



Australian Government

National Principles for wildlife carcass management - H5 bird flu event

Principles to guide the management of sick and dead wildlife if high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b is detected in Australia



© Commonwealth of Australia 2025

Ownership of intellectual property rights

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

Creative Commons licence

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.



Cataloguing data

This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as: DAFF 2025, *Prepraring for H5 Bird Flu*, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra, October . CC BY 4.0.

This publication is available at [agriculture.gov.au/\[title\]](https://agriculture.gov.au/[title]).

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone 1800 900 090

Web agriculture.gov.au

Disclaimer

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

Contents

About this document	4
The national principles	5
Definitions	5
What is 'carcass management'?	5
Risks and benefits	6
Risks posed by sick and dead wildlife infected with H5 bird flu	6
Managing wildlife carcasses	6
When sick wildlife are present	7
Methods of carcass disposal	8
Priority order of risks and benefits	8
Impact 1: Human health and safety	9
Impact 2: Threatened species, important species, important places and industry biosecurity	9
Impact 3: Broader wildlife/ecosystems and social amenity	10
Risk-based decision-making	11
Roles and responsibilities	11
Who will develop/refine the risk assessment	11
Who will conduct the risk assessment	11
Who is responsible for carcass management actions	12
Additional consultation or communication needed	12
Further Information	13
Appendix A: Example prompts for carcass management assessments	14
Glossary	17

About this document

This document is maintained by the Environmental Biosecurity Office in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Version	Date of issue	Reason for change
1.0	8 September 2025	Document created

Purpose: This document is intended to provide guidance to jurisdictional governments and/or agencies who are developing, refining or conducting risk management activities for sick and dead wildlife in environments where high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b (hereafter referred to as H5 bird flu) is suspected or confirmed in Australia.

Intended audience: State/territory governments and agencies.

When to use this document: This document may be used to support the development and refinement of H5 bird flu preparedness and response processes and products. This includes supporting state and territory governments and agencies to develop risk assessments or to refine existing risk assessment processes.

In scope: Developing, refining or conducting risk management activities for wildlife carcasses and sick wildlife.

Out of scope: Management of other sick or dead animals such as livestock or companion animals. For information on carcass management for poultry see [AUSVETPLAN Operational Manual: Disposal \(Version 5.0.\)](#)

Assumptions: People and entities using this document will take a One Health approach to developing, refining and conducting their risk management activities, as appropriate for their situation.

The national principles

The national principles for wildlife carcass management in the context of H5 bird flu are:

- ◆ **Definitions** for carcass management should be nationally consistent to support cohesive and deconflicted use, understanding and application of terminology.
- ◆ The **risks and benefits** of carcass management actions should be consistently understood to inform jurisdiction planning and decision making.
- ◆ The potential impacts of carcass management decisions should be considered in a consistent **priority order** to align collective priorities of a national response to H5 bird flu.
- ◆ Carcass management decisions should be informed by robust **risk-based decision-making** processes to ensure the most effective carcass management actions are selected for each situation.
- ◆ **Roles and responsibilities** for carcass management decisions and actions should be defined to enhance understanding and alignment of key roles and responsibilities within carcass management.

Definitions

What is 'carcass management'?

Carcass management refers to actions which are considered and/or taken for the purposes of managing wildlife carcasses which are suspected or confirmed to be infected with H5 bird flu.

Carcass management actions may involve, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Leaving carcasses in situ to naturally decompose (i.e. deliberate decision not to disturb carcasses).
- ◆ In situ disposal of carcasses via burial, composting, incineration or other methods.
- ◆ Removal of carcasses from an area and disposal at an alternative site via landfill, burial, composting or incineration.
- ◆ Restricting public access to a site, area or location to enable any of the above actions.

A risk assessment should be undertaken on a case-by-case basis to help determine the appropriate carcass management actions. Actions such as removal and/or disposal of carcasses is only beneficial in specific situations and may have unintended consequences.

