



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)

Birregurra Farm – Site 1 and 2

Government Road-Birregurra

Report Number 3-101-25

May 2023

Pro Ten Pty Ltd
Suite 1103/ Level 11/ 99
Mount Street, North
Sydney, NSW 2060

AGREEMENT:

This Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been specifically prepared to fulfil conditions relating to Crown Allotment and Title Plans 1\TP247757, 4\TP247757, 6\TP247757, 7\TP247757 3\TP372519 and 4\TP372519.

Planning Permit application for the use and development of a 2 x Free-Range Broiler Production farm sites (Birregurra Farm) at Government Road, Birregurra, VIC, 3242.

It has been prepared in accordance with the Victorian Broiler Code 2009 - Updated in 2018

This EMP has been agreed to by the Farm owner. This is evidenced by the signature of the owner below:

For & on behalf of

.....
Pro Ten Pty Ltd

Date.....

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1- WASTE MINIMISATION PLAN

APPENDIX 2- COPY OF “Code of Accepted Farming Practice for the Welfare of Poultry”

APPENDIX 3- COPY OF “Poultry-bio-security-manual”

APPENDIX 4- EXAMPLE OF A” MSDA”

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1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of this Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is to ensure best practice management and to sustain this regarding environmental performance by minimising impacts on the environment and surrounding amenities.

This document will identify key environmental issues which could be impacted on. The code of practice for the meat bird production is Victorian Broiler Code 2009 which provides a basis for the planning, design, assessment, approval, construction, operation, and management of free-range broiler production farms in Victoria. Each potential activity that could impact on the environment is considered as to its objectives, aims and methods of measuring performance.

Non- achievement of levels of performance as measured by an audit process will trigger corrective actions and contingencies.

This EMP has been specifically prepared to address the requirements of for the use and development of 2 X 12 shed free-range broiler production sites, known as Birregurra Farm. It must be noted that if there is any discrepancy between the permit and this EMP, the conditions of the permit shall prevail.

The objective of this EMP is to ensure best practice management and a commitment to continuous improvement in environmental performance. It is intended to minimise the risk of any adverse event with potential to impact on the environment or the surrounding community during the ongoing operation of the sheds.

This EMP reflects the requirements in the Code. It incorporates to the maximum current practical extent the requirements of the Operation and Management Section of the Code and is subject to a process of continuous improvement.

Each category has an objective and a series of objectives required for achieving the objective. Prime responsibility for each measure is indicated in the EMP. Where requirements are clear and where producers and auditors can readily assess compliance, no additional information has been given for objectives.

2. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENTS

PRO TEN PTY LTD commits to the implementation of the development design, best management practices and mitigation measures outlined in this EMP for all activities associated with the Development.

- PRO TEN PTY LTD will implement all practicable measures to prevent or minimise any harm to the environment that may result from the construction, commissioning, and operation of the development.
- PRO TEN PTY LTD will carry out the development generally in accordance with this Planning Report.
- The Development Sites for Birregurra Farm will not accommodate more than 1,560,000 birds at any one time. (780,000 birds per site at any one time)
- Construction will be undertaken within the hours of:
 - a. Monday to Friday, 7.00 am to 6.00 pm.
 - b. Saturday, 8.00 am to 1.00 pm; and
 - c. No construction work will take place on Sundays or public holidays.

3. IDENTIFIABLE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

This EMP groups the identifiable environmental issues pertinent to the Birregurra Farm into 14 categories as follows:

1. Landscaping
2. Farm Facilitation
3. Drainage
4. Traffic, Vehicles and Roads
5. Feed, Water and Electricity Supply
6. Noise
7. Odour
8. Litter and Dust
9. Chemicals
10. Bird Management
11. Compliance and Environmental Controls
12. Emergency Plans
13. Complaint Procedure and Community Participation
14. Vermin Control

Overall strategies and control measures to minimise impacts and continuously improve environmental performance on each issue are provided in the following sections.

Careful monitoring and application of the appropriate measures can manage potential impacts in relation to each issue.

2.1 LANDSCAPING

EMP Objective: To complete the landscape plantings specified in the approved landscape plan prior to commencement of the use with the intent to provide effective visual screening of the complexes consisting of free-range broiler production sheds.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
<p>2.1.1 The implementation of the landscape plan approved by the responsible authority as part of the planning permit will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or enhance the visual aesthetics of the site with a sustainable vegetation program using plants that are suited and preferably indigenous to the area. • Achieve a visual screening of the shedding to improve sighting by surrounding neighbours. • Use landscaping to assist in the dispersion of emissions from the sheds. • Ensure a maintenance program is in place to assist the plants to survive and be free from disease and replace dead and diseased plants as required. • Provide a habitat for local wildlife provided it does not impact on the operation and biosecurity of the 	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection confirms that the planting has been established as required on the landscaping plan. • Maintenance of the plants ensures a continuation of the vegetation consistent with the landscaping plan. • Inspection will confirm that planting has been undertaken prior to the use of the sheds commencing. • Inspections to be every month for 12 months after planting and every 6 months thereafter to ensure plant health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead and diseased plants to be replaced with new plants. • Planting and any replanting are to consider seasonal conditions. • Assistance will be sought from local council and nurseries if required to provide additional plantings.

farming operation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the surrounds in a presentable condition 			
2.1.2 Landscaping is well maintained with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watering system or appropriate alternative arrangements in place Dead/diseased plants regularly replaced. Watering, weed control and mulching activities are consistent with advice from a qualified horticulturist and/or local nurseries. 	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement plant species are to be consistent with original plantings unless deemed unsuitable by death or disease. Replacement plantings to occur within 2 months of inspection if consistent with seasonal and weather conditions. Confirmation by 6 monthly inspections. 	

