenance personnel, neighbours, servicepersons, visitors

Equipment

- Equipment and vehicles that have entered the biosecurity zone without proper decontamination

Water Supply

- Water supplies contaminated with faeces from other birds/animals that is not appropriately treated
- Poor site drainage and water collection areas

Feed

- Feed contaminated by the raw materials used or mould, or by exposure to rodents and birds

Poultry Litter

- Transport of bedding material on to the farm and poultry litter from the farm
- On-site storage of bedding material and/or poultry litter

3.2 Level 1 General Biosecurity

ProTen has demonstrated a strict biosecurity commitment and will implement a range of proven measures at Rushes Creek on a routine basis in accordance with current industry guidelines and standards, including the *National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers* (ACMF 2020), *National Water Biosecurity Manual – Poultry Production* (DAFF 2009) and *ProTen Biosecurity Manual* (ProTen 2020). The key operational biosecurity measures that will be implemented at Rushes Creek include, but will not be limited to, those outlined below.

3.2.1 Production Area Fencing

The production area of the poultry farm, including the poultry sheds and areas around the poultry sheds used for feed storage and handling, loading and unloading activities, and surface water management, will have a perimeter fence or otherwise well-defined boundary establishing a biosecurity zone and excluding any grazing livestock. This will ensure that the production area/biosecurity zone is clearly demarcated from the remainder of the premises.

3.2.2 Production Area Signage

Appropriate signage will be erected on all access/entry points to the production area to notify visitors of the biosecurity zone and direct them to contact ProTen prior to proceeding, along with any other requirements.

Photo 1 Standard farm biosecurity signage



Photo 2 SE Control Order signage



SE Control Order Requirements

Under the provisions of the *Biosecurity (Salmonella Enteritidis) Control Order 2020* (see **Section 3.3**) (SE Control Order), which is effective until 30 June 2024 (unless extended in the meantime), all access/entry points to the production area must have a clearly visible sign stating words to the effect of –

A Control Order made under the Biosecurity Act 2015 applies to anyone who enters this area. Unauthorised entry may be an offence. Contact the person in charge before entry to find out how the Order applies to you.

All signs must also state how persons entering the area are to contact the person in charge.

3.2.3 Production Area Access

Only essential visitors will be permitted access to the production area and must comply with biosecurity access requirements before entry, including a visitor declaration. There is a parking area outside of the production area for vehicles not required to enter the area.

Any person entering the poultry sheds must sanitise hands and use footbaths before entering. Any necessary PPE will be provided on-site. Staff members must ensure that boots worn in the poultry sheds and used on the farm are not worn or taken outside the biosecurity zone. Work boots must be left at the farm.

Staff members and visitors will not be permitted to travel from other poultry farms to Rushes Creek without certain biosecurity precautions. Refer to specific requirements for direct farm staff, internal visitors (any person that resides/works within the local growing region), and external visitors (any person that does not reside/work within the local growing region) in the *ProTen Biosecurity Manual* (ProTen 2020) in **Appendix A**.

SE Control Order Requirements

A copy of the SE Control Order (or information on where to view the Control Order) is to be provided to all persons entering the production area prior to entry. Information about the measures in place to implement the Control Order and how to follow those measures is also to be made available to all persons entering the production area prior to entry. When a person seeks permission to enter the production area, the person in charge is only to grant permission if the person agrees to comply with any measures put in place to implement the Control Order.

3.2.4 Wheel Wash

The potential for mechanical transmission of disease pathogens will be reduced through the installation and use of an automated vehicle wheel wash adjacent to the office-workshop building. All vehicles entering the poultry farm's biosecurity zone will be required to pass through the wheel wash to remove organic material from the wheels and chassis. An appropriate sanitiser will be added to the wash water.

3.2.5 Single Age Farm

Vaccinated livestock can become infected and show no clinical signs of disease, yet can transfer disease to younger and/or more susceptible birds. To reduce the risk of disease transfer and outbreak, whole flock units with no age difference will be placed into each poultry shed. On this basis, the poultry farm will operate on an "all in – all out" placement and depopulation program.

3.2.6 Closed Flock

Birds housed at other farms may be exposed to different strains of organisms to which other flocks may not have developed immunity to. In addition, birds may have been exposed to a disease organism and not have developed clinical signs of the disease. Moving apparently healthy birds into a disease-free flock could mean introducing disease to a clean farm site. For these reasons, once a flock is placed, no new birds will be introduced from any other source.

3.2.7 Water Supply Treatment

Rushes Creek's operational water supply requirement will be met via surface water extraction from the Namoi River, under the provisions of the two existing water access licences (WALs) held by ProTen (refer to the Rushes Creek OEMP for further details). The water will be treated as per the recommendations in the National Water Biosecurity Manual – Poultry

Production (DAFF 2009) to ensure it is suitable for bird consumption. In summary:

- The water will be filtered through sand media;
- The pH will be monitored and if it is found to be high, citric acid will be added to maintain the pH at approximately 7.0;
- The water will then be chlorinated to deliver approximately 5 parts per million (ppm) in the water storage tanks; and
- Finally, chlorine dioxide will be dosed into the water delivery system supplying the poultry sheds at between 0.5 to 0.1 ppm.

3.2.8 Other Measures

Various additional biosecurity measures will be implemented on a routine basis in accordance with the *National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers* (ACMF 2020) and *ProTen Biosecurity Manual* (ProTen 2020) (see **Appendix A**). These include:

- Staff members working in direct contact with livestock will not be permitted to keep poultry, or any other bird species or pigs at their place of residence.
- The poultry sheds and equipment will be sanitised and disinfected at the end of each batch.
- Dead birds will be removed from the poultry sheds on a daily basis and stored in the on-site dead bird freezers prior to removal off site. Under no circumstances will dead birds be stockpiled or disposed of within the site.
- Poultry litter will be promptly removed from the poultry sheds and transported off site at the end of each batch. Under no circumstances will poultry litter be stockpiled or disposed of within the site.
- Appropriate waste management systems will be implemented to ensure no on-site stockpiling or disposal of waste materials (refer to details in the Rushes Creek OEMP).
- Pest control measures will be implemented to prevent and control outbreaks (refer to details in the Rushes Creek OEMP).
- The poultry sheds will be maintained to prevent the entry of wild birds and limit the access of vermin as far as is practical.
- The production area and a buffer zone around the production area out to a minimum of 3 metres will be kept free of vermin habitat such as overgrown grass, dense vegetation and debris as far as practicable. Grass will be regularly slashed/mown.
- Any equipment coming on-site from another poultry farm will be sanitised and disinfected prior to entering the biosecurity zone.
- The surface water management system will be well-maintained to ensure the area around the poultry sheds is adequately drained to prevent the accumulation and stagnation of water likely to attract waterfowl.

3.3 Salmonella Enteritidis Biosecurity

The *Biosecurity (Salmonella Enteritidis) Control Order 2020* (SE Control Order) commenced on 30 June 2020 (as amended 23 June 2022) and is effective until 30 June 2024 (unless extended in the meantime). The Control Order requires the poultry industry to ensure that strict biosecurity and hygiene measures are in place for all people entering and exiting poultry farms to minimise the risk of spread of *Salmonella Enteritidis*. Many of the measures specified in the Control Order reflect existing biosecurity requirements, however there are additional requirements, and the Control Order should be referred to. The Control Order also puts an onus on visitors to a poultry farm to comply with certain requirements.

More information, including a link to the Control Order and DPI's document *How to comply with the Biosecurity (Salmonella Enteritidis) Control Order 2020*, can be found here - <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/se>

3.4 Level 2 Emergency Biosecurity

If an EAD alert is raised, the following additional biosecurity measures must be followed in accordance with the *ProTen Biosecurity Manual* (2020) in **Appendix A**:

Facilities

- Farm access gates must be kept locked at all times.
- Poultry shed doors must be locked at all times when no staff are on farm.
- Facilities for the sanitisation and disinfection of vehicles and equipment must be in place and in good working order at all times.

Personnel

- No visitors are to enter the biosecurity zone unless essential.
- All routine maintenance and repair works are to cease, with only emergency work to be carried out.
- Staff and essential visitors must head-to-toe shower before and after their visit. A complete change of clothes, footwear, hair covering and breathing protection is required. Used clothing and all used PPE must remain on site.
- Staff should not travel to work with staff from another poultry farm.

Operational

- Any vehicle that must enter the biosecurity zone must be decontaminated before and after going into the biosecurity zone.
- No birds or poultry litter are to be moved on or off the site until the disease status is confirmed.
- If an EAD outbreak is confirmed, further measures will be stipulated by ProTen in consultation with Baiada Poultry (Baiada) and DPI.

4 Mass Mortality Strategy

In the unlikely event that biosecurity is breached and there is an EAD outbreak at Rushes Creek, the coordinated management response outlined in the below sub-sections will be implemented.

4.1 Notification Requirements

4.1.1 Biosecurity Act 2015

Under the provisions of sections 30 and 38 of the Biosecurity Act 2015 and clause 7 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2019, there is a duty to notify any awareness or suspicion of prohibited matter and/or a biosecurity matter/event. This duty applies to the owner, occupier or person in charge, care, control or custody of a premises, or a carrier or thing (such as an animal, animal product, vehicle or equipment) to which the matter relates. This duty also applies to a person consulting in their professional capacity (such as a veterinarian).

Suspicion or awareness of prohibited matter and/or a biosecurity matter/event must be immediately reported verbally to:

- An authorised DPI officer; and/or
- Northwest LLS.

Section 2.2 provides the contact details for these authorities.

Suspicion or awareness of other listed notifiable pests and diseases of animals must be notified within one working day.

For less urgent cases (that are not potentially prohibited matter or a biosecurity event), it is possible to use the Notifiable Pests and Diseases of Animals Reporting Form to notify. However, if there is any doubt as to whether you are dealing with prohibited matter, a biosecurity matter/event or other listed notifiable pest or disease of animals, it is best to phone to ensure you fulfil your duty to notify.

4.1.2 Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

Under the provisions of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act), there is a duty to notify any incident that has caused or threatens to cause material harm to the environment. This extends to biosecurity breaches and poultry disease outbreaks.