Risks and benefits

Risks posed by sick and dead wildlife infected with H5 bird flu

- ◆ The main source of infection for wild birds appears to be direct contact with infected birds and/or environmental contamination. Environmental contamination in this context is contamination of the surrounding environment (e.g. ground, water bodies, trees/shrubs, etc.) by the secretions and excretions of other infected wildlife.
- ◆ Although carcasses are not thought to be the main source of infection, they may pose a risk to other species through close contact, their shared environment, and to scavenging animals (including wildlife and companion animals) that may feed on them. They may also pose an infection risk to people and domesticated animals who interact with them.
- ◆ Comparatively, fresh carcasses appear to have a higher viral load than older carcasses, with virus remaining viable for longer periods of time in cooler environments than warmer environments. Virus survival in the environment is dependent upon temperature, UV, humidity and other factors.
- ◆ The virus can persist in many environments including land, water and on items (also called fomites) such as footwear and vehicles.

Managing wildlife carcasses

- ◆ Carcass management options may range from disposing of carcasses in situ or offsite through to leaving carcasses in situ to naturally decompose (i.e. deliberate decision not to disturb carcasses).
- ◆ Decisions around carcass management actions should be determined based on a risk assessment that considers factors such as those described in this document.
- ◆ Where possible, consideration should be given to real time monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of the carcass management decisions, such as monitoring infection rates post carcass removal, and sharing information for collective learning.
- ◆ Any carcass management actions undertaken must be consistent with jurisdictional and Commonwealth biodiversity, biosecurity, public health, and any other relevant legislation and direction.
- ◆ There is limited evidence on the benefits of carcass removal and there are many factors to be considered when determining whether to remove carcasses. Guidance around carcass management continues to evolve, informed by ongoing overseas studies and experiences.
- ◆ In the absence of clear benefits or if the risk of removal and/or disposal of carcasses cannot be managed effectively, a cautionary approach should be adopted, and removal or disposal of carcasses should be avoided. Leaving carcasses in situ to decompose naturally is an acceptable carcass management option.
- ◆ The most likely reason to remove and/or dispose of carcasses may be to mitigate the risk to human health, safety or if relevant, social amenity. Other risk factors will be considered and are detailed in the impact considerations in the priority order of risks and benefits section in this document.
- ◆ The risk of H5 bird flu transmitting to a person in direct contact with infected animals or contaminated environment is influenced by the level of contamination. For example, transmission is more likely in an environment with many infected carcasses rather than a few. The risk will also depend on other factors such as the nature and duration of exposure and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other control measures.
- ◆ All interventions should be undertaken with consideration to protecting human health and safety. Human health and safety risks from H5 bird flu exposure should be eliminated or minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

When sick wildlife are present

- ◆ Wildlife sick with H5 bird flu are very unlikely to recover.
- ◆ There is no specific treatment for H5 bird flu. The disease has a high fatality rate in wildlife and once infected, the chance of recovery is very low.
- ◆ Sick wildlife and carcasses will often be found together. Considerations for how and when to manage wildlife carcasses should include what to do with sick wildlife at the site and the impact of carcass management actions on live wildlife present.

In situations where sick wildlife is found together with wildlife carcasses, the risk assessment for carcass management should also consider the following potential risks/benefits of undertaking management actions for sick wildlife:

- ◆ Risks to human health if sick wildlife is left in situ.
 - ◆ Risks to human health and/or safety if the decision is made to remove and/or euthanise sick wildlife.
 - ◆ Risks to healthy wildlife populations via human disturbance if removing and/or euthanising sick wildlife.
 - ◆ Benefits to healthy wildlife populations, and human health, safety or social amenity if sick wildlife is removed and/or euthanised.
- ◆ Actions will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Actions may include:
 - No intervention.
 - Restricting access to a site, area or location.
 - Euthanasia.
 - ◆ Members of the public may attempt to refer sick wildlife to wildlife rehabilitators or vets for supportive care. Wildlife infected with H5 bird flu may continue to shed virus. Keeping them in care could pose a risk to people and other animals.
 - ◆ Given the high fatality rate of wildlife due to H5 bird flu, the most humane response in most cases will be euthanasia.
 - ◆ Decision makers may decide to approve supportive care of specific individuals of an important species, for example species of conservation concern under relevant state/territory/Commonwealth legislation or of ecotourism value. There are very limited supportive care options available, and decisions on whether to attempt care should consider whether adequate facilities exist, among other factors.

