

Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for poultry farming (ERA 4)

This document provides eligibility criteria and standard conditions for Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) 4 - Keeping poultry at threshold 1 - keeping more than 1000 but not more than 200,000 birds.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria are constraints set to ensure environmental risks associated with the operation of the ERA are able to be managed by the standard conditions. Eligibility criteria set out the circumstances in which a standard or variation application for an environmental authority can be made.

Standard conditions

Standard conditions are the minimum operating requirements an environmental authority holder must comply with.

Standard applications

If an applicant can meet all of the eligibility criteria and standard conditions, then they can make a standard application. Applicants are required to complete a 'Standard application form'. The form can be downloaded from the Queensland Government's Business and Industry Portal at www.business.qld.gov.au/ea

Variation applications

If an applicant can meet all of the eligibility criteria but needs to vary one or more of the standard conditions to suit their operational needs, then they can make a variation application. Applicants are required to complete a 'Variation application form'. The form can be downloaded from the Queensland Government's Business and Industry Portal at www.business.qld.gov.au/ea

Site specific applications

Applicants who cannot meet the eligibility criteria must make a site specific application. Applicants are required to complete a 'Site specific application form'. The form can be downloaded from the Queensland Government's Business and Industry Portal at www.business.qld.gov.au/ea

Amendment applications

If the holder of an environmental authority needs to amend a standard condition in the issued environmental authority, then the holder must submit an 'Amendment application form'. The form can be downloaded from the Queensland Government's Business and Industry Portal at www.business.qld.gov.au/ea

Definitions

Some terms used in this document are defined in Appendix 1.

Other obligations

Some general obligations for environmental authority holders are in Appendix 2. The holder of an environmental authority needs to be aware of, and comply with, all other relevant legislation.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria category	Eligibility criteria
Activity description	The activity is farming more than 1000 but not more than 200,000 birds.
Activity location	The poultry farm complex is not within 1000 metres of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a dwelling, residential allotment, mobile home or caravan park, residential marina, motel, hotel or hostel or other residential premises • a kindergarten, school, university, library, childcare centre or other educational institution • a medical centre or hospital • a protected area under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> • a public park or gardens.
	The activity will not be carried out in any category A or B environmentally sensitive area.
	The activity is not carried out in a high preservation, special floodplain management area or floodplain management area in any declared wild river area.
	The activity does not occur within 100 metres of any watercourse, wetland or spring. This is measured from the boundary of the activity.
	The activity is not located on deep sands.
	The activity must be located above the Q100 flood level.
Air	The combustion of fuel, other than natural gases, does not exceed 500 kilograms per hour.
Water	There is no release of aqueous waste from the activity to waters.

Standard conditions

Conditions
General
G1: All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the activity complies with the eligibility criteria.
G2: The activity must be undertaken in accordance with a written procedures that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify potential risks to the environment from the activity during routine operations and emergencies • establish control measures that minimise the potential for environmental harm • ensure plant and equipment is maintained and operated in proper and effective condition • ensure that staff are trained and aware of their obligations under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> • ensure that reviews of environmental performance are undertaken at least annually.
G3: The activity must not cause environmental nuisance at a nuisance sensitive place.
G4: The activity must not cause the release of dust or particulates that cause environmental nuisance beyond the boundary of the site.
G5: The storage of chemicals and fuels in bulk or in containers of greater than 15 litres must be within a secondary containment system and releases from the containment system controlled in a manner that prevents environmental harm.
Noise
N1: Noise resulting from the activity must not cause environmental nuisance at a nuisance sensitive place.
Waste
R1: Waste generated by the activity must be contained within a suitably designed waste containment structure. Waste containment structures must be constructed, operated and maintained in accordance with accepted engineering standards currently appropriate for the purpose for which the structure is intended to be used. The in-situ coefficient of permeability of the finished base, batters and embankments of waste containment structures must not exceed 0.1 millimetres per day.
Aqueous waste
D1: Treated aqueous waste is permitted to be released to land provided that it is done in accordance with a written procedure that ensures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • infiltration to groundwater and subsurface flows of contaminants to surface waters are prevented • surface pondage and run-off of aqueous waste is prevented • degradation of soil structure is minimised • soil sodicity and the build-up of nutrients and heavy metals in the soil and subsoil are minimised • spray drift or overspray does not carry beyond aqueous waste release areas • aqueous waste release areas are maintained with an appropriate crop in a viable state for transpiration and nutrient uptake • the crop on the release area is harvested and removed from the release area.
Water
W1: Stormwater contaminated by the activity must be managed to minimise or prevent any adverse impacts on the values of the receiving environment.