2.2 FARM FACILITATION

EMP Objective: To maintain and enhance buildings, site drainage and equipment to minimise off-site impacts and maximise operational efficiency and safety.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.2.1 Sheds and associated areas are maintained to Best Practice specifications and requirements.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and comparison will demonstrate compliance with Best Practice requirements. 	
2.2.2 Equipment and structures are in place and maintained to enable odour, dust, and noise control. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shedding and equipment to be operated in the manner intended by the manufacturer to ensure that the environmental conditions for the birds and the environment are optimal. Equipment operates in an efficient manner. Equipment is monitored by controllers which check the shed 	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturer documentation for major equipment is available to demonstrate performance standards are being achieved. Upgrades identified through the audit process will be installed within one year or an alternative period agreed with the responsible authority. Bird performance which includes liveability and production are to standard or better. There are no offsite negative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failures in existing equipment or structures will be repaired within one month unless there is potential for immediate offsite noise or other effects. In these cases, timings in Sections 5, 6 and 11 apply.

environment for optimal conditions.		impacts because of the shed operation.	
2.2.3 External finishes of the shed will exhibit low visual intrusion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The shed walls and roofs are to be finished in green Colourbond. 	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection will confirm compliance with requirements and maintenance of external cladding in a sound condition. 	
Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.2.4 Best Practice equipment for monitoring and control of temperature, ventilation, cooling, and water consumption is in place and maintained to manufacturer's specifications and used.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparison demonstrates compliance with latest processor requirements or achievement of equivalent environmental performance and bird welfare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous monitoring of shed via programmable controllers (to adjust heaters, fans, and cooling systems) and remote readouts of shed temperatures and alarms (to alert on temperature and electricity excursions)
2.2.5 Drainage to soil or waterways is not impaired or contaminated by shed or farm operations. Any incidences of spilt feed or litter will be cleaned up immediately to ensure that no contamination of surface waters can occur. No free-flowing water arising from the cleaning of shed will be allowed to leave the confines of the shed. All surface water flows from the farm site will be directed into the storm water retention facility.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspections at the time of feed deliveries litter clean out, shed cleaning and rainfall events will confirm compliance. 	
2.2.6 Storm water systems including drains, silt traps and storm water retention facilities are maintained in accordance	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storm water runoff from roofs, roads and hardstand aprons is controlled and collected via 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation via inspections at the time of rainfall events.

with requirements to ensure no pollution of surface or groundwater.		drains to storm water retention facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drains are maintained in shape and slope (typically greater than 1:300) and are free of weeds and blockages. 	
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2.3 DRAINAGE

EMP Objective: To ensure the sites meets the requirements of the Catchment Management Authority regarding surface water and groundwater water contamination mitigation, quality and prevents environmental impacts.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.3.1 Well designed, constructed drainage to meet the requirements of the Catchment Management Authority.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage performs to the requirements as detailed in the planning permit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair immediately any damage to drains and storage basin. Repair earthworks in drainage and basin if not performing as outlined in the planning permit. Repair and maintain pump and discharge pipe into outfall drainage system.
2.3.2 Ensure no shed runoff flows into any potable water source or adjoining properties.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drains, culverts, and sloped areas are maintained in a functional state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair immediately any damage to drains and storage basin. Repair earthworks in drainage and basin if not performing as outlined in the planning permit. Repair and maintain pump and discharge pipe into outfall drainage system.

2.3.3 Ensure that the status of the drains, roads and hard stand areas are such that these remain functional in all weather conditions.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The drainage system accommodates for all weather and storm conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair immediately any damage to drains and storage basin. Repair earthworks in drainage and basin if not performing as outlined in the planning permit.
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2.4 TRAFFIC, VEHICLES AND ROADS

EMP Objective: To maintain roads, gates and turning areas in good condition to prevent interference with other traffic or the generation of unreasonable off-site noise or dust.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.4.1 Access to the farm is from Government Road via an all-weather road running parallel to the Northern property boundary.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The all-weather road to the site Birregurra Farm will be constructed prior to the commencement of the free-range broiler production farm complexes use. Compliance confirmed by inspection. 	
2.4.2 The access point from Government Road will be constructed to the minimum standard for farm access in accordance with the VicRoads' Guidelines for Truck Access to Rural Properties, April 2006 with a 25-metre truck safe compartment area within the gateway area.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The access point and storage area has been constructed prior to the commencement of the farm use. Compliance confirmed by inspection. 	
2.4.3 The access point at Government Road and the vehicle safe compartment area is sealed.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The placing of the asphalt overlay at the access point and the sealing of the storage area has 	

		<p>been completed prior to the commencement of the broiler farm use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance confirmed by inspection. 	
Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.4.4 The surface of access roads, loading areas and car parking spaces are surfaced with crushed rock and maintained to allow safe entry, all weather access and minimise generation of dust.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection of road infrastructure will be undertaken at the completion of each batch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs or upgrades where needed will be completed prior to the next major period of truck movements.
2.4.5 Road drains, storm water runoff areas and culverts etc., are maintained to ensure efficient functioning.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection confirms compliance with planning permit requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs or upgrades where needed will be completed prior to the next major period of truck movements.
2.4.6 All vehicles and machinery, including that used by contractors servicing the farm, are maintained to ensure that noise or emissions do not exceed the manufacturer's specification.	<p>Producer</p> <p>Producer directly with relevant contractor</p> <p>Producer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where offsite vehicle noise has been identified as a concern, testing of vehicles by an appropriate acoustics engineer will occur to ensure compliance with the noise standards. Registered vehicles will conform to Environmental Protection (Vehicle Emission) Regulations 1992 which incorporate Australian Design Rule 28 relating to noise performance. Unregistered farm vehicles (with spark ignition engines) should 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and correct activities of drivers. Discipline and restrict driver activity as required.