Methods of carcass disposal

Where the decision has been made to dispose of carcasses, the method(s) of carcass disposal should adhere to local health and environment regulations, as well as local environmental context. Each state, territory and local government may have different requirements for carcass disposal. International agreements and learnings should also be considered.

Methods and considerations from the AUSVETPLAN Operational Manual: Disposal (Version 5.0.) may support assessment and decision-making around management of wildlife carcasses to support logical, defensible and transparent carcass management decisions.

Methods of carcass disposal may include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Landfill
- ◆ Burial on site or at another site (for example deep burial pits)
- ◆ Composting
- ◆ Incineration

Priority order of risks and benefits

In assessing risks and benefits the suggested impacts in order of priority are:

- 1) Human health and safety (individual, public and responders)
- 2) Threatened species, important species, important places and industry biosecurity
- 3) Broader wildlife/ecosystems and social amenity

Each situation is unique and there may be other considerations that will impact this list

The below section provides more detail about different impacts to consider when assessing the risks and benefits of when and how to manage wildlife carcasses.

Impact 1: Human health and safety

Management options for wildlife carcasses such as removal from an area may need to be considered where there are health, safety, cultural, or social amenity concerns.

The health and safety of the responsible person/s (e.g. in-field responders) will also need to be considered and should be reasonably assured, prior to managing wildlife carcasses.

Examples of when carcass removal as a management strategy might be considered include when wildlife carcasses are:

- ◆ In areas of high human habitation/usage where exposure to carcasses poses a human health risk (such as backyards, schools, beaches and parks).
- ◆ Near water supply areas, local catchments and waste treatment facilities.
- ◆ In places that include species of cultural significance for First Nations people which may impact physical and/or mental health, or where continued access to places or species is essential for cultural reasons.

If disposal is the carcass management action chosen (whether in situ or for disposal at another site), this should be done with the minimum required number of appropriately trained people, as determined by the applicable jurisdiction, with appropriate health and safety measures.

- ◆ Strict attention should be paid to measures which reduce risks to those involved in the collection and disposal operations, such as through appropriate use of PPE.
- ◆ Maintain a comprehensive list of in-field responder names and contact information for rapid public health follow-up, if needed.
- ◆ If relevant, follow jurisdictional instructions to notify local health authorities about carcass management activities.
- ◆ Cleaning and disinfection/decontamination of personnel and equipment on site.
- ◆ More information can be found at [CDNA national guidelines for avian influenza: protecting people who work with birds and wildlife](#) and [WOAH Avian influenza and wildlife: Risk management for people working with wild birds](#).

Impact 2: Threatened species, important species, important places and industry biosecurity

Carcass management options such as removing carcasses from an area or disposing in situ may be considered where wild populations of threatened species, important species and/or important places are infected or exposed to H5 bird flu. Important places will be determined by jurisdictions but may include areas of high tourism value, important wildlife breeding sites, places or species of cultural significance for First Nations peoples.

Decision makers may decide to manage wildlife carcasses due to industry and trade imperatives. For example, wildlife carcasses found on public land or near agricultural facilities may create an unacceptable risk of transmission to production animals and be removed from the area for disposal.

If disposal is the carcass management action chosen (whether in situ or for disposal at another site), this should be done in a manner least likely to cause disturbance of other wildlife at the site to minimise spread of the virus.

- ◆ Where carcasses are on a beach, collecting/disposing of them at low tide rather than high tide is recommended to minimise disturbance to birds which may be nesting/roosting at that site.
- ◆ Recognising the sensitivity of the species present. For example, priority may be given to removing carcasses which are close to an at-risk wildlife population.
- ◆ A subdued colour of PPE coveralls can help to minimise disturbance to live animals.