Appendix 1: Terms and definitions

Term	Definition
Accepted engineering standards	in relation to containment structures, means those standards of design, construction, operation and maintenance that are broadly accepted within the profession of engineering as being good practice for the purpose and application being considered.
Activity	the environmentally relevant activity to which this environmental authority relates. An activity may be undertaken on the whole or a part of a site.
Aqueous waste	any aqueous waste including process water, water that has otherwise been used in the carrying out of the activity or sewage, whether or not the waste has been treated, but excluding stormwater.
Category A or B environmentally sensitive area	as defined in Schedule 12, Part 1 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008
Chemical	as defined in Schedule 12, Part 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008
Combustion of fuel	does not include fuel used in explosives or by vehicles.
Contaminant(s)	as defined in Section 11 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>
Environmental harm	as defined in Section 14 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>
Environmental nuisance	as defined in Section 15 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>
Land	land excluding waters and the atmosphere. Land includes land on the authorised place.
Minimise	<p>minimise by taking all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the adverse effect having regard to the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the nature of the harm or potential harm (b) the sensitivity of the receiving environment (c) the current state of technical knowledge for the activity (d) the likelihood of successful application of different measures that might be taken to minimise the adverse effects (e) the financial implications of the different measures as they would relate to the type of activity (f) if the adverse effect is caused by the location of the activity being carried out, whether it is feasible to carry out the activity at another location.
Nuisance sensitive place	<p>nuisance sensitive place includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within or outside of a dwelling, residential allotment, mobile home or caravan park, residential marina or other residential premises • within or outside of a motel, hotel or hostel • within or outside of a kindergarten, school, university or other educational institution • within or outside of a medical centre or hospital • within a protected area under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>, within a marine park under the <i>Marine Parks Act 1992</i> or a world heritage area • within a public thoroughfare, park or gardens • within or outside of a place used as a workplace, an office or for business or commercial purposes and includes a place within the curtilage of such a place reasonably used by

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	persons at that place.
Poultry farm complex	includes the poultry sheds, poultry handling facilities, sedimentation systems, effluent holding ponds and waste stockpiling and composting areas. It does not include effluent or manure utilisation areas.
Spring	the land to which water rises naturally from below the ground and the land over which the water then flows.
Waters	all or any part of a creek, river, stream, lake, lagoon, swamp, wetland, spring, unconfined surface water, unconfined water in natural or artificial watercourses, bed and bank of any waters, non-tidal or tidal waters (including the sea), stormwater channel, stormwater drain, roadside gutter, stormwater run-off, and underground water.
Watercourse	as defined in Section 8, Schedule 12 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.
Wetland	as defined in Schedule 12 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008, means an area shown as a wetland on the map of referable wetlands.

Superseded
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Appendix 2: General obligations for environmental authority holders

This appendix is not intended to provide a comprehensive assessment of all obligations under Queensland law. It provides some general information and holders are encouraged to familiarise themselves with all requirements related to their specific operation.

Responsibilities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

Separate to the requirements of the standard conditions, the holder of the environmental authority must also meet their obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and the regulations made under that Act. For example, the holder must be aware of the following provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* which may apply unless the environmental harm is authorised by the conditions of the environmental authority.

General environmental duty

Section 319 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* states that we all have a general environmental duty. This means that we are all responsible for the actions we take that affect the environment. We must not carry out any activity that causes or is likely to cause environmental harm unless we take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm. To decide what meets your general environmental duty, you need to consider:

- the nature of the harm or potential harm
- the sensitivity of the receiving environment
- the current state of technical knowledge for the activity
- the likelihood of successful application of the different measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm that might be taken
- the financial implications of the different measures as they would relate to the type of activity.

It is not an offence not to comply with the general environmental duty. However, maintaining your general environmental duty is a defence against the following acts:

- (a) an act that causes serious or material environmental harm or an environmental nuisance
- (b) an act that contravenes a noise standard
- (c) a deposit of a contaminant, or release of stormwater run-off, mentioned in section 440ZG.