The POEO Act provides the following definition for “material harm to the environment”:

- (a) harm to the environment is material if:*
 - (i) it involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial, or*
 - (ii) it results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (or such other amount as is prescribed by the regulations), and*
- (b) loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment.*

All employees and contractors are responsible for immediately notifying Site Management of any biosecurity breach and/or suspected poultry disease outbreak at Rushes Creek.

A senior member of ProTen Management must immediately notify the “relevant authorities” of any suspected EAD outbreak. The relevant authorities for such a situation at Rushes Creek are:

- DPI;
- Northwest LLS;
- Council;
- EPA;
- NSW Health; and
- Safework NSW.

Section 2.2 provides the contact details for these authorities.

4.2 Health and Safety

All activities during a suspected EAD outbreak must comply with all relevant workplace health and safety requirements. ProTen has “duty of care” obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (and its associated Regulation).

Personal Protective Equipment

Appropriate PPE must be maintained on site at all times. This is particularly important for all employees, contractors and/or visitors entering a shed with a suspected EAD.

This PPE should aim to prevent skin contact with virus-containing materials or environments, and should include gloves, aprons, outer garments or coveralls, boots or boot covers, a disposable head cover or hair cover and unvented safety goggles (eye protection is important to prevent eye contact with virus contaminated dusts, droplets and aerosols and to keep workers from touching their eyes with potentially contaminated fingers or gloves). While disposable PPE is preferred, reusable outer garments that can be effectively disinfected are suitable.

DPI recommends that an appropriate face mask or respirator be worn irrespective of the nature/type of the EAD (i.e. not only if potentially transmitted by contaminated dusts, droplets or aerosols).

4.3 ProTen Resources

There are typically nine ProTen staff members that will work on-site at Farm 2 during daytime operations, and a maximum 25 staff across the overall operation including farm managers / assistant farm managers that live on-site. In the unlikely event of an EAD, and in addition to the regular farm staff, ProTen would be able to mobilise additional assistance from its Tamworth Based resources. This would include on-call staff members and, if required, staff members from ProTen’s numerous other poultry farms in the region.

Baiada, as the integrator company, would also direct resources at any suspected EAD. Baiada would have personnel, heavy machinery, veterinary resources and laboratory resources available (if required).

4.4 Quarantine Procedures

In the unlikely event of an EAD outbreak at Rushes Creek, Site Management will immediately implement strict quarantine procedures to isolate the potentially infected farm and notify DPI and other relevant authorities (see **Section 4.1**).

ProTen’s quarantine procedures in the event of a suspected EAD include the following:

- All movement of birds and poultry litter will immediately cease, and all other movements on and off the site will only be permitted under permit or direction from an authorised DPI biosecurity officer.
- Site gates will be kept closed and locked.
- The doors of the poultry sheds will be kept closed and locked.
- No visitors will be permitted to enter the site unless absolutely essential. Company personnel will discontinue routine visits except on suspicion of problems and only emergency repairs and maintenance will be permitted (i.e. no routine work).

- Essential visitors will be required to have a head-to-toe shower before and after the visit. A complete change of clothes, footwear, hair covering and breathing protection will be required. Used clothing and all used PPE will remain on-site.
- Any vehicle that must enter the site (for example, feed delivery trucks) will be decontaminated before and after the visit in accordance with the DPI's guide titled Decontamination of vehicles and equipment (2018).
- Records will be maintained on the movement of vehicles, equipment, people, dead birds and litter on and off the site. This information will be required by DPI.

ProTen will work with DPI and follow all instructions provided during the quarantine period and until the EAD situation is fully dealt with. The response will depend on what the disease is. If it is a disease under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) (for example, highly pathogenic avian influenza), an EAD Response Plan will need to be agreed to by the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD).

4.5 Euthanasia of Infected Stock

Upon confirmation that it is indeed an EAD outbreak and immediate slaughter of farm stock is necessary, euthanasia will be directed by DPI. The method of euthanasia (and disposal) will be determined by DPI (in consultation with the EPA and the industry) and will be based on a risk assessment considering numerous variables, including the movement of infected carcasses, type of disease involved, availability and suitability of options, costs, etc.

The preferred available method for the euthanasia of large numbers of birds in commercial poultry units in *AUSVETPLAN: Operational Manual – Destruction of Animals* (AHA 2015a) is gassing with carbon dioxide (CO₂) within the poultry sheds. This method reduces the exposure of personnel to infected material, eliminates the need to handle large numbers of live birds, reduces dispersal of dust, provides the opportunity to subsequently compost the dead birds within the shed, and should be more cost-effective than methods that require birds to be caught individually (AHA 2015a).

AUSVETPLAN: Operational Manual – Destruction of Animals (AHA 2015a) and *Destruction of birds using carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) in the shed* (DPI 2008) provide the following procedure (in summary):

Planning

Preparation of sheds must not begin until it has been confirmed that sufficient bulk gas can be made available to complete the task.

Where possible, the procedure should be carried out in cool still weather conditions (temperature <15 to 20 degrees Celsius, wind speed <5 to 10 kilometres per hour), which will help contain the gas in the shed.

Shed Preparation

- If necessary, a minimum number of suitably dressed/protected personnel should enter the shed and turn off any necessary services, such as electricity, water and feed. Most, if not all, services should be able to be turned off external to the shed.
- Drinking and feed systems should be raised to their maximum height.
- CO₂ warning devices should be placed to show gas levels 1 metre above bird height.

- The ventilation system should be shut down when the CO₂ is ready for injection into the shed.
- While wrapping the shed in plastic should not be required for “controlled-environment sheds” (i.e. fully-enclosed ventilated sheds), the shed should be inspected for any openings where the gas may leak out and these opening should be sealed.
- The gas delivery hoses should be positioned 1 metre above the floor.
- Warning signs should be posted on the shed and access ways.

Gas Supply and Injection

The gas should not be injected into the shed until:

- Adequate supplies of CO₂ gas to complete the task have been confirmed and made available;
- The current and predicted weather for the duration of the task is within the limits mentioned above (where possible);
- The site supervisor/team leader is satisfied that the shed is free from large openings where the gas may leak out and/or is adequately wrapped/sealed;
- All personnel are outside the shed, present and accounted for; and
- Suitably qualified breathing apparatus personnel are in attendance.

When gas injection begins, the time should be recorded so that the minimum injection period is completed. Gas injection should fill the shed in 30 to 60 minutes. The following points need attention:

- The gas should be delivered quietly to prevent birds packing up.
- The gas should be delivered 1 metre above the birds so that it flows down and across the floor.
- At the start-up of gas flow, the delivery valves should be closed and the vaporiser open. The valve from the tank to the vaporiser should then be rapidly opened three-quarters of the way.
- The shed should be monitored for any gas leakage with a portable CO₂ monitor. The terrain of the site and surrounding lands, which is very flat, should not influence the direction of any escaping gas.
- Once the injection time is completed, sensors should be checked to confirm that the gas has reached the desired level.
- The gas flow from the tank to the vaporiser should be closed while the delivery valve is open so that pressure is released.
- The shed should remain closed for at least 2 hours after the gas injection. The birds should then be inspected by personnel in breathing apparatus to confirm they are all dead. Where small numbers of birds (<100) are still alive, these can be killed by an alternative method such as neck dislocation.
- The shed should be ventilated (open exhaust vents) for at least 4 hours to allow the gas to escape from the feathers of the birds. Sensor readings must be checked for clearance of CO₂ before personnel without breathing apparatus enter the shed. Personnel with breathing apparatus must stand by until it is established that the shed is clear of CO₂.

4.6 Disposal Options

A number of options exist for the disposal of bird mortalities. Again, the method of disposal will be determined by DPI (in consultation with the EPA and the industry) and will be based on a risk assessment considering numerous variables, including the movement of infected carcasses, type of disease involved, availability and suitability of options, etc. It is estimated that the Development will generate approximately 1,300 tonnes of dead birds per year. The poultry sheds will be inspected on a daily basis and any dead birds collected and moved to one of the dead bird freezers for short-term storage prior to being disposed of.

The *AUSVETPLAN: Operational Manual – Disposal* (AHA 2015b) lists burial, burning, rendering, composting and anaerobic digestion as mass disposal options. The most appropriate option in the event of a mass mortality event will depend on a number of factors, including the scale of the outbreak, the ability of the rendering plant to accept the bird carcasses, the logistics and cost associated with transportation of carcasses off site, and a site's suitability for burial. While on-farm burial has previously been the predominant disposal option in the poultry industry, this practice is now subject to greater environmental assessment and controls will only be undertaken if suitable conditions exist and effective post disposal monitoring and management systems are implemented. Ultimately, the method of disposal will be based on a rigorous risk assessment by NSW DPI and response support agencies such as the NSW EPA.

In consideration of the above and depending on the scale of the EAD event and instructions provided by DPI, the following options (listed in order of preference) are available for the disposal of bird carcasses, infected waste materials (e.g. bedding and manure) etc., and fomites in the event of an EAD outbreak at Rushes Creek.

4.6.1 Option 1 – In Shed Composting and Land Application

DPI has previously advised that the preferred option for mass bird disposal is in-shed composting. Composting is a natural biological process that transforms organic materials, in a predominantly aerobic environment, into a useful and biologically stable end-product. The process, if effectively implemented, generates sufficient heat to destroy most pathogenic organisms (AHA 2015b).

The *Biosecurity of Mass Poultry Mortality Composting* (RIRDC 2014) investigated the feasibility of on-farm composting and the effectiveness of this disposal method in eliminating avian diseases in bird carcasses and litter. The investigation found that composting effectively restricts the spread of the disease, and the composting can be undertaken in the poultry sheds or on the farm using poultry litter as a bulking agent. Studies have been conducted on the survival of the V4 vaccine strain of Newcastle disease virus during composting, finding that the virus was killed within the first 5 days of composting. Conditions monitored during the composting process suggested there is a wide safety margin and that the Newcastle disease virus and other EADs, such as avian influenza, are unlikely to survive for long (RIRDC 2014). The poultry carcasses rapidly decompose, usually within 14 days, and after a further period of composting the compost can be safely applied to land (RIRDC 2014) (subject to the required licensing/exemption from the EPA).