		generate no more than 90 dB(A) as determined by Schedule 6 of the Regulations.	
Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.4.7 If noise complaints are regularly received from neighbours, a register of all transport contractors and written confirmations from major firms of their noise controls will be maintained on farm.	Producer directly with relevant contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a verified off-site noise complaint occurs, the principles and measures outlined in the EPA guidelines will be adopted and implemented. Confirmation would cover these items and the use of effective noise mufflers on all vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and correct activities of drivers. Discipline and restrict driver activity as required.
2.4.8 Farm layout and standing instructions to transport contractors ensure that all vehicles leave the property in a forward direction.	Producer directly with relevant contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These instructions are an identifiable part of contracts or communications with transport companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and correct activities of drivers. Discipline and restrict driver activity as required.
2.4.9 Bird pick-up and broiler collection contractors are instructed and supervised to ensure bird pick-up and broiler collection associated activities completed during the night are undertaken with care to reduce the generation of noise. During the time of pick up and loading activities (generally 8.30 pm to 7.00 am) the period that shed doors remain open will be minimised	Producer directly with pick up & other relevant contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise control is an identifiable part of transport company contracts and training. Pick up transport and crews are controlled by the processing company, but on the farm, the Producer must supervise and control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and correct activities of drivers. Discipline and restrict driver activity as required.

as far as practicable.			
Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.4.10 Vehicle speed limit of 40 kph applies on the farm and is implemented by training, signs, and instructions to drivers to limit noise and dust levels.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of instructions to contractors, where needed, is maintained on farm. Confirmation will be via visual monitoring of vehicle movements, monthly inspection of signs and annual inspection of documented instructions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and correct activities of drivers. Discipline and restrict driver activity as required.
2.4.11 Contract transport drivers are aware of their responsibilities and are familiar with their transport accident emergency plan.	Producer directly with relevant contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency plans comply with industry emergency procedures and with VicRoads Transport Regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any serious accidents are handled under emergency plans that are in keeping with industry emergency procedures and Road Traffic Regulations

2.5 FEED, WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

EMP Objective: To ensure the quality and continuity of feed, water and shed ambient conditions to protect animal welfare and prevent environmental impacts.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.5.1 Well designed, constructed and totally enclosed silos and feed systems are installed to provide fresh and wholesome feed without any contamination or generation of dust.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspections of the feed delivery system will be undertaken daily, and problems will be recorded in the farm log. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where feed delivery to birds is compromised by the problem, repairs will be undertaken immediately. All other repairs will be undertaken with one week.
2.5.2 Wild-bird proofing on shed and silos is installed and maintained, and vermin and rodents are controlled by targeted and environmentally safe baiting, using substances and protocols that meet Government and Processor requirements.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual comparison demonstrates compliance with National Biosecurity Manual guidelines. 	
2.5.3 Equipment and procedures for clean-up of feed spills are available, and any such spills are removed daily.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspections will be undertaken daily for spillages or breaches of the feed system – these will be recorded in the farm log. Spillages will be cleaned up within a day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where feed delivery to birds is compromised by the problem, repairs will be undertaken immediately. All other repairs will be undertaken with one week.
Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions

<p>2.5.4 Drinking water for birds is provided from the mains via the on-farm storages.</p> <p>On-site water storage tanks provide more than 2 days back up supply of water (at peak summer usage). These are connected to automatic backup water pumps.</p>	<p>Producer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The drinking water system has automatic leak failsafe and shut off facility. The sheds' computer controller system constantly monitors water flow and will automatically cut off water supply to the shed(s) if it detects abnormal flows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply failure sensors will be connected to the Farm Alarm System which will immediately alert the farm manager by mobile phone. In the event of a water supply failure seek professional assistance to identify cause of problem if not readily identified. Have system available to make use of water stored in water tanks and storm water retention facility. Service from plumber available 24 hours a day. Have back up supply pumps on hand and increase backup water storage. Seek professional help in the case of equipment failure
<p>2.5.5 Ensure the quantity and intensity of light does not cause an impact on residents and housed birds.</p>	<p>Producer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation via daily inspection. Main's electricity supply failure sensors will be connected to the Farm Alarm System which will immediately alert the farm manager by mobile phone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical power and phase supply alarms are installed to alert the Producer of supply failure and two standby generators are provided to maintain normal operating conditions. These start automatically upon supply.

2.6 NOISE

EMP Objective: To ensure that farm operations control transmission of unreasonable noise by using appropriate design, maintenance, and operating procedures.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.6.1 Correct operation of all mechanical equipment, including shed fans, feed systems and other equipment minimises the offsite transmission of mechanical noise or vibration.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment and electrical generators have effective noise suppressers / screens. Weekly inspections will confirm compliance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct any piece of faulty equipment that is exceeding the noise threshold. Incorporate visual alarms, pages, mobiles phone and house alarms where audible alarms may impact unreasonably on neighbours. Incorporate screening barriers and plantings to reduce noise.
2.6.2 Equipment is installed, operated, and maintained according to manufacturer's requirements or to the instructions from an appropriately qualified technical source.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register of manufacturer instructions is available on the farm for all equipment with potential for off-site noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct any piece of faulty equipment that is exceeding the noise threshold.
2.6.3 Vehicle reversing is minimised, and visual alarms are used (subject to safety considerations also being met).	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm layout and operational practices are designed to minimise reversing as much as is practical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm layout is designed for forward movement by vehicles as much as is practical.
2.6.4 At night (10.00pm to 7.00am) only house alarms, visual alarms and pagers are used to minimise the occurrence and duration of noise affecting neighbours	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection confirms installation of house alarms, visual alarms, and paging systems. Alarms are to be checked daily. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate visual alarms, pages, mobiles phone and house alarms where audible alarms may impact unreasonably on neighbours.
Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.6.5 Ventilation fans, tractors, farm vehicles, transport vehicles and other equipment are maintained, repaired,	Producer directly with relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment is to be inspected annually via an equipment checklist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct any piece of faulty equipment that is exceeding the noise threshold.