More information is available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) website www.ehp.qld.gov.au.

Duty to notify

Section 320 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* explains the duty to notify. The duty to notify applies to all persons and requires a person or company to give notice where serious or material environmental harm is caused or threatened. Notice must be given of the event, its nature and the circumstances in which the event happened. Notification can be verbal, written or by public notice depending on who is notifying and being notified.

The duty to notify arises where:

- a person carries out activities or becomes aware of an act of another person arising from or connected to those activities which causes or threatens serious or material environmental harm
- while carrying out activities a person becomes aware of the happening of one or both of the following events:
 - the activity negatively affects (or is reasonably likely to negatively affect) the water quality of an aquifer
 - the activity has caused the unauthorised connection of two or more aquifers.

For more information on the duty to notify requirements refer to the guideline 'Duty to notify of environmental harm' (EM467).

Some relevant offences under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

Non-compliance with a condition of an environmental authority (section 430)

Section 430 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* requires that a person who is the holder of, or is acting under, an environmental authority must not wilfully contravene, or contravene a condition of the authority.

Environmental authority holder responsible for ensuring conditions complied with (section 431)

Section 431 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* requires that the holder of an environmental authority must ensure everyone acting under the authority complies with the conditions of the authority. If another person acting under the authority commits an offence against section 430, the holder also commits an offence, namely, the offence of failing to ensure the other person complies with the conditions.

Causing serious or material environmental harm (sections 437–39)

Material environmental harm is when the harm is not trivial or negligible in nature. Serious environmental harm is harm that is irreversible, of a high impact or widespread, or that is caused to an area of high conservation value or special significance. Damages, or costs required to rehabilitate the environment, of over \$5000 also constitute serious environmental harm.

Serious or material environmental harm excludes environmental nuisance.

Causing environmental nuisance (section 440)

Environmental nuisance is unreasonable interference with an environmental value caused by aerosols, fumes, light, noise, odour, particles or smoke. It may also include an unhealthy, offensive or unsightly condition because of contamination.

Depositing a prescribed water contaminant in waters (section 440ZG)

Prescribed contaminants include a wide variety of contaminants listed in Schedule 9 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

It is your responsibility to ensure that prescribed contaminants are not left in a place where they may or do enter a waterway, the ocean or a stormwater drain. This includes making sure that stormwater falling on or running across your site does not leave the site contaminated. Where stormwater contamination occurs you must ensure that it is treated to remove contaminants. You should also consider where and how you store material used in your processes onsite to reduce the chance of water contamination.

Placing a contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443)

A person must not cause or allow a contaminant to be placed in a position where it could reasonably be expected to cause serious or material environmental harm or environmental nuisance.

Some of the relevant offences under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*

Littering (section 103)

Litter is any domestic or commercial waste and any material a person might reasonably believe is refuse, debris or rubbish. Litter can be almost any material that is disposed of incorrectly. Litter includes cigarette butts and drink bottles dropped on the ground, fast food wrappers thrown out of the car window, poorly secured material from a trailer or grass clippings swept into the gutter. However, litter does not include any gas, dust, smoke or material emitted or produced during, or because of, the normal operations of a building, manufacturing, mining or primary industry.

Illegal dumping of waste (section 104)

Illegal dumping is the dumping of large volumes of litter (200 litres or more) at a place. Illegal dumping can also include abandoned vehicles.

Relevant offence under the Environment Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000

Trackable waste to be given only to licensed transporter (section 41)

A generator of trackable waste must not give the waste to another person to transport it commercially, or in a load of more than 250 kilograms, in a vehicle unless the other person holds, or is acting under, the required authority for transporting the waste in the vehicle.

Responsibilities under other legislation

An environmental authority pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* does not remove the need to obtain any additional approval for the activity that might be required by other state and/or Commonwealth legislation. Other legislation for which a permit may be required includes but is not limited to the:

- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
- contaminated land provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *Fisheries Act 1994*
- *Forestry Act 1959*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 / Petroleum Act 1923*
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*
- *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*
- *Water Act 2000*.

Applicants are advised to check with all relevant statutory authorities and comply with all relevant legislation.