Impact 3: Broader wildlife/ecosystems and social amenity

When human health and safety, threatened species, important species, important places or industry biosecurity risks can be adequately managed, management action should be informed by an assessment of the following risk questions:

If potentially infected wildlife carcasses are left in situ to naturally decompose (i.e. deliberate decision not to disturb carcasses) as compared to other carcass management actions:

- 1) What is the likelihood of onward transmission of H5 bird flu to other wildlife?
- 2) What are the potential consequences to other wildlife, ecosystems and social amenity?

Noting there are high levels of uncertainty, the benefits and consequences of different methods of carcass management will be site- and occurrence- specific and depend on a range of risk factors. Some of these factors are explored below.

Wildlife density and environmental contamination

The density of wildlife in the area may impact the level of environmental contamination and the effectiveness of carcass management activities. For example, we might expect more environmental contamination in environments with high rather than low densities of infected wildlife.

In already heavily contaminated environments, it may be less beneficial to manage carcasses by removing and disposing of them or disposal on site, as compared to environments with lower wildlife density and/ or less environmental contamination.

The density of wildlife in an area may also impact assessment of different carcass management strategies. Wildlife density may be linked to disturbance. If carcasses are in an area of high wildlife density, removing carcasses may be challenging without causing disturbance, and risking onward virus transmission.

Wildlife familiarity to people

Wildlife populations that are habituated to people are less likely to be disturbed by careful carcass management operations than populations of the same species that have had little or no exposure to people.

- ◆ Disturbance of wildlife in the process of carcass removal or in situ management can cause significant stress such as physiological stress, dispersal, increased vigilance, changed foraging/feeding behaviour, abandonment of nests/eggs/young. This can compromise individuals' survival, including susceptibility to infectious disease.
- ◆ Disturbing species may lead to an increased spread of the disease to new areas.

Scavenging and migratory species

The presence of infected carcasses increases the transmission risk to scavenging wildlife species. Carcass management may therefore reduce direct transmission from infected carcasses to susceptible scavenging wildlife. Where protecting such species is a priority, carcass management may be considered. Predatory, scavenging and migratory species that travel large distances (such as skuas and shearwaters) may increase H5 bird flu spread between areas or regions.

Species composition

Understanding the composition of the species present at a site will help determine the risks and benefits of different carcass management actions. If there are many amplifying host species at a site, removal and/or disposal of carcasses may cause disturbance, leading to dispersal of the species to other areas. This increases the likelihood of onward H5 bird flu transmission to other locations. In these situations, it is preferable to take no action.

Decisions regarding carcass management should prioritise threatened species, or species likely to become threatened due to an outbreak of H5 bird flu, over non threatened species.

Social amenity

Consideration of social amenity may occur separate from other impact considerations. For example, when carcass management actions might impact people's access to sites for recreational purposes but is unlikely to negatively impact their health or safety.

Risk-based decision-making

An assessment of possible carcass management options should be informed by a robust risk-based decision-making process to assess and identify appropriate carcass management actions to manage risk for individual situations.

Generally, a risk assessment seeks to identify possible hazards and assesses the likelihood and consequence of each hazard occurring to provide a measurable risk rating and inform selection of the most appropriate risk mitigation and decision making. Certain nuances in a carcass management assessment process may be required to adequately assess both the risks and benefits in relation to carcass management decisions. The use of best practise risk assessment processes are likely to be the best framework to guide the development of carcass management risk assessments.

This document provides guidance on key considerations of carcass management to provide a nationally consistent basis to be applied in the development or refinement of risk management processes. These processes should be informed by a consistent understanding of the risks and benefits of carcass management actions and apply a consistent priority order to potential impacts of carcass management decisions (as set out above). They should also identify the people or entities responsible for developing, refining, or conducting risk assessments, and conducting the carcass management actions as follows.

Roles and responsibilities

Who will develop/refine the risk assessment

Each state/territory government will be responsible for developing or refining their risk assessment and associated processes and communicating this within their jurisdiction.

Who will conduct the risk assessment

In this document we will refer to:

- ◆ Decision-makers as those people(s)/entities who will conduct the risk assessment and decide what carcass management actions should occur.