and operate to the manufacturer's requirements.	contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment failures causing increased off-site noise are repaired within one week. Other equipment problems are repaired in a timely manner to prevent deterioration and occurrence of excessive offsite noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate screening barriers and plantings to reduce noise.
2.6.6 Bird pick-up and broiler collection contractors have the equipment specified by processors and comply with procedures that minimise noise.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise control practices require the arrival, operation and departure of vehicles and crews to be conducted as quietly as possible. These are an identifiable part of the communications or contract with pick-up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and correct activities of pick-up contractors. Discipline and restrict pick-up contractor's activity as required.
2.6.7 Farm noise levels comply with the noise criteria specified in the planning permit.	Producer directly with relevant contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where verified off-site noise complaints occur, the principles and measures outlined in the Australian Broiler Corporation Limited will be adopted and implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and correct activities of pick-up contractors. Discipline and restrict pick-up contractor's activity as required.

2.7 ODOUR

EMP Objective: To ensure that farm operations do not produce odours that unreasonably impact on neighbours.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.7.1 A daily log of key conditions and activities with potential to affect odour generation is in place, maintained and periodically reviewed as the basis for minimisation and control of odours. It addresses relevant factors including feed, drinker, litter and climate conditions, and flock age.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be confirmed by inspection of logbook. - Contingency action plans from Environmental Guidelines for the Australian Broiler Industry, a report for the Poultry industry as part of the DAFF- EFF Paths to Sustainable Agriculture Program June 2008 are used. These cover odours caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drinker Malfunction - Ventilation - Drainage - Wet Droppings - Dead Birds - Chemicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement contingency action plans detailed in Environmental Guidelines for the Australian Broiler Industry, a report for the Poultry Industry as part of the DAFF-EFF Paths to Sustainable Agriculture Program June 2008.
2.7.2 Drinker technology equivalent in performance to industry best practice is installed and maintained to minimise formation of wet litter.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews of research and commercial literature confirms the farm is achieving best practice operating performance. Daily check of drinkers for leaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct any piece of faulty equipment that is contributing to exceeding the odour threshold.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.7.3 Feed is sourced only from mills capable of producing an output of assured quality. Feed formulation objectives for broiler and broiler diets demonstrably minimise the risk of feed-sourced odour on farms.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed delivery flexibility will be typically provided by availability of at least 4 silos (30 tonne capacity) for every 2 sheds. Do a daily walk through the shed and observe litter quality and odour in shed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop using faulty feed and have feed mill remove the faulty feed immediately and replace with new batch of feed.
2.7.4 The prevailing weather conditions and forecasts are considered when scheduling and planning farm operations to minimise offsite impacts. These are to be recorded in the log of key conditions in Clause 2.6.1, which for example will include recording of wind direction and strength at the time of shed clean-out.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be confirmed by inspection of logbook. If weather conditions are forecast that are likely to lead to off-site impacts, timing and / or nature of operations will be adjusted to take account of these conditions. 	
2.7.5 Ensure the correct storage of dead birds and waste material to avoid odours	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No odour complaints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove dead birds from site regularly.

2.8 LITTER AND DUST

EMP Objective: To minimise odour or dust generation with potential for off-site impact and to ensure that no land or water contamination occurs.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.8.1 Prior to the introduction of the birds to the sheds, a 6 to 8 cm broiler of dry sawdust, wood shavings, rice hulls or similar material (deep litter) is distributed over the entire shed floor.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry litter is material that does not form a single stable ball when squeezed by hand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where more precise control is required due to a history of litter or odour concerns, measurement to confirm that litter moisture is below 30% by weight may be required.
2.8.2 A concrete hardstand of area sufficient for clean-out operations is provided and maintained at the shed entrance.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area dimensions are greater than door width. 	
2.8.3 Litter moisture is monitored and kept in a dry condition below the level known to cause odour (typically below 30 to 40% by weight throughout the batch). This is achieved by the shed floors being built up above adjacent surface levels with compacted clay and provided with a hard surface (thus ensuring no moisture seepage into the shed), by best practice drinkers (to ensure that overflowing and flooding of the deep litter does not occur) and by checking of the litter and drinkers in the shed at least daily. The results of this checking are to be recorded in the log of key conditions in Clause 2.6.1	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter monitoring will be undertaken via regular visual inspections (typically 3 to 4 times daily). Measurement of litter moisture percentage by weight is to be undertaken where persistent odour problems are occurring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinker leakages will be detected by regular shed inspections (typically 3 to 4 times daily). Contingency actions including gas heating, ventilation adjustment and others will be implemented to dry litter and counteract high moisture levels prior to onset of excessive odour generation.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.8.4 Any major wet litter areas are removed and replaced with dry litter where practicable.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of wet litter exceeding 2 square metres will be replaced with dry litter on no less than a daily basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of any wet litter will follow litter removal procedures in this Section.
2.8.5 Litter transported off-site is free of dead birds.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection of empty sheds before litter removal is undertaken will ensure that dead birds are not contained within the litter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where wet litter is removed from any shed during the growing cycle, it will be inspected for dead birds prior to off-site disposal.
2.8.6 Litter is removed from each shed after each batch as part of the cleaning process and loaded directly onto trucks for transport off-site for further processing, reuse or disposal. Sheds are closed before and after clean-out to reduce odour.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a verified off-site complaint regarding odour or litter removal occurs, the principles and measures outlined in Environmental Guidelines for the Australian Broiler Industry, A report for the Poultry Industry as part of the DAFF-EFF Paths to Sustainable Agriculture Program June 2008 will be adopted and implemented. 	
2.8.7 Contractors responsible for delivery and pick-up of litter ensure that all trucks delivering and collecting litter at the beginning/end of each batch have secure covers, which are used to prevent any dust or spillage of the litter on arrival at and departure from site.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter delivery / collection vehicle movements will be monitored and where uncovered loads have been identified, the contractor will be instructed to cover all loads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of arrangements with contractors and actions taken to overcome the problem will be available on-site.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.8.8 Any litter spillage will be cleaned up promptly to minimise generation of contaminated storm water or dust.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such events and actions are documented in farm logbooks 	
2.8.9 If dust is visible with potential for off-site impact, shed operations and / or loading activities will be modified to control the level of dust emissions. Careful maintenance of strategically located tree/vegetation belts will assist in control of any airborne dust	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contingency actions include adjustment of litter moisture levels or fan cowls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loading of used litter onto trucks may have to be stopped or modified during times of strong winds.