Emergency management agencies in Australia have identified on-farm composting as a preferred method of carcass disposal. The successful implementation of composting as a disposal method during an EAD outbreak has been repeatedly demonstrated in the United States of America (USA) and Canada (RIRDC 2014).

Although composting can be undertaken both inside and outside the poultry shed, in-shed composting is the preferred method since it provides better security and protection from wind, rain and scavengers. In-shed composting also holds the advantage of not needing to transport diseased carcasses and, as such, reduces the potential for spread of the disease.

In-shed composting would occur under the supervision of DPI, along with the EPA and Council, and in accordance with the procedures outlined in latest versions of *AUSVETPLAN: Operational Manual – Disposal* (AHA 2015b) and *Biosecurity of Mass Poultry Mortality Composting* (RIRDC 2014). The standard operating procedures (SOPs) for mass poultry mortality composting provided by RIRDC (2014) can be modified to suit the needs of the individual regulatory authorities. There are three separate SOPs covering the main operations involved in in-shed windrow composting:

- SOP No. 1 - setting up composting windrows using both the mixing and layering methods;
- SOP No. 2 - process control and monitoring, including temperature monitoring, troubleshooting and key performance criteria for composting; and
- SOP No. 3 - turning windrows and compost sampling for physical, chemical and microbiological testing.

All carcasses, poultry litter and uneaten feed in the shed must be composted. When the quantity of poultry litter is insufficient to requirements for co-composting material, additional material may need to be imported from off-site. Green (i.e. not kiln dried) sawdust is the preferred co-compost material since it has good moisture content (it is not too dry and dusty), is highly absorbent (low risk of runoff from leachate) and it is easy to handle. When green sawdust is not available, other suitable compost substrates include pine shavings (can be dusty), sawdust/shavings mixes (often used as bedding material in the poultry industry), poultry litter (from unaffected farms), hammer-milled green waste (can be variable in particle size and moisture content), rice hulls and straw. Given the wide range of suitable materials, including clean poultry bedding material, sourcing should not be an issue.

When undertaken properly, in-shed composting should not result in notable environmental impact. While odour emissions are possible during compost turning, peak emissions usually settle down quickly and they will be largely confined within the enclosed poultry shed. There is no risk to groundwater given the poultry sheds have fully sealed flooring and are surrounded by a dwarf concrete bund wall. Furthermore, each PPU comprises surface water diversion banks and swales that shall contain stormwater and runoff within the PPU and sediment basins and restrict outside water from entering the PPU area. Groundwater shall be monitored at installed monitoring points nominated within the Soil & Water Management Plan (SWMP) produced by Sage Environmental.

While the finished product would need to be tested for physical, chemical and microbiological properties before it is released for use, AHA (2015b) advises that it can be recycled, stored or added to land as a soil amendment. Subject to the end-product testing results being below guideline/agreed thresholds and meeting all other requirements, including complete eradication of the poultry disease, the finished compost product would represent a valuable soil amendment and its application to land would be bon-a-fide reuse. Provided the land application area is appropriately located and sized and managed to prevent any migration of leachate, there should not be any risks associated with applying it to the significant area of residual agricultural land at Rushes Creek. Please refer to indicative location shown in plan attached as **Appendix E**. This location would be confirmed in consultation with NSW DPI, at the time of a mass mortality event.

The EPA advised (see **Section 1.4**) that while on-site land application of the compost would be preferred, off-site land application following an EAD event may be an option subject to site constraints analysis and licensing or a specific resource recovery exemption and order.

4.6.2 Option 2 – Off -Site Rendering

Whilst in-shed composting has significant advantages as a mass disposal option, a disadvantage is that the affected shed(s) can be out of operation for weeks as the composting process takes place. This is where rendering as a disposal option has an advantage, enabling the affected shed(s) to be cleaned, decontaminated and brought back into production in a much shorter period of time.

If in shed composting is not possible or not preferred on the basis of commercial considerations, the birds could be transported to Baiada's Oakburn Rendering Facility located 60 kilometres (km) (via road) from Rushes Creek via the Oxley Highway (travelling southeast).

Figure 3 shows the location of the rendering plant and the primary transport route. Note, other transport routes may be considered depending on the type of disease involved, proximity of breeder farms to the transport route etc. The transport of birds to the rendering plant would only be allowed under a movement permit issued by DPI and following a risk assessment. The permit would specify the transport route and times that transport is allowed.

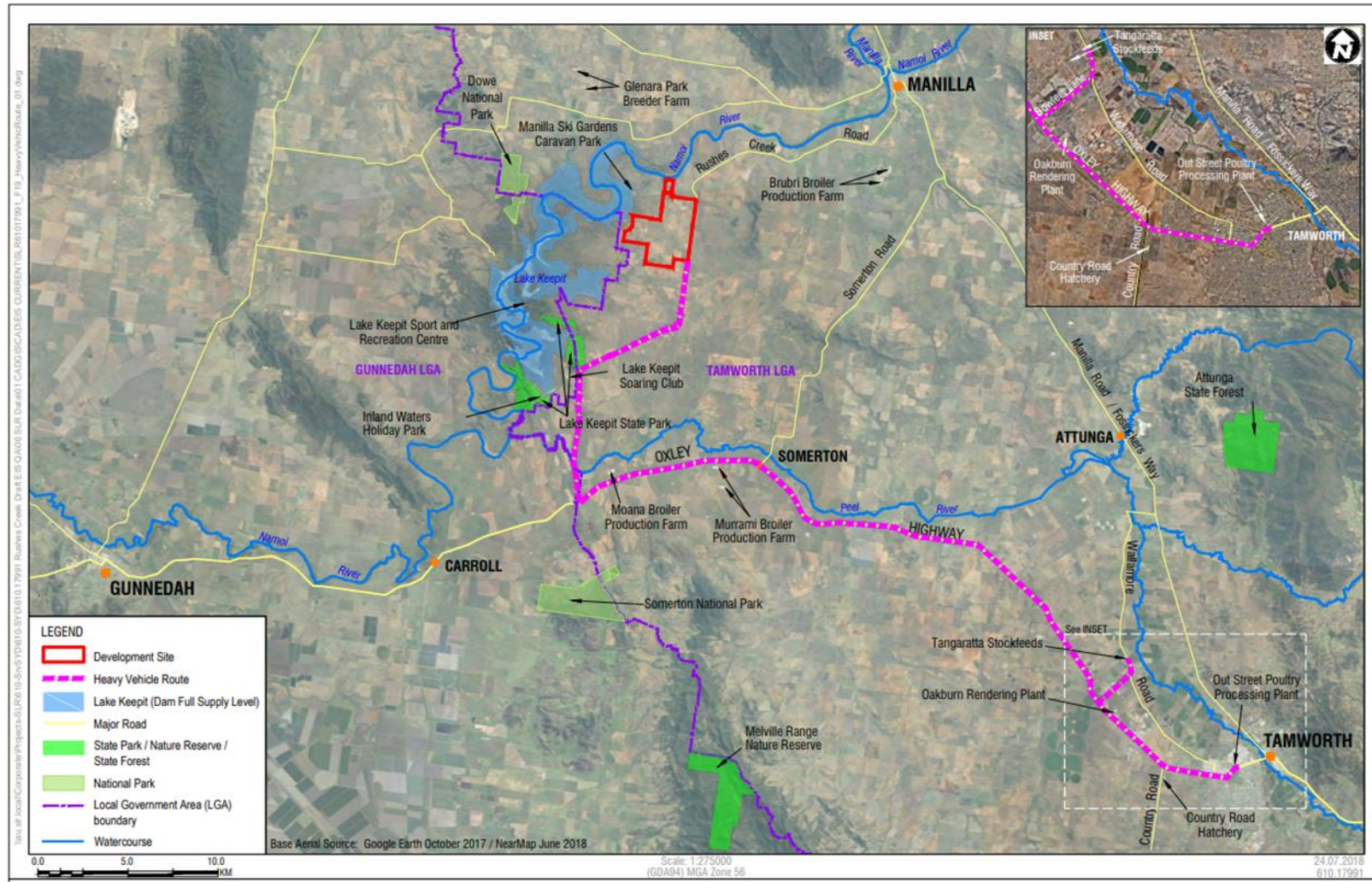
Rendering is the process by which materials are treated to remove moisture content and produce relatively dry edible and inedible by-products, such as meat meal and tallow. Rendering would only be an option if:

- The volume of the material would not exceed the rendering plant's daily processing capacity and would not significantly impact on the plant's ability to undertake normal operation and continue to service the local poultry industry (although shifts could be extended and/or prioritised to process diseased birds ahead of routine operations); and
- The off-site transport of the infected birds would not be a risk in terms of potentially spreading the disease to other poultry farms along the transport route; and
- Appropriate transport vehicles were available.

Rendering would occur under the supervision of DPI, along with the EPA and Council, and in consideration of the key points raised in the latest version of *AUSVETPLAN: Operational Manual – Disposal* (AHA 2015b).

Carcasses would be loaded into leak-proof containers within the poultry sheds and these containers would be transported in appropriate trucks decontaminated on exit from Rushes Creek in accordance with DPI's *Decontamination of vehicles and equipment* (2018). The truck and operator should be independent from normal ProTen and Baiada operations in order to minimise the risk of disease transfer to other poultry operations. All vehicles would require thoroughly decontamination after unloading.

Figure 3 Approved Heavy Vehicle Route (Source: EIS August, 2018)



4.6.3 Option 3 – Off-Site Landfill Disposal

If in-shed composting and/or off-site rendering and/or off-site composting are not possible, a third option is the transportation of mortalities to a landfill facility that is appropriately licensed by the EPA to accept such material. This option would be seen as a last resort and would only be an option if:

- The landfill operator can make landfill area that is appropriately sectioned and quarantined available;
- The designated area of the landfill has capacity to cater for the amount of material to be disposed of;
- Landfilling would not significantly impact on the landfill's ability to undertake normal operation and service the other requirements of the local government area;
- The off-site transport of the mortalities would not be a risk in terms of potentially spreading disease to other poultry farms along the transport route; and
- Appropriate transport vehicles and routes were available.

