

OUT19/13435

Ms Sally Munk  
Planning and Assessment Group  
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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Dear Ms Munk

**Goulburn Poultry Processing Mixed Use Development (SSD-9143)**

I refer to the above matter that was distributed to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for comment on 18 September 2019

DPI has reviewed the project proposal and has the following comments and advice.

There are no prescriptive separation distances or industry guidelines which specify separation distances between poultry processing facilities and other poultry production facilities, including hatcheries, breeder farms and production farms. However, given the movement and temporary lairage of live birds to the proposed site, it is advisable to ensure the site has adequate biosecurity separation distances to nearby existing poultry production enterprises.

The nearest commercial poultry production facility is the Aviagen Hatchery, located at 9 Tait Crescent Goulburn. The Aviagen Hatchery is a nationally strategic facility because it supplies approximately 70 per cent of the Australian broiler breeder flock. The Hatchery is not a breeder farm and is therefore considered to be an "intensive poultry farm" under the Best Practice Management for Meat Chicken Production in NSW guidelines (available via: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/448210/BPM-for-meat-chicken-production-in-nsw-manual-1.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/448210/BPM-for-meat-chicken-production-in-nsw-manual-1.pdf)). Therefore, a minimum separation distance of 1,000 metres applies. The proposed development being sited approximately 4650m from the Aviagen Hatchery should be sufficient. However, it is recommended that the applicant provide evidence of having considered the topography and prevailing winds in the area, and assess how these factors might minimise or increase the likelihood of disease spread from the proposed processing facility.

Although the biosecurity separation distance between the proposed development and the Aviagen Hatchery is likely to be adequate, the potential use of live bird transport routes may pose a significant biosecurity risk to the Aviagen Hatchery. The Aviagen Hatchery is located approximately 477m from Hume Street and 325m from the Hume Highway. The frequent movement of large numbers of live poultry in close proximity to the Aviagen Hatchery may increase biosecurity risks to this facility. It is therefore recommended that live bird transport and deliveries to the proposed development be restricted to the Goulburn North bypass entering Sydney Road. The development proposal, therefore, needs to provide greater detail with regard to live bird transport routes and to explicitly prohibit live bird transport along Hume Street, Goulburn.

Furthermore, the proposal must also reference and demonstrate compliance with:

- The Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments (CSIRO, 2001) - available via:  
<https://www.publish.csiro.au/ebook/download/pdf/2975>
- Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transportation of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption (CSIRO, 2007) - available via:  
<http://www.publish.csiro.au/ebook/download/pdf/5553>
- Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines: Land Transport of Livestock (Animal Health Australia (AHA), 2012, Canberra - available via:  
<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/files/2011/02/Land-transport-of-livestock-Standards-and-Guidelines-Version-1.-1-21-September-2012.pdf>

For more information on these compliance requirements please contact Byron Stein, Intensive Livestock on (02) 4824 3734.

In addition, The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA Act) and Regulation apply to poultry processors. The relevant prescribed standards and guidelines are:

- The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Land Transport of Livestock) Standards 2013 No 2* are prescribed as mandatory under POCTA and apply to a business in the course of which poultry are transported for fee or reward. A breach of Clause 26 of the Regulation is an offence (which includes complying with the provisions of the standards) - available via: <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/regulations/2013-559.pdf>
- The *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Domestic Poultry* is prescribed as a guideline under POCTA which means they are not mandatory, but can be used as evidence in proceedings under the Act and Regulation. Chapter 17 outlines requirements on slaughtering - available via:  
<http://www.publish.csiro.au/ebook/download/pdf/3451>
- The *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Livestock At Slaughtering Establishments* is not prescribed in POCTA, as it is an industry guidance document in NSW. Chapter 3 outlines requirements on poultry -  
<http://www.publish.csiro.au/ebook/download/pdf/2975>
- The *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Domestic Poultry* is currently being reviewed and revised into Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry. While these are still under development and not yet finalised, the draft includes information on processing of poultry - available via:  
<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/poultry/>

For more information on these standards and guidelines please contact Corryn Hatch, Biosecurity and Food Safety on (02) 6626 1163.

Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to [dpi.cabinet@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dpi.cabinet@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

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**DPIE DPI – Strategy & Policy**  
1 October 2019