2.9 CHEMICALS

EMP Objective: To identify all environmental and safety hazards associated with chemicals and fuels used on the complexes, to ensure systems are in place to handle accidents and to prevent on-site and off-site impacts.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.9.1 The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all chemicals used will be available on the farm. They are reviewed and the implications for use of the substances are assessed and understood. Risk controls are in place before a new substance is received on the farm.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitising and cleaning products to be used on the farm, and their application, will be consistent with the Technical Appraisals and Material Safety Data Sheets provided. (NOTE: processor decides chemicals used, but producer is totally responsible for their storage & application) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All chemicals for shed wash down and sanitation to be approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) where required.
2.9.2 A list of the maximum quantities of chemicals and fuels typically stored on the farm will be available, containers are labelled, and HAZCHEM placards posted as required under Dangerous Goods and Workplace Hazardous Substances Regulations.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by annual inspection and reference to on farm MSDS file. 	
2.9.3 All agricultural chemicals used in poultry facilities are registered and approved for the intended use.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by reference to MSDS files on farm. 	
2.9.4 All persons applying chemicals on free range broiler production farms will have successfully completed training in the safe use of chemicals or are supervised by a	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by annual inspection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of successful completion of the training will be available on the farm.
2.9.5 suitably qualified person who has.			

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.9.6 Records are maintained covering the purchase and procurement of chemicals and the details of each chemical application. These records are freely available to responsible authorities to substantiate that the chemical use meets the requirements of the Code of Practice for Farm Chemical Spray Application.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by annual inspection 	
2.9.7 Storage of farm chemicals prevents contamination of soil or stormwater and prevents uncontrolled reactions in routine operations or through spills. This includes provision of lowest risk storage location, sealed flooring, segregation, and provision of spill absorbents	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by annual inspection All chemicals to be stored in a defined Hazchem and bunded area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any spills to be immediately absorbed with material like sawdust or litter. Review operation of contractor and retrain.
2.9.8 LPG and other fuels storage and handling comply with legal (HAZCHEM) requirements and supplier guidelines. LPG is stored in approved vessels. Diesel is stored in an above ground tank located near the utility shed. Spill clean-up techniques will meet HAZCHEM requirements. Fire Extinguishers are in the control rooms the broiler rearing sheds.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by annual inspection On farm fuel storage to be according to regulatory requirements and to be in a bunded area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any spills to be immediately absorbed with material like sawdust or litter. Review operation of contractor and retrain.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
<p>2.9.9 No chemical or related odours are to be detected off-site during or after shed washdown. To minimise the risk of off-site chemical spray drift, shed is closed immediately after chemical applications and for 12 to 48 hours after spraying with hazardous or highly odorous substances.</p>	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitation/cleaning of shed uses high pressure low volume sprays to avoid generation of free-flowing water or excessive odour or mists. The 48-hour minimum period is required for substances with a history of offsite odours or high potential for health impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early placement of dry litter and re closure of doors within the 48-hour period is permissible practice.
<p>2.9.10 Controls ensure there is no chemical spray drift into sensitive areas, such as watercourses and residences.</p> <p>Controls include spraying outside areas only on days with favourable wind conditions, selection of spray method, use of coarser spray nozzles to increase droplet size and precision, etc.</p>	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance is available in pamphlets including Reducing Spray Drift (Agriculture Victoria) and Protecting Waterways from Contamination by Pesticides (DNRE Victoria) 	