Carcasses and fomites would be loaded into leak-proof containers within the poultry sheds and these containers would be transported in appropriate trucks decontaminated on exit from Rushes Creek in accordance with DPI's *Decontamination of vehicles and equipment (2018)*. The truck and operator should be independent from normal ProTen and Baiada operations in order to minimise the risk of disease transfer to other poultry operations. All vehicles would require thoroughly decontamination after unloading.

All landfills would be moved to Tamworth Waste Management Facility which is licensed to store general solid waste (putrescible). Under schedule 1 of the POEO Act, putrescible solid waste includes animal waste. The total quantity of waste disposed of at the premises must not exceed 20,000 tonnes per year. Rushes Creek is estimated to produce 1,300 tonnes of solid waste (putrescible) per year. This option is dependent on Council ensuring that this landfill area is appropriately sectioned and quarantined.

Landfilling would occur under the supervision of DPI, along with the EPA and respective Council, and in consideration of the key points raised in the latest version of AUSVETPLAN: Operational Manual – Disposal (AHA 2015b). To reduce the likelihood of leachates permeating the subsoil, appropriate synthetic liner(s) may need to be used to seal and enclose the landfill area depending on the EAD (not necessary for certain EADs). Expert advice on the management and treatment of leachate would need to be obtained.

4.6.4 Option 4 – Off-Site Mass Burial

If in-shed composting and/or off-site rendering and/or off-site disposal are not possible, a fourth option is the transportation of mortalities for mass burial at a suitable off-site location that is agreed to and approved/licensed by DPI, EPA and Council. Burial at the Development Site is not considered suitable due to the proximity of the Namoi River and Lake Keepit.

Mass burial would be seen as a last resort and would only be an option if:

- The selected burial site does not have any environmental constraints, for example shallow groundwater;
- The selected burial site has the capacity to cater for the amount of material to be disposed of;
- Burial would not significantly impact on the current land use and surrounding land uses;
- The off-site transport of the mortalities would not be a risk in terms of potentially spreading disease to other poultry farms along the transport route; and
- Appropriate transport vehicles and routes were available.

Burial would occur under the supervision of DPI, along with the EPA and Council, and in accordance with the latest version of AUSVETPLAN: Operational Manual – Disposal (AHA 2015b).

The amount of material to be buried and selection of an appropriate site for burial are both critical considerations in this option. Appropriately qualified personnel would need to be engaged to confirm the most-favourable site(s) in consideration of environmental constraints, including groundwater depth, soil permeability and separation distances, along with access provisions and construction requirements. Carcasses would be loaded into leak-proof containers within the poultry sheds and these containers would be transported in appropriate trucks decontaminated on exit from Rushes Creek in accordance with DPI's *Decontamination of vehicles and equipment* (2018). The truck and operator should be independent from normal ProTen and Baiada operations in order to minimise the risk of disease transfer to other poultry operations. All vehicles would require thoroughly decontamination after unloading.

The design and construction of the burial pit(s) would be largely dependent on the amount of material to be buried and the selected burial site. A series of long and relatively narrow burial pits is likely to be preferred to enable straightforward excavation and fill, with around 3 to 5 metres between each pit to enable the excavation equipment adequate manoeuvring area. Environmental conditions, including soil and groundwater characteristics, would need to be ascertained prior to burial site excavation. The burial pit construction procedures provided in the latest version of AUSVETPLAN: Operational Manual – Disposal (AHA 2015b) would be referred to.

To reduce the likelihood of leachates permeating the subsoil, appropriate synthetic liner(s) may need to be used to seal and enclose the burial pits depending on the EAD (not necessary for certain EADs). Application of lime may be required during burial activities to reduce the likelihood of the soil dispersing when wet. Expert advice on the management and treatment of soils and leachate would need to be obtained.

When closing the burial pits, surplus soil would be mounded over the pits as overfill. The weight of the soil would act to stop the material rising out due to gas entrapment, prevent scavengers digging up buried material, help filter odour, and assist in absorbing the fluids of decomposition. An appropriate diversion bank(s) may be required to divert upstream run-off around the burial pit area, and appropriate fencing and signage would likely be necessary to restrict access and avoid soil disturbance within the burial area.

Regular inspections of the closed burial site would need to be undertaken in order to ensure that any problems are promptly identified and remedied.

4.7 Staging

It may be necessary to stage the mass disposal of bird carcasses and fomites, however this will be dependent on the scale of the EAD outbreak and the mass disposal option selection (see **Section 4.6**). Any staging requirements will be identified and formalised in early consultation with DPI.

4.8 Decontamination

Following disposal, site decontamination will be undertaken in accordance with *Ausvetplan Decontamination Manual* and will be informed by site specific operational plans developed by DPI in accordance with national departmental policies and procedures.

5 Strategy Review and Update

This *Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS)* will be reviewed and, if necessary, updated in the following circumstances:

- If alternative and/or additional biosecurity requirements are identified by ProTen, Baiada and/or DPI;
- If an alternative or additional option for mass disposal is identified as viable by ProTen, Baiada and/or DPI; and/or
- At the request of DPI, EPA or Council;
- All employees and contractors will be informed of any revisions to the Strategy during a toolbox talk.

6 References

AgriFutures Australia (2020) *Mass Disposal Preparedness for the Poultry Industries*

Animal Health Australia (2015a) *Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan, AUSVETPLAN, Operational Manual, Destruction of Animals*

Animal Health Australia (2015b) *Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan, AUSVETPLAN, Operational Manual, Disposal*

Australian Chicken Meat Federation (2020) *National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers*

Australian Poultry Cooperate Research Centre (2008) *National Animal Welfare Standards for the Chicken Meat Industry*

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2009) *National Water Biosecurity Manual – Poultry Production*

Department of Primary Industries (2012) *Best Practice Management for Meat Chicken Production in NSW*

Department of Primary Industries (2018) *Decontamination of vehicles and equipment*

Department of Primary Industries (2020) *How to comply with the Biosecurity (Salmonella Enteritidis) Control Order 2020*

ProTen (2020) *ProTen Biosecurity Manual*

RSPCA Australia (2020) *RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standard – Meat Chickens*

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (2014) *Biosecurity of Mass Poultry Mortality Composting*

7 Abbreviations

ACMF	Australian Chicken Meat Federation
AHA	Australian Animal Health
Baiada	Baiada Poultry
Best Practice Guidelines	Best Practice Management for Meat Chicken Production in NSW
CCEAD	Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease
Council	Tamworth Regional Council
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
DAFF	(former) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
EAD	emergency animal disease
EADRA	Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EME	EME Advisory
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPL	environment protection licence
NSW	New South Wales
OEMP	Operational Environmental Management Plan
POEO Act	Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
ppm	parts per million
RIRDC	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
RSPCA Standard	RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standard – Meat Chickens
SHEQ	Safety, Health, Environment, Quality
SOP	Standard operating procedures
Strategy	Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy

8 Feedback

At SLR, we are committed to delivering professional quality service to our clients. We are constantly looking for ways to improve the quality of our deliverables and our service to our clients. Client feedback is a valuable tool in helping us prioritise services and resources according to our client needs.

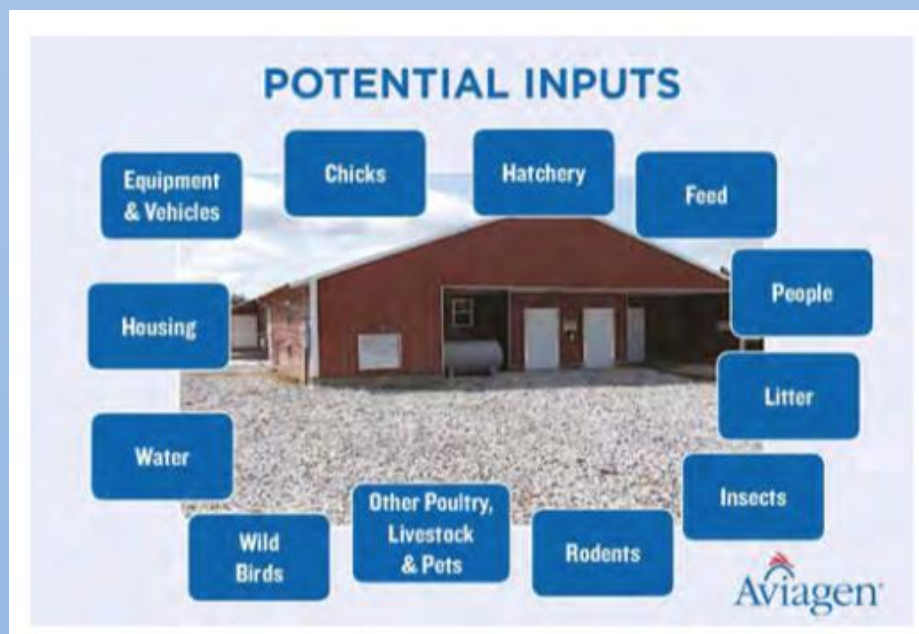
To achieve this, your feedback on the team's performance, deliverables and service are valuable and SLR welcome all feedback via <https://www.slrconsulting.com/en/feedback>. We recognise the value of your time and we will make a \$10 donation to our 2022 Charity Partner – Lifeline, for every completed form.

Appendix A:

ProTen Biosecurity Manual

ProTen

BIO SECURITY MANUAL



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Bio Security Requirements

Procedures and Guidelines

1 Objectives

- a) To prevent the introduction of infectious diseases to livestock.
- b) To prevent the spread of disease from an infected farm to uninfected farm.
- c) To prevent the transmission of transmissible diseases to humans.

Biosecurity/quarantine is an integral part of any successful poultry production system. It refers to those measures taken to prevent or control the introduction and spread of infectious agents to a flock. Such diseases, whether clinical or sub clinical, significantly reduce the productivity, profitability and long-term financial viability of our poultry operation.

1.1 Integrator Bio Security Procedures

The requirements outlined in this procedure are required to minimize the introduction and or spread of diseases within our farming operations. They must be followed at all times. It is important that all staff are familiar with the local integrator's Bio security procedures. These must also be followed at all times.

“Where procedures may differ between the integrator and ProTen, the higher standard must be followed.”

1.2 Zoonotic Diseases

The majority of poultry diseases only affect poultry and are not transmissible to humans. However, there are some diseases of poultry that may be transmissible to humans. Such diseases may include but are not limited to:

- Avian influenza
- Aspergillosis
- Psittacosis
- Gastroenteritis, principally caused by Campylobacter and Salmonella infections

By implementing and following ProTen's biosecurity procedures the risk of the introduction and or spread of poultry diseases will be minimised.

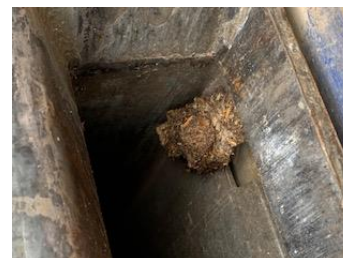
2 Major Routes for Disease Transmission

2.1 People

- Staff
- Integrator staff - Service persons
- Contactors – maintenance, suppliers etc.
- Visitors

2.2 Livestock

- Dead bird disposal
- Live bird Pick up - Equipment and crates
- Cleanout practices and standards



2.3 Animals

- Rodents - rats/mice
- Domestic and wild birds
- Insects
- Feral and domestic animals and pets
- Livestock

2.4 Equipment

- Equipment from other poultry or pig sites
- Equipment shared between other farms
- Unwashed equipment between batches
- Contractors equipment – ladders, tools etc.
- Equipment such as catching equipment, hatchery equipment



2.5 Vehicles

- Vehicles that have had contact with poultry and pig operations and abattoirs

2.6 Water Supply

- Open or unprotected water supply – dams, rivers
- Unsanitised water
- Bad drainage or water collection points



2.7 Air

- Other nearby Poultry Operations and Farms
- Passing vehicles with poultry on board

3 Bio Security Procedures for Entry onto ProTen Sites

The guidelines in this procedure for entry onto farming and production areas must be followed at all times.

Entry onto a farming site must be limited to essential visitors only.

Permission must be obtained from ROM's for non-essential visitors at all times.

Farm gates must be locked at all times once the sheds have been sanitised and at all times whilst birds are on farm.

All persons entering a farming site will be required to complete local and any implemented statutory authorisation documents prior to entry to a site. These are located in iLeader.

All visitors must comply with and meet the farm access requirements before entry.

Note the following points;

- The guidelines required for each region or site may be determined by the integrator and it is critical that all staff with each region are familiar with and adhere to these requirements.
- The local guidelines may change pending current biosecurity requirements and disease status
- **Where procedures vary between the local integrator and ProTen, the higher standard of biosecurity access must be adhered to.**

3.1 External Visitors

External visitors are classified as any person (including ProTen employees) that do not reside and or work within a specific growing region.

Examples of these types of visitors may be – overseas visitors, contractors, equipment suppliers and ProTen or Integrator staff from other regions.

3.2 Internal Visitors

Internal visitors are classified as any person that resides and or works within the local growing region. This group generally pertains to ProTen staff, local integrator staff, local contractors and local visitors.

3.3 International Visitors

	Bio Security Manual		
	PRT-P&P-BRO-001		

Visitors or staff arriving from overseas are not allowed to have contact with any farming site within **7 days** after returning/arriving in Australia.

Note – All persons that have recently returned from overseas that are displaying flu like symptoms must not be allowed to enter farming site without authorisation from a ROM.

Prior to entry

All visitors must be informed of the Bio Security requirements of the Farm and complete a Visitor Declaration and other documentation as required before entering any site. Clean clothing and footwear must be worn when visiting a ProTen site.

PPE to be provided on site - Disposable overalls, boot covers or farm footwear, hairnet as a minimum.

Shower on facilities – A head to toe shower may be required on some sites prior entry on the site.

3.4 Baiada Poultry Farming Facilities

Direct farm staff

- Staff working on a single farm may attend that farm at anytime as per their work roster. Normal biosecurity procedures must be followed at all times.
- Direct contact with poultry must be avoided whilst travelling to work
- Clean clothing is to be worn to work and no external footwear is to be worn in the production area.
- Staff visiting or rostered on other farms must comply with the guidelines for internal visitors when going to another farm and back to their normal farm of work.

3.4.1 Internal visitors

non ILT farms

- 4 Farms per day – following age order from youngest to oldest

ILT farms (including suspect)

- 48 hrs before visiting non-infected farms
- Multiple ILT farms per day within zones (following age order)

3.4.2 External and overseas visitors

Stand down time of **7 days** is required without having contact with poultry farms, pigs and abattoirs or any other avian species before visiting any other ProTen site.

Visitors arriving from overseas must be in Australia for **7 days** prior to visiting a farming site.

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Where access is required under **7 days** or the visitor has contact with poultry as part of their normal place of work, permission must be approved by Baiada's Livestock Manager for the specific region.

Note – Visitors must not wear clothing or footwear that is worn on sites external to the site they are visiting.

Note – Minimum stand down may be increased during disease outbreaks in a region.

3.5 Other Poultry Processors

Direct farm staff

- Staff working on a single farm may attend that farm at any time as per their work roster. Normal biosecurity procedures must be followed at all times.
- Direct contact with poultry must be avoided whilst travelling to work
- Clean clothing is to be worn to work and no external footwear is to be worn in the production area.
- Staff visiting or rostered on other farms must comply with the guidelines for internal visitors when going to another farm and back to their normal farm of work.

3.5.1 *Internal visitors*

non ILT farms

- Different zones within a region – overnight between farms
- Farms within a zone in each region – Multiple farms per day (following age order – youngest to oldest)

ILT farms (including suspect)

- 48 hrs before non-infected farms
- Multiple ILT farms per day within zones (following age order)

3.5.2 *External and overseas visitors*

Stand down time of **7 days** are required without having contact with poultry farms, pigs and abattoirs or any other avian species before visiting any other ProTen site.

Where access is required under **7 days**, permission must be granted by the Operations Manager (OM) for the region.

Note – Visitors must not wear clothing or footwear that is worn on sites external to the site they are visiting.

Note – Minimum stand down may be increased during disease outbreaks in a region.

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3.6 Emergency Situations

Emergency situations are where people, animals or infrastructure is at imminent threat of injury, loss or significant damage. Under these situations, farm management should use their discretion for the entry in order to prevent injury or loss. ROM's should be contacted within reasonable timeframes to assist with the management of these situations.

Guidelines:

Emergency services – unrestricted access as required.

Contractors – Brief assessment as to the quarantine status should be conducted.

Note – where time permits interim measures may be applied for a contractor to minimize threat of transmission of disease. Consult with ROM in these instances.

3.7 Vehicles & Equipment

All vehicles entering a production area must enter through and use the wheel wash facility on each site.

These facilities may be automated or require manual use.

Wheel wash facilities must be regularly checked and maintained to ensure they are working correctly and that they have sufficient chemical in place.

Note – Statutory requirements regarding vehicle entry and exiting must be followed at all times if implemented.



4 Living Arrangements

4.1 Working Family Members or Guests

Family members or guests residing in a house located on a ProTen farm, are not permitted to be employed at or come into regular contact with non-ProTen sites that produce or are used to produce poultry, pigs or other avian species.

Cohabitation restrictions may apply to household members who wish to work on other ProTen farms.

5 Bio Security Procedures for ProTen Farms

5.1 Documentation

Each production facility must keep a copy of the following Biosecurity Manuals and they must be accessible to staff at all times.

- National Farm Biosecurity Manual Poultry Production- National Water Biosecurity Manual Poultry Production.
- National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers.
- Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Domestic Poultry.

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State Specific

- Victoria Sites - Code of Accepted Farming Practice for the Welfare of Poultry.
- Western Australia Sites – Code of Practice for Poultry in Western Australia.
- Integrator Bio Security Manual.

5.2 Training

Staff must be provided with training in the relevant parts of the manual and such training is to be recorded on the Training Record Log.

5.3 Facility Standards

- 5.3.1 The production area must have a perimeter fence or otherwise well-defined boundary (e.g. creek, vegetation) establishing a clearly defined biosecurity zone.
- 5.3.2 If livestock graze the property then the production area must have a stock proof fence. Grazing near the production area is only permitted where the grazing area is separated by a stock proof barrier from the area used by poultry, effectively preventing transmission of contaminants from grazing livestock to poultry, and the grazing area is not used for access to other parts of the production area. Drainage from livestock pastures or holding areas must not enter poultry enclosures or areas that can be accessed by poultry.
- 5.3.3 A sketch or map of the layout of the property, showing the production area, sheds, ranges, access roads and gates must be kept up-to-date.
- 5.3.4 The main entrance to the production area must be capable of being closed to vehicle traffic (e.g. lockable gate) and must display appropriate signage including Bio secure Area No Entry unless

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authorised or similar wording. In addition, signage must direct visitors to contact the manager before proceeding i.e. telephone number and/or enquire at house.

Example of Signs:



5.3.5

There must be a parking area for vehicles not entering the production area with sign indicating Visitor Parking. There must be a change area away from sheds with clean protective clothing and boots/over boots provided.

5.3.6

Entry to sheds must only be made through entrances with a footbath containing a suitable disinfectant used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and changed on a regular basis. There must be provision for scraping the soles of boots before dipping to ensure the sanitiser makes contact with the soles of the boots. Facilities for hand sanitation must also be placed at the entry to each shed.

5.3.7 Bird Mortality disposal method must conform to the following requirements –

- Dead birds and culls should be promptly removed from sheds. Normally by 10am each day. These are to be taken to the mortality storage area and transferred into storage containers that do not come into the production area.
- Mortalities must be collected regularly from the property. Mortalities should be stored in a freezer if the frequency of collection is likely to cause environmental impacts or increased biosecurity risk.
- If used, the freezer must have sufficient capacity to adequately handle carcasses between collections and must be cleaned and sanitised between batches.
- Collection area must be as far as practical away from the production area so that the collection vehicle does not enter the site.
- All containers used for collecting mortalities must be washed and disinfected before returning them to the production area.
- Bins or containers that store dead birds should not be taken into the production area. ROM approval may be granted under special circumstances only.