2.10 BIRD MANAGEMENT

EMP Objective: To provide a safe and healthy environment for birds that is appropriate for their physical and behavioural needs.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.10.1 Sheds, equipment, management systems and farm practices comply with the <i>Code of Accepted Farming Practice for Welfare of Poultry</i> .	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections demonstrate compliance. • Heating and cooling systems and the use of roof insulation will control sheds to the temperatures appropriate to bird age and as outlined in the welfare code listed opposite. 	
2.10.2 Effective biosecurity and general shed management comply with the requirements of the Processor, the National Biosecurity Manual guidelines to minimise the risk of disease introduction to the farm.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparisons demonstrate compliance. • Facilities and procedures are also in place to allow officers from the responsible authorities to inspect the farm without compromising biosecurity 	
2.10.3 Monitoring and where necessary, adjustment, are provided at least daily and more often (3 to 4 times daily) in hot weather to feeder availability and height, water availability and drinker height, ventilation rates, air speed, temperature, and light intensity.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequencies are as per guidance in welfare code listed in 2.9.1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any irregularities will be logged, investigated, and rectified as soon as practical.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.10.4 Cooling system performance is observed, adjusted, and maintained to provide the operating patterns specified by processors or equipment suppliers and to minimise litter wetting.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooling system is continuously monitored as part of control system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any irregularities will be logged, investigated, and rectified as soon as is practical.
2.10.5 Any mal digestion of feed or observable increase in shed odour or moisture content of droppings, bird removal, adjustment of feed formulation or treatment for poor health is reported to the servicing vet for review (or by a qualified husbandry officer).	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An observable and recorded increase in droppings moisture for a three-day period would typically confirm the need for a review and action 	
2.10.6 Bird density does not exceed those specified in the Code of <i>Accepted Farming Practice for Welfare of Poultry</i> .	Processor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The standard currently required is 12 to 19 birds per/ m² inside the shed , and 7.5 birds per/ m² on the range area, and is reviewed and updated from time to time. 	
2.10.7 Producers record daily bird mortality and report any abnormal losses or trends to their Processor for review and action.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird mortalities more than 1 per 1000 birds per day or unusual flock appearance would be reported to the veterinary staff used by the grower or and trigger a review and action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to industry's Chicken Care Performance Indicators Log Confirmation of records by annual inspection
2.10.8 The collection of dead birds from within the sheds or from the range area occurs daily, or more frequently should conditions so require. Mortalities are recorded daily.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by inspection of farm log. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid accumulation of dead birds on the site. Avoid generation of offensive odours from accumulated waste.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
<p>2.10.9 Disposal of dead birds is in accordance with best management practices. Collection of dead birds occurs daily.</p> <p>Dead birds will be placed in plastic buckets/ bins and placed in freezers prior to off-farm disposal undertaken by contractor.</p>	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by inspection of farm logbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage of dead birds in sealed bags. Access for vehicles and loaders for removal of birds. Access to a protein recovery plant to take large numbers of dead birds. Address cause of mortality.
2.10.10 Adequate perching space is provided.	Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All birds should have the opportunity to roost if that is their preference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Model Code of <i>Practice for Welfare of Animals – Domestic Poultry and RSPCA broiler manual 2005</i>
2.10.11 The outdoor range area sited and managed to avoid unsuitable conditions.	Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muddy, wet and de-vegetated area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If unsuitable conditions develop an alternative suitable area is made available.
2.10.12 The outdoor range area must not prejudice the health of poultry.	Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land which has become contaminated with poisonous plants, chemicals or organisms which is detrimental to the health of poultry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranges to be professionally managed; rotation allowed - up to 30% of land "in repair" and unavailable to birds. In drastic circumstances - shut down of sheds & attached range.

2.11 COMPLIANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

EMP Objective: To ensure that those involved in Free Range Broiler Production Farming are environmentally aware, are trained and implement environmental and fire risk prevention and control practices.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.11.1 Farm personnel participate in briefings and other activities arranged by the industry and other bodies to increase and share knowledge of best practice production and environmental management methods.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples include attendance or talks at Processor, Producer Branch, Chicken Care, EPA/NRE/TAFE meetings, or workshops. Records of training undertaken by staff will be kept on-site in the utilities / amenities building. 	
2.11.2 The skills needed to carry out all farm activities safely, efficiently, and environmentally soundly are defined. Suitable training is identified, planned, attended, recorded, and reviewed.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of training undertaken by staff will be kept on-site in the utilities / amenities building. The skills needed are discussed according to the Environmental Guidelines for the Australian Broiler Industry. Advice from the Farm Service Manager may also identify training needs. 	

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.11.3 A Waste Minimisation Plan for all significant farm wastes is to be implemented.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plan covering wastes (including spilt/off-spec feed, packaging, dead birds, chemical containers, etc) and by-products (including used litter) will regularly seek to identify opportunities and methods to reduce such materials. 	
2.11.4 Clear requirements for fire prevention are documented and communicated to all people on the farm. Fire Extinguishers are provided in the control rooms of the broiler sheds. Firefighting hoses are accessible for the sheds.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by inspection of documents and facilities. 	
2.11.5 Appropriate facilities to prevent, detect and control fires are provided and maintained. Sheds are constructed from non-flammable materials including steel, concrete and PIR insulation. Water for firefighting purposes is provided from the mains supply and from the back up water storage tanks fitted with CFA fire truck filling connections.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by inspection of facilities. 	
2.11.6 A fire management plan is prepared and held in the amenities service shed. All broiler rearing farm personnel participate in briefings and training in implementing the plan.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by inspection of documentation. 	

2.12 EMERGENCY PLANS

EMP Objective: To provide well thought out contingency plans and triggers for all foreseeable events to complement the planning and prevention of environmental impacts in earlier sections of the EMP.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.12.1 Adequate means of disposal of dead birds in the event of an emergency disease outbreak or catastrophic mortalities are available, are used under direction of the State Chief Veterinary Officer and achieve the optimum overall health, environmental and economic outcome. This would normally involve off-site removal to a licensed landfill.	Producer / Processor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency disease outbreak or catastrophic mortalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-site bird removal will be undertaken by a licensed contractor under the direction of the State Chief Veterinary Officer
2.11.2 In the event of an emergency where large numbers of dead birds must be removed, a bird disposal contractor will be employed to remove the dead birds.	Producer / Processor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dead bird removal contractor will be chosen based on having the capacity to remove large numbers of dead birds within 24 hours. 	
2.11.3 Chemical or fuel spill contingency plans and clean-up equipment and materials are available and meet the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and other supplier recommendations.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements are covered in Farm Chemical Users Training courses regularly run by TAFE colleges and by chemical and oil industry groups. Relevant documentation will be maintained on-site in the amenity service shed and can be confirmed by inspection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up equipment and materials are kept within the machinery shed.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.11.4 Documented fire emergency control and response plan (Fire Management Plan) is herewith attached and will be in the amenity service shed.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples and details for these plans are available in guidelines published by CFA, Emergency Management Australia, and chemical and oil industry groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency drills will be undertaken every six months and plans updated where necessary. Relevant documentation will be maintained on-site in the amenity service shed and can be confirmed by inspection.
2.11.5 Contract transport drivers are trained and familiar with their transport emergency response plan.	Producer directly with relevant contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of familiarity with a documented transport emergency plan is part of the transport company's contracts. 	