- Bird Mortalities and containers must not be left in the public view and be stored/covered to prevent access by birds, foxes and cats.
- All poultry housing must be designed and maintained so as to prevent the entry of wild birds, foxes and cats and limit the access of vermin as far as is practical.
- Landscape - The area around sheds must be kept free from debris and vegetation and should be mown regularly. Vegetation buffers for environmental compliance should not be compromised. Trees may be used as shelter belts along fence lines.

5.3.8 Drainage - The production area should be adequately drained to prevent accumulation and stagnation of water likely to attract water fowl, especially in the areas around sheds and range areas.

5.3.9 An appropriate vermin control plan must be developed and implemented, including rodents, foxes, and wild dogs and cats.

A baiting program for rodents must be implemented. Baiting programs must include the following features:

- bait stations must be numbered and a map kept of their location.
- bait stations must be placed at 10m intervals around the sheds.
- sufficient bait stations must be positioned in all farm building and around key infrastructure.
- bait stations must be designed to minimise the opportunity for other mammals and birds to access the bait. Stations must be designated as rodent bait stations.
- bait rotation plans must be followed.
- bait stations must be checked a minimum of once per week. Bait stations may need extra checks and bait replenished during high infestation periods.
- Rodent control and activity including bait replacement is to be recorded on the required form.

5.3.10 Drinking water, cooling water and water used for the production of poultry, must meet appropriate water standards as per the Water Biosecurity Manual.

5.3.11 Only commercially produced avian species (supplied by integrator) are to be kept in the production area and no other avian species (including aviary birds and pet birds) or pigs are to be kept on the property.

5.3.12 Feeding systems must be enclosed (except pans and hoppers) to ensure that feed in silos and feed delivery systems are protected from access and contamination by wild birds and rodents. Feed spills should be cleaned up without delay to prevent the congregation of wild birds.

5.3.13 All equipment used for the purpose of poultry production must be based on the farm. Sharing of day to day equipment between farms is not permitted without authorisation from ROM.

5.3.14 All equipment, implements, vehicles and on farm clothing must be thoroughly washed and sanitised between batches.

5.3.15 Sheds, building and amenities are to be kept clean and tidy at all times and must be cleaned between batches. Sanitising should take place where possible.

5.3.16 Internal practices should limit the build-up of litter on site during a batch and all litter must be removed off the farm between batches.

Note – Multi batch litter may be carried out at the discretion of the integrator.

5.3.17 Facilities are to be available for the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles and equipment before entry.

- Wheel wash facility
- Hose with adjustable nozzle
- Sanitising capability

Front entry wheel wash facilities must be in good working order at all times and only approved chemicals are to be used.

5.3.18 Range areas must be maintained and kept according to free range standards for each grow out area.

6 Personnel Standards and Procedures

6.1 Production Personnel

- Production area personnel or any person residing on the property must avoid contact with any other poultry, avian species (birds) or pigs.
- Production area personnel must wear laundered clean clothes each day at the commencement of their work. Personnel must ensure that they do not become contaminated by contact with avian species or pigs on their way to work.

- It is critical that boots worn in sheds and used on the farm are not worn or taken outside the production area. Work boots must be left at the farm.
- For production areas that have change areas and clothes washing facilities, staff may be required to leave work uniforms at the farm. In these circumstances, clothes are to be laundered and remain on site at all times.
- Production facilities must provide showering facilities and they must be accessible at all times.

6.2 Repair and Maintenance

- Repair and Maintenance staff or contractors must meet farm access requirement as per **Section 3 - Bio Security Procedures for entry onto ProTen sites.**
- Emergency repair and maintenance by contractors who have had contact with poultry, other birds or keep birds at their home must not enter sheds and/or ranges populated or ready to be populated with birds unless it is an emergency and or approved by ROM.

If required the following practices should be implemented where practical:

- a) the contractor should have showered from head-to-toe and changed clothes and boots and wear a hair covering.
- b) avoid entry into areas populated by birds
- c) vehicles left off site
- d) use of farm ladders and tools etc

Routine maintenance should be conducted, where possible, between batches prior to final disinfection where a batch system is practiced.

Tools and equipment taken into the production area must be cleaned before entry into sheds and must be free of dust and organic matter.

6.3 Contractors, Suppliers, other Service Personnel and Visitors

Conditions of entry to poultry sheds and poultry ranges - all visitors and contractors must agree to comply with the entry conditions as stipulated by the site entry rules and such visits must be approved by the manager before visitors may enter sheds and ranges.

Visitors' log—a record must be kept of all visitors (non-production area staff) to the production area including company personnel. This will be available through online induct or the onsite visitors register.

All required visitor declaration documentation and statutory documentation must be completed prior to entry to the production area (ref to forms or appendix).

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All visitors are to park their vehicles outside the production area unless it is essential that the vehicle be taken on site in the area designated as 'Visitor Parking'.

Vehicles and equipment must be inspected by farm management to ensure it is clean and free of organic matter – eg particular attention should be made for equipment that may enter sheds - ladders and tools etc.

6.4 Requirements for Specified Movements

Feed truck drivers must comply with integrator's requirements – generally they are to wear protective clothing and over boots whilst on farm.

Feed and delivery drivers must not enter sheds at any time.

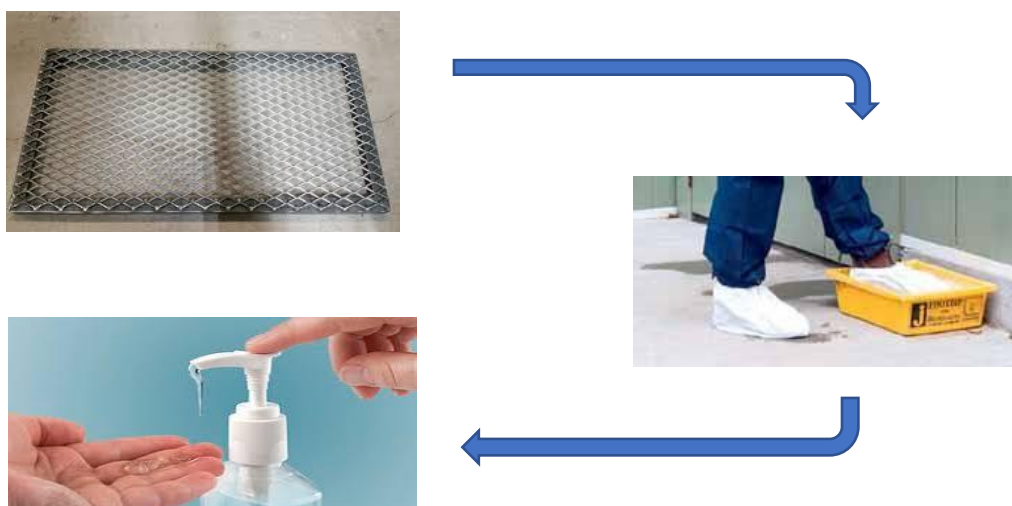
There must be a system for tracing movements of delivery personnel (e.g. through delivery dockets and feed company records).

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6.5 Entry Procedures for Sheds and Ranges

Any person entering shed or range must sanitise hands and use footbaths before entering each area.

- Soles of boots must be scraped before disinfecting in the footbaths.
- A hand sanitiser must be available at all shed entrances and must be used before entering.
- All persons must use footbaths when exiting sheds and ranges when instructed.



6.6 Moving Equipment Between Farms in a Region

Where equipment is moved between farms it is critical that the equipment is clean and sanitised before doing so. The following points must be adhered to at all times:

- It is the responsibility of the farm transferring the equipment to ensure that the equipment is free of organic matter and is in a clean and acceptable condition prior to transferring.
- The equipment should be washed and sanitised where the equipment has been used inside poultry sheds.

It is the responsibility of the receiving farm to do the following regarding transferred equipment:

- Inspect the equipment to ensure the equipment is clean
- Sanitise before use if applicable
- Stand down equipment for a minimum of 2 days

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Where equipment is being transferred from a farm < 14 days, an overnight stand down is required.

Where equipment is being transferred from a farm $\geq$ 14 days, the equipment is to be quarantined for a minimum of **2 days (3 nights)** before entering the production area.

6.7 Moving Equipment between Regions

Where equipment is to be transferred between regions, the risk of transferring new diseases is increased. Therefore, it is critical that no equipment is sent or received from another region without authority of a ROM.

The same procedures for internal movements are required for interregional equipment.

7 Level 2 Emergency Biosecurity

7.1 Action plan for Suspected Emergency Animal Disease

- Should a manager observe an unusual increase in mortality or a significant drop in production they are required to report this immediately to the ROM.
- The ROM is required to discuss the facts with the OM where it is deemed that the losses or impact to the business is significantly higher than normal or where there it is suspected that there is a reportable disease.
- The OM is the only company employee that is empowered to order the implementation of Level 2 Biosecurity procedures.
- This decision will be made in consultation with the CEO and Integrator.
- If an alert is raised, movement of birds must cease immediately, other movements on and off the property must be limited to the absolute minimum, and special precautions must be taken as outlined below.
- If an emergency animal disease alert is raised the following action plan must be followed.

7.2 Facilities

- Gates must be kept locked at all times.
- Shed doors must be locked at all times when no staff are on farm.
- Facilities for the cleaning and disinfection of equipment coming on and off the production area must be in place and in good working order at all times.

7.3 Personnel

- No visitors are to enter the production area unless absolutely essential. Company personnel will discontinue routine visits.
- Repairs and maintenance - no routine work, only emergency work to be carried out.

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7.4 Operational

- Essential visits—head-to-toe shower before and after visit. A complete change of clothes, footwear, hair covering and breathing protection is required. Used clothing and all used personal protection equipment must remain on the property.
- Any vehicle which must enter the property must be washed and disinfected before and after going onto the property (e.g. feed trucks, gas). Vehicle driver cabins must also be sanitised inside.
- No birds or litter to be moved on or off properties until disease status is clarified.
- If a major outbreak should occur, further measures will be stipulated by ProTen, the integrator and/or the state's Chief Veterinary Officer.

7.5 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)

Standard operating procedures will be available for any specific outbreak of an emergency animal disease from Animal Health Australia in accordance with AUSVETPLAN (see www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au)

8 High Risk Bio Security Procedures

These are in addition to the routine procedures and should be implemented in the event of outbreaks of unknown and/ or serious diseases on a farm.

- No visitors.
- Essential entry to site only.
- Only essential maintenance to be carried out.
- Company personnel to shower both on and off farm.
- People required to enter a farm under high risk situations must not visit other farms without reviewing current movement timeframes.
- Staff should not travel to work with staff from another farm.
- If vehicles have to enter farm, these vehicles must be washed and sanitized before leaving.
- Mortalities must be taken and or stored at designated locations.

Note - If at any time issues occur with following increased biosecurity measures the ROM should be contacted.

9 General Procedures

On rare occasions issues may arise where normal rules and guidelines need to be modified to suit certain operational situations. When this occurs a risk assessment will be carried out and appropriate control measures put in place. At no stage will ProTen expose the birds to possible disease risks. Only OM may authorise changes to normal biosecurity protocol.

Note - Employees should **NOT** consider these situations as normal Bio-Security protocol.

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Contact with high risk animals and or birds through recreational activities exposes the birds to the same risks as common exposure situations. Visiting pet shops, zoos, wildlife sanctuaries and hunting of birds and pigs in particular should be avoided where possible. Where a staff member is involved or finds themselves in one of these or similar situations, they should advise management prior to entry to farming areas and quarantine exclusion periods and procedures should be followed as per Section 3.

This will enable a risk evaluation to be carried out prior to placing the birds at possible risk.

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Appendix B:

DPI Consultation

Hugh Jones

From: Byron Stein <byron.stein@dpi.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 5:33 PM
To: Hugh Jones
Subject: RE: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Thanks Hugh

Byron Stein
Policy & Project Officer
Animal Biosecurity | Biosecurity and Food Safety
Department of Regional NSW

T 02 48243734 M 0428 259 628 E byron.stein@dpi.nsw.gov.au

regional.nsw.gov.au

Goulburn

PLEASE NOTE: I check emails between 9-10am and 4-5pm. If your email is outside of these hours and is urgent please give me a call or send me a text.



From: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>
Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 3:53 PM
To: Byron Stein <byron.stein@dpi.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Joanna Blunden <joanna.blunden@dpi.nsw.gov.au>; Peter Gray <peter.gray@dpi.nsw.gov.au>; DPI Landuse Ag Mailbox <landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au>; Nita Scott <nita.scott@dpi.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Hi Byron,

Thank you for providing comments in such a quick timeframe, it's much appreciated.

We have adopted all suggestions from DPI and have attached the revised version for your records.

Regards,

SLR
Hugh Jones

Senior Project Consultant - Planning

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From: Byron Stein <byron.stein@dpi.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2022 2:54 PM

To: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>

Cc: Joanna Blunden <joanna.blunden@dpi.nsw.gov.au>; Peter Gray <peter.gray@dpi.nsw.gov.au>; DPI Landuse Ag Mailbox <landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au>; Nita Scott <nita.scott@dpi.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Dear Hugh,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) for the Rushes Creek Poultry Farm.

Please find attached a copy of the EDBS which includes several minor comments.

In addition to the comments in the attached document it is recommended to acknowledge the requirement for decontamination which follows destruction (depopulation) and disposal activities on premises impacted by an emergency animal disease. My recommendation would be to simply add Decontamination as a step after Disposal (i.e. after Section 4.7). Rather than outline a decontamination plan I recommend you simply acknowledge and reference the Ausvetplan Decontamination Manual <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/download/1722/> and include a statement that recognises that site decontamination will be undertaken and will be informed by site specific operational plans developed by DPI in accordance with national and departmental policies and procedures (or words to that effect).

Finally, please be advised that NSW DPI is reviewing the resource requirements for response activities associated with emergency animal diseases. This may have implications for future reviews of emergency destruction, disposal and decontamination plans submitted to DPI for review and comment. I therefore urge you to contact our land use planning team as early as possible if you plan to seek similar reviews and comments in the future so that we can advise of any changes or additional requirements to future Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy proposals.

Please direct any requests for comments, reviews or assistance with land use planning matters to landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require clarification of any of the comments I have provided or wish to discuss any elements of the EDBS further.

Kind regards

Byron Stein
Policy & Project Officer
Animal Biosecurity | Biosecurity and Food Safety
Department of Regional NSW

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regional.nsw.gov.au

Goulburn

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From: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 3:24 PM

To: Byron Stein <byron.stein@dpi.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Joanna Blunden <joanna.blunden@dpi.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: RE: BYTE ref # 467925 - Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Importance: High

Good afternoon Byron,

Please see EDBS attached for Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm.

We respectfully request your comments before lodging to Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for acceptance.

Regards,



Hugh Jones

Senior Project Consultant - Planning

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Appendix C:

EPA Consultation

Hugh Jones

From: Hugh Jones
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 2:43 PM
To: Jasmine Walden
Cc: Daniel Stokes
Subject: RE: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm
Attachments: EDBS - Rushes Creek v2.pdf

Hi Jasmine,

Thank you for the prompt response, its greatly appreciated.

All amendments have been adopted. I have attached the revised EDBS for your records.

Regards,



Hugh Jones

Senior Project Consultant - Planning

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From: Jasmine Walden <Jasmine.Walden@epa.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 9:02 AM
To: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>
Cc: Daniel Stokes <Daniel.Stokes@epa.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Good morning Hugh,

The EPA has reviewed the updated Emergency Disposal and Biosecurity Strategy for the Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm.

Email contact details for the EPA set out at Table 5 should be updated. All email communication to the EPA should now be directed to info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

We also request that you remove the Narrabri Regional Office from the list of EPA contacts.

We have no other comments on the strategy.

Regards,

Jasmine Walden

A/ Senior Operations Officer
Regulatory Operations Regional
NSW Environment Protection Authority
D 02 6773 7000 | M 0448 395 518
Anaiwan Country

.....



www.epa.nsw.gov.au @NSW_EPA

The EPA acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and waters where we work. As part of the world's oldest surviving culture, we pay our respect to Aboriginal elders past, present and emerging.

Report pollution and environmental incidents 131 555 or +61 2 9995 5555

From: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Monday, 22 August 2022 4:43 PM

To: Jasmine Walden <Jasmine.Walden@epa.nsw.gov.au>; INFOEnvironment <info@environment.nsw.gov.au>; EPA West Operations Regional Mailbox <EPA.Westopsregional@epa.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Good afternoon Jasmine,

Please see attached EDBS that has been slightly amended following comments from NSW DPI. The EDBS is now with NSW DPE for approval.

Regards,



Hugh Jones

Senior Project Consultant - Planning

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02 4940 0442

+61 422 227 127

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From: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 3:26 PM

To: jasmine.walden@epa.nsw.gov.au; info@epa.nsw.gov.au (info@epa.nsw.gov.au) <info@epa.nsw.gov.au>; epa.westopsregional@epa.nsw.gov.au

Subject: RE: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Importance: High

Good afternoon Jasmine,

Further to the below email, please see EDBS attached for Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm.

We respectfully request your comments before lodging to Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for acceptance.

Regards,



Hugh Jones

Senior Project Consultant - Planning

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 02 4940 0442
 +61 422 227 127
 hcjones@slrconsulting.com

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From: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Thursday, 11 August 2022 8:41 AM

To: jasmine.walden@epa.nsw.gov.au; info@epa.nsw.gov.au (info@epa.nsw.gov.au) <info@epa.nsw.gov.au>; epa.westopsregional@epa.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm
Importance: High

To Whom It May Concern,

SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) have been engaged by ProTen Tamworth Pty Ltd (ProTen) to assist in preparation of an Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) to support the operations at the Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm, located at 1582 Rushes Creek Road, Rushes Creek (Lot 62 DP 1276824). Condition B31 of the development consent requires the preparation of this report (consent attached).

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces issued development consent for the Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm on 15 June 2021, granting consent for the construction and operation of the Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm, including four poultry farms consisting of a total of 54 fully enclosed, tunnel ventilated poultry sheds with a maximum operational capacity of 3,051,000 birds at any one time.

Subsequent, modifications have been issued since the approval with the current consent being known as SSD 7704-Mod 3. Modification 3 allows the concurrent construction and operations to occur at Farm 2, which is Stage 1 of the development. The concurrent staging shall occur as follows:

Stage	Sub-Stage	Construction Activities	Operational Activities	Estimated Operation Date
1	1A	Earthworks, northern site access road and internal roads	None	None
1	1B	Sheds 1 – 8 and ancillary infrastructure	None	None
1	1C	Sheds 9 – 12	Sheds 1 – 8	September 2022
1	1D	Sheds 13 – 16	Sheds 1 – 12	September 2022 – November 2022
1	1E	Sheds 17 – 18	Sheds 1 – 16	October 2022 – January 2023
1	1F	Nil	Sheds 1 – 18	December 2022 – March 2023

An agreement has been put in place between Baiada (the provider of chickens) and ProTen (the grower) to place birds no later than mid-September 2022, being Sub-Stage 1C (operations within sheds 1 to 8). It is extremely critical that this deliverable date is achieved.

SLR are preparing the EDBS in accordance with previous EDBS that have been prepared for other ProTen operated farms. The attached EDBS was recently prepared for a ProTen Poultry Production Farm in Hanwood, this is the strategy being used as a basis.

We wish to invite EPA to provide comment in regard to the preparation of this EDBS. We look forward to receiving your response.

Regards,



Hugh Jones

Senior Project Consultant - Planning

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hcjones@slrconsulting.com



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PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

Appendix D:

Council Consultation

Hugh Jones

From: Gillogly, Mitchell <m.gillogly@tamworth.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 4:29 PM
To: Hugh Jones
Cc: Briggs, Ross; Mann, Rachel
Subject: RE: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm
Attachments: EDBS - Rushes Creek v2.pdf

Hi Hugh,

Council have reviewed the attached Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm and provide no comments.