2.13 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

EMP Objective: To provide processes for consultation with farm neighbours and the local Council so that their concerns and expectations are understood.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.13.1 All company and farm staff members demonstrate commitment to openness and two- way dialogue with all interested parties.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbour contacts and complaints will be logged in the Performance Indicator Log. This will be compared with published industry average performance (via Chicken Care) Complaints resolved amicably to the mutual satisfaction of all parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek a disputes resolution mechanism using complaint register. Utilise the various regulatory bodies as the independent arbitrator.
2.13.2 Ways are sought to brief the community on the risks, controls, and benefits of the broiler rearing industries.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Indicator Log entries on neighbour contacts and complaints will demonstrate contact with the community. In addition, activities undertaken by producer will be documented in the Log. 	
2.13.3 Staff, neighbours and local Councils will be briefed on the selected goals and targets, their rationale and historical performance.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual contact with Council Planning Officer will be undertaken. Implementation is recorded in farm logbooks (or the Chicken Care Performance Indicator Log) 	
2.13.4 All complaints received are viewed as opportunities for improvement and addressed in a positive and co-operative manner.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Indicator Log entries on neighbour contacts and complaints will demonstrate recording of complaints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek a disputes resolution mechanism using complaint register. Utilise the various regulatory bodies as the independent arbitrator.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.13.5 A log of complaints received including their type, complainant details and actions taken is maintained. The log is periodically reviewed to identify and remedy recurring causes where possible. This review is to occur every 6 months.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Indicator Log entries on neighbour contacts and complaints will demonstrate recording of complaints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where corrective actions are identified as being required, these will be recorded in the Performance Indicator Log and where practical be implemented prior to the commencement of the next batch of birds.
2.13.6 Regular liaison with the local Council will take place over complaints received and on upset conditions that occur with potential to impact nearby residents.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This liaison is to be recorded in farm logbooks. 	
2.13.7 Complaint's resolution using the local Council and industry processes and the Special Audits as outlined in the Broiler Industry Guidelines will be followed where required.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining good neighbour relationships may allow issues to be resolved before a formal complaint is required 	
2.13.8 The results of complaints, corrective actions, complaint resolution activities and audits are available to local Council and to neighbours.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by inspection 	
2.13.9 Records of the properties, procurement and use of chemicals are maintained and available to the local Council and farm neighbours.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation by inspection 	

2.14 VERMIN CONTROL

EMP Objective: To provide processes for control of pests and vermin.

Objectives	Resp. Entity	Performance Measure	Corrective Actions
2.14.1 To maintain the site, sheds, and equipment free of vermin – waterfowl, rats, and mice. Have in place an active rodent baiting program.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage vermin around the sheds. No wild waterfowl encroaching on the commercial chickens and creating a bio-security risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove material that is acting as an attraction to the vermin. Upgrade or change baiting program. Seek professional assistance.
2.14.2 To maintain the site, sheds, and equipment free of flies. Have in place an active management plan.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid accumulation of materials that attract flies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange for removal of offensive materials from site on a regular basis. Use in feed fly larvae control products
2.14.3 Regular liaison with the local Council will take place over complaints received and on upset conditions that occur with potential to impact nearby residents.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This liaison is to be recorded in farm logbooks. 	
2.14.4 Complaint's resolution using the local Council and industry processes and the Special Audits as outlined in the Broiler Industry Guidelines will be followed where required.	Producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining good neighbour relationships may allow issues to be resolved before a formal complaint is required 	

3.0 IMPLEMENTING THE EMP

3.1 Environmental Performance Targets

The objectives, strategies and management measures for each Environmental Issue covered in the previous section are specific to the conditions of this farm.

The extents to which the objectives are met are measurable in terms of specific levels and timeframes wherever possible.

3.2 Regular Monitoring and Contingency Plan Triggers

This EMP lists contingency plans for excessive odour, noise, or dust generation, for chemical, fuel, feed or litter spills, for bird illness and for other environmental events.

3.3 Incident Investigation

The Producer and his processor will carry out a post-incident review of the causes of any significant incident and of the effectiveness of actions taken under the documented contingency plan. Corrections to root causes of the problem will be undertaken by both Producer and Processor when identified. Results of individual incidents will be provided to the local Council and discussed with neighbours when requested.

3.4 Operations and incident records

The operator will maintain a log of their regular monitoring of the parameters or indicators identified in Section 2. This environmental log will be maintained on the farm to record the monitoring and corrective / contingency actions undertaken in situations and incidents considered to be outside normal operating parameters.

This log will be used in formulating operating targets for the next year and may be of assistance in the resolution of complaints.

The operator will carry out a post-incident review of the causes of any significant incident and of the effectiveness of actions taken under the contingency plan for that incident. The Producer (and processor, if relevant) will undertake corrections to the root causes of the problem when identified. Results of individual incidents will be provided to the local Council and discussed with neighbours when requested.

4.0 AUDITING AND REPORTING

4.1 Farm Assessment against EMP and Planning Permit.

A biennial assessment of the compliance with the site EMP and the Planning Permit and of the adequacy of the actions taken to meet farm improvement objectives and targets will be made and signed by the Producer, and the planner at the cost of the Producer.

This assessment will use an audit document containing all the elements of the EMP and be conducted in detail sufficient to evaluate or confirm to the responsible authority that Planning Permit requirements are met.

The Producer will retain audit documents for five years.

The audit will form the basis of the annual review of the EMP by the Producer.

The frequency of assessments and reviews may be adjusted based on the performance of the farm and with the agreement of the local Council.

4.2 Complaint Handling

As outlined under measures for Community Participation, complaints will be addressed as legitimate community concerns and opportunities for improvement. Where a verified off-site complaint occurs, the principles and measures outlined in the Environmental Guidelines for the Australian Broiler Industry, and Victorian Broiler Code 2009 Updated in 2018 will be adopted and implemented.

All complaints wherever received must be passed on to the Producer within one working day and the Producer must be advised in writing of a validated complaint within one day of its confirmation, so that causes, and corrective actions can be identified and implemented.

When received, the Producer and where possible a local Council officer and the complainant will investigate the problem. Complaints lodged with the responsible authority may trigger a Special Audit as outlined in the Broiler Industry Guidelines. Results will be provided to the local Council.

4.3 Public and Local Council Reporting

A summary of the results of the audit will be provided on request to the local Council. Other interested parties may request summaries from the council or the Producer.

WASTE MINIMISATION PLAN

WASTE MINIMISATION PLAN

Birregurra Farm Broiler Farm – Government Road, Birregurra, VIC, 3242

The following table outlines the potential wastes generated on the farm and their minimisation and disposal methods.

Waste Type	Method of Minimisation / Disposal
Used Litter	All used litter is removed from the sheds at the end of each batch. This is removed off-site by contractors for re-use as fertiliser and soil conditioner.
Dead Birds	Dead birds are collected daily, frozen, and regularly removed off-site by a licensed contractor.
Chemical Containers	Empty chemical containers are returned to the supplier for reuse.
Packaging & General Waste	Where possible, the need to minimise packaging will be considered when purchasing items for use on the farm.

Mass Mortality Procedures

May 2023

Mass Mortality Disposal Strategy

In the unlikely event of a major disease outbreak, the State Veterinary Officer has been contacted as soon as the breakout is suspected and will likely assume control of the site. Immediate measures will be implemented to isolate the infected sheds, effect strict quarantine procedures to prevent the spread of the disease and notify all relevant stakeholders. Where permitted, urgent ring vaccination of flocks within the controlled area has been organised.

Upon confirmation that it is indeed an emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreak and immediate slaughter of farm stock is necessary, slaughter has been managed by the DPI in co-ordination with the EPA and technical service units of the poultry industry. The birds will be euthanised within the poultry sheds.

Several options exist for the disposal of bird carcasses and fomites. The *Best Practice Management for Meat Chicken Production– Manual 2 Meat Chicken Growing Management* (DPI 2012) lists the following mass disposal options subject to Council, EPA, and DPI approval:

- Rendering (if facilities are available).
- In-shed composting.
- External composting.
- Disposal in a landfill site; and
- Burial on-farm.

The most appropriate option in the event of a mass mortality event will depend on several factors, including the scale of the outbreak, the ability of a render facility 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 traditionally been the predominant disposal option in the poultry industry, this practice is now discouraged based on significant environmental risks including potential groundwater impacts.

Emergency management agencies throughout Australia have now identified on-farm composting as an appropriate method of carcass disposal. *The Biosecurity of Mass Poultry Mortality Composting* (Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (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 (bedding material and manure) as a bulking agent. Poultry carcasses rapidly decompose, usually within 14 days. After a further period of composting, the compost can be safely applied to land.

Studies conducted on the survival of the V4 vaccine strain of Newcastle disease virus during composting found that the virus was killed within the first five 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).

RIRDC (2014) advised that the successful implementation of composting as a disposal method during an EAD has been repeatedly demonstrated in the United States of America and Canada.

Although in-shed and external composting are possible, in-shed composting offers several advantages including better security and protection from wind, rain, and scavengers. However, in-shed composting can result in the affected poultry shed(s) being out of operation for many weeks as the composting process takes place. This is where on-site rendering and off-site burial have an advantage as disposal options, enabling the affected shed(s) to be cleaned, decontaminated, and brought back into production in a much shorter period.

In consideration of the above, and pending the scale of the mass mortality event and advice from the DPI and EPA, the following options in order of preference has been implemented for the disposal of bird carcasses and fomites in the event of an EAD outbreak within the Development Site:

May 2023

(1) Rendering

The preferred option for mass bird disposal has been transportation to a protein recovery plant, which is part of the poultry processing complexes for treatment and disposal. This would occur under the supervision of the DPI to ensure appropriate quarantine control and standard operating procedures are implemented in line with the relevant AUSVETPLAN disease strategy.

Carcasses and fomites have been loaded into leak-proof containers within the poultry sheds and these containers would be transported in appropriate trucks disinfected on exit from the Development Site. The truck and operator would be independent from normal STANKOVIC LAND TRUST and processor operations to minimise the risk of disease transfer to other poultry operations. All vehicles will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after unloading.

Importantly, the volume of material treated and processed would not be allowed to exceed the protein recovery plant's daily processing capabilities. If the plant does not have the capacity to accept the material, or if rendering cannot be achieved for another reason, the below alternative options has been considered and the most appropriately selected.

(2) Landfill Disposal

State Veterinarian will negotiate a designated portion of Council's landfill for the mass disposal of chickens from the various contract production farms in the affected area. Council will provide in conjunction to state veterinary services a landfill area that will be appropriately sectioned and quarantined, providing a safe disposing of birds in an EAD outbreak when the scale of the outbreak is such that the protein recovery plant (Option 1) cannot manage the volume of birds affected.

Landfilling would be undertaken with appropriately qualified supervision from the State Veterinary Services DPI, EPA, and Council to ensure appropriate quarantine control and standard operating procedures are implemented in line with the relevant AUSVETPLAN disease strategy. Carcasses and fomites would be loaded into leak-proof containers within the sheds and these containers would be transported in appropriate trucks disinfected on exit from the Farm Site. The truck and operator would be independent from normal BIRREGURRA FARM and processor operations to minimise the risk of disease transfer to other poultry operations. All vehicles would be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after unloading.

(3) In-shed Composting

If transportation of the bird carcasses to the protein recovery plant (Option 1) is not possible and transportation and disposal at Council's landfill (Option 2) is not possible due to the scale of the mortality and/or other environmental constraints, the birds will be composted within the sheds. This would occur under the supervision of the State Veterinarian, DPI and EPA and in accordance with the standard operating procedures for mass poultry composting developed by RIRDC (2014).

RIRDC (2014) advises that the poultry carcasses rapidly decompose, usually within 14 days, and after a further period of composting, the compost can be safely applied to land.