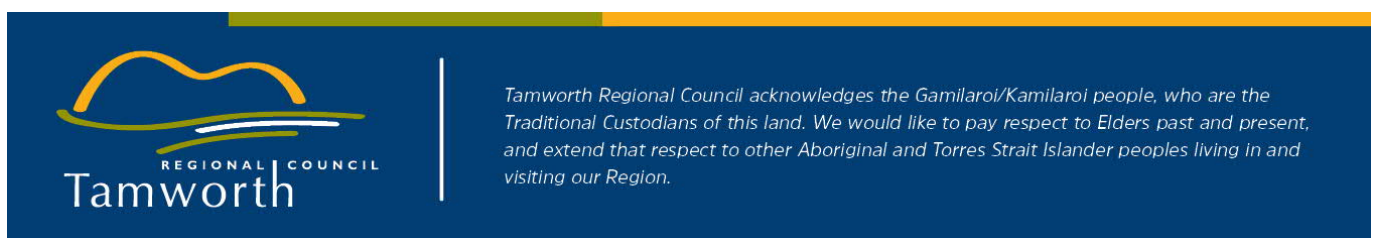
Regards,

Mitch Gillogly
Team Leader – Development Assessment
Liveable Communities

P 02 6767 5462 | E m.gillogly@tamworth.nsw.gov.au

437 Peel Street
PO Box 555 Tamworth NSW 2340
www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au

From 1 July 2021 a number of applications previously made through TRC's Online Development Hub will be required to be made through the NSW Planning Portal. For information on what applications are moving please visit www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/nswplanningportal



From: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>
Sent: Monday, 29 August 2022 12:02 PM
To: Gillogly, Mitchell <m.gillogly@tamworth.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Briggs, Ross <r.briggs@tamworth.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Hi Mitchell,

Please see final EDBS attached, being amended following minor inputs from DPI and EPA.

Cheers,



Hugh Jones

Senior Project Consultant - Planning

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 02 4940 0442
 +61 422 227 127
 hcjones@slrconsulting.com

SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd
Suite 2B, 125 Bull St, Newcastle West, NSW, Australia, 2302



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From: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 3:25 PM

To: Gillogly, Mitchell <m.gillogly@tamworth.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Briggs, Ross <r.briggs@tamworth.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Good afternoon Mitch,

Please see EDBS attached for Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm.

We respectfully request your comments before lodging to Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for acceptance.

Regards,



Hugh Jones

Senior Project Consultant - Planning

+61 2 4037 3220
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hcjones@slrconsulting.com

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From: Gillogly, Mitchell <m.gillogly@tamworth.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 August 2022 12:51 PM
To: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>
Cc: Briggs, Ross <r.briggs@tamworth.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Hi Hugh,

Council acknowledge receipt.

Council will review and provide comments as soon as practicable.

Regards,

Mitch Gillogly
Team Leader – Development Assessment
Liveable Communities

P 02 6767 5462 | E m.gillogly@tamworth.nsw.gov.au

437 Peel Street
PO Box 555 Tamworth NSW 2340
www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au

From 1 July 2021 a number of applications previously made through TRC's Online Development Hub will be required to be made through the NSW Planning Portal. For information on what applications are moving please visit www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/nswplanningportal



Tamworth Regional Council acknowledges the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. We would like to pay respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in and visiting our Region.



From: Hugh Jones <hcjones@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Thursday, 11 August 2022 8:45 AM

To: Gillogly, Mitchell <m.gillogly@tamworth.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Consultation Invitation - Emergency Disposal & Biosecurity Strategy (EDBS) - Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm

Importance: High

To Whom It May Concern,

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SLR are preparing the EDBS in accordance with previous EDBS that have been prepared for other ProTen operated farms. The attached EDBS was recently prepared for a ProTen Poultry Production Farm in Hanwood, this is the strategy being used as a basis.

We wish to invite Tamworth Regional Council to provide comment regarding the preparation of this EDBS. We look forward to receiving your response.

Regards,



Hugh Jones

Senior Project Consultant - Planning

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 hcjones@slrconsulting.com

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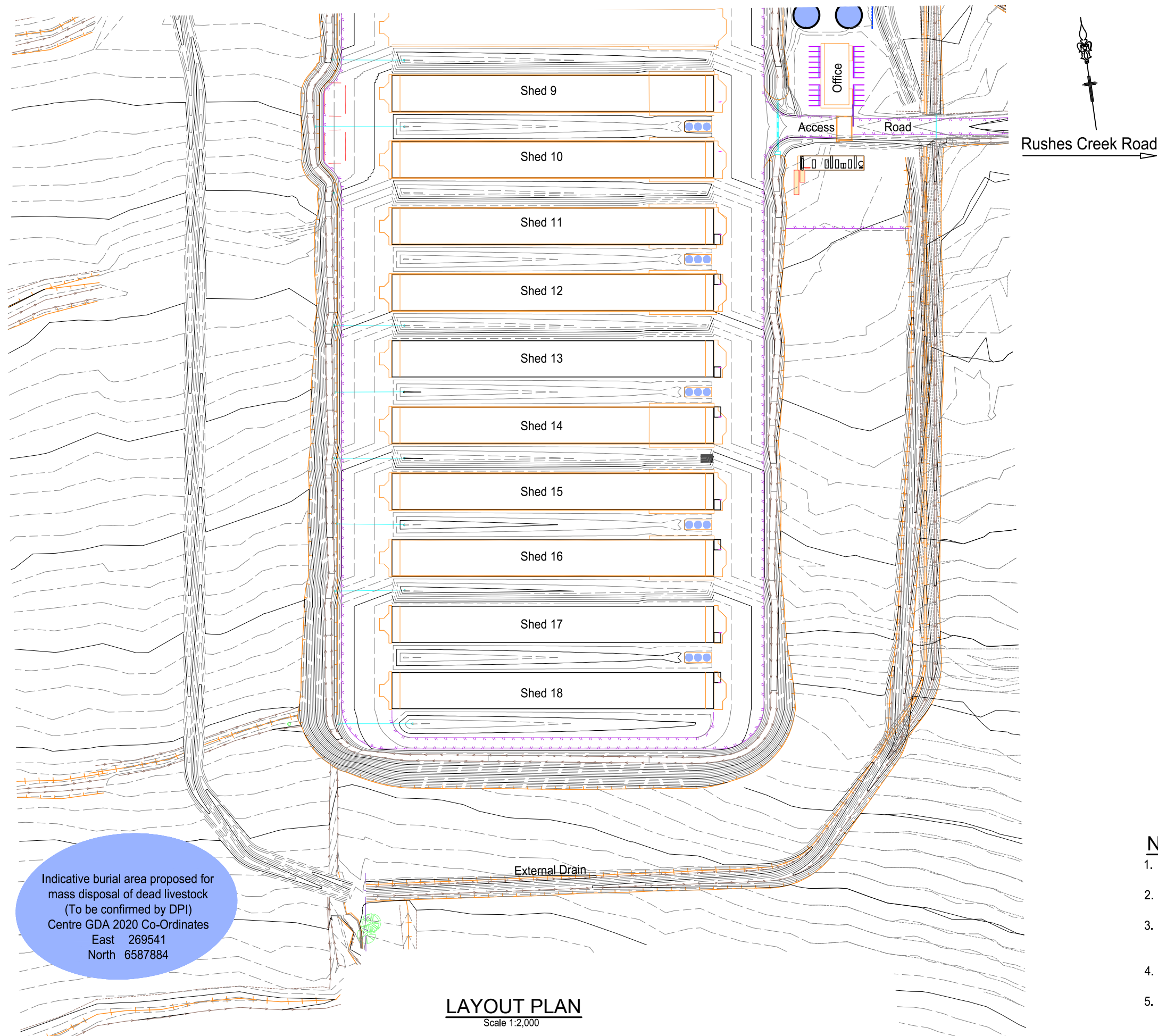
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Appendix E:

Indicative Mass Mortality Burial Plan



NOTE

1. This sketch is to be read in conjunction with the letter and / or email issued for these works
2. The information provided in this sketch is to assist in the approval process for the mass burial site ONLY
3. In the event that there are ERRORS or CONFLICTING information provided you MUST contact the Office for immediate clarification
4. All dimensions are in millimeters unless stated otherwise
5. This sketch cannot be used for construction unless signed and re-issued by the designer after confirmation instruction from the Developer

www.dialbeforeyoudig.com.au



LEGEND (EXISTING — LIGHT PROPOSED — DARKER)	Rev.	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED	DATE
CENTRE LINE KERB AND GUTTER TOP OF BATTER SURFACE DRAINAGE EDGE OF BITUMEN SEAL FENCELINE SEWERMAIN WATERMAIN (& SIZE) STORMWATER DRAINAGE OVERHEAD POWER UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL				
TREE SHRUB SIGN SEWER MANHOLE, INSPECTION PIT DOWNPIPE & ROOFWATER OUTLET POWER POLE STREETLIGHT GUIDE POST WATER (HYDRANT, VALVE, METER) TELSTRA PIT AND CABLES				
	ZX	Location of Mass Disposal site	M.Beath	14.09.22
	ZW	Sketch showing Clay Test Pit locations and Lots	M.Beath	19.07.22
	ZV	Turning movement of 36.2m long Vehicle	M.Beath	22.08.22

LAYOUT PLAN
Scale 1:2,000

Cad:	21079 Rev ZX
Civilcad:	Not Applicable
Survey:	M.Beath
Drawn:	M.Beath
Designed:	N/A
Checked:	J.Herdeggen

Original A3 Drawing Scale Bar:
20.0 0.0 20.0 40.0
A3 Scale 1:2000
Datum Description:
PM 117735 RL 349.753 GDA 2020
Located on the eastern side of Rushes
Creek Rd 130m south of Rushes Creek

BATH STEWART ASSOCIATES
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS
SURVEYORS — ENGINEERS — PLANNERS — PROJECT MANAGERS
239 Marius Street TAMWORTH NSW 2340
Telephone (02) 6766 5966 A.C.N. 002 745 020
office@bathstewart.com.au
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PROTEN
1582 RUSHES CREEK RD RUSHES CREEK
Lot 171 DP 752169 & Lot 62 DP 1276824
14.09..2022 — PROPOSED MASS BURIAL SITE

Ref. No:
21079
Sheet No : 01 of 01
Revision : ZX
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