Jurisdictions should work to their own specific guidelines to determine who should conduct the risk assessment (decision-makers) for each situation.

Depending on the context and locality, this may include government authorities, non-government organisations, or individuals such as Traditional Owners and other land-owners or managers.

The below are examples of who the decision-makers might be in different situations:

- ◆ Land-owner(s)/manager(s) will likely be the decision-makers who are responsible for performing the risk assessment for wildlife carcasses found on their land.
 - On public land this could be, for example, the Local Government Authority; Traditional Owners; national park authorities; etc.
- ◆ There may be situations where jurisdictional governments identify benefits to conducting a general risk assessment for a particular group and provide advice through public guidance. In these situations, the land-owner(s)/manager(s) may not need to conduct their own risk assessment. For example, on private land in urban areas.

Who is responsible for carcass management actions

In this document we will refer to:

- ◆ Responsible person/s as those people(s)/entities who are responsible for and undertake the carcass management actions.

Jurisdictions should work to their own specific guidelines to determine who should be responsible for carcass management actions (known as the responsible person/s). The people/entities conducting the risk assessment should identify the responsible person/s.

The responsible person/s for carcass management actions may be different local, jurisdictional, or national governments, agencies, or in some cases individuals and should be clearly articulated by jurisdictions.

- ◆ In most circumstances the land-owner or land manager will be the responsible person/s (i.e. responsible for managing carcasses on their land).
- ◆ Where there is uncertainty, land-owners/managers should contact their state/territory government biosecurity agency to confirm who is responsible and seek relevant guidance.

Additional consultation or communication needed

Additional consultation and communication may be required when developing and/or conducting a risk assessment.

For example: When conducting a site-specific risk assessment, relevant non-government stakeholders such as Traditional Owners should be consulted. The nature of engagement with non-government stakeholders may need to be adapted to meet the needs and timeframes of the response. Liaison officers from non-government stakeholders may be an effective mechanism for consultation and communication.

Further Information

- ◆ [AUSVETPLAN \(2021\) Operational Manual – Disposal. Version 5.0](#)
- ◆ [AUSVETPLAN Response Strategy – Avian influenza. Version 5.2 \(working draft\)](#)
- ◆ [DEFRA \(2023\) HPAI in Great Britain: evaluation and future actions](#)
- ◆ [EPIC Centre of Expertise on Animal Disease Outbreaks V2 \(2023\) Veterinary risk assessment: wild bird carcass collection in the event of mass mortality due to suspected highly pathogenic avian influenza](#)
- ◆ [Australian Government's *H5 bird flu – Public Guidelines for carcass management*](#)
- ◆ [Wildlife Health Australia HPAI risk mitigation toolboxes](#)
- ◆ [CDNA national guidelines for avian influenza – protecting people who work with birds and wildlife | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#)
- ◆ [Bird flu toolkit for people who work with birds | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)
- ◆ [Safe Work Australia – Work Health and Safety Duties. Identify, assess and control hazards](#)

Appendix A: Example prompts for carcass management assessments

The below table provides prompts to assist with development of assessments that will determine how to manage carcasses in different situations.

This table is an example only:

- ◆ The table should be adapted to meet the unique jurisdictional needs.
- ◆ The table uses broad terminology, such as high, close, and large. Definitions of this terminology should be at the decision-makers discretion.
- ◆ Due to the intertwined nature of some of the questions in this table and to reduce duplication, they are not listed in priority order of risk and benefits described in this document.

Table A1 Example prompts for carcass management assessments

Prompts	Key Considerations	Comments
Human Health		
Is it an area of high human habitation or usage? e.g. backyard, popular beach, park, playground, etc.	Carcasses in areas of high human habitation or usage are likely to pose human health risks. Human health risks may be physical and/or mental.	
Is it near a water supply or local catchment which may impact human health if not removed?	H5 bird flu can survive for several months in water at low temperatures.	
Will removing and/or disposing of carcasses minimise contamination and transmission of the virus to people, wildlife or locations?	Removing and/or disposing of carcasses should provide benefits to (but not limited to); people, other animals or the environment.	
Practicality of carcass management and human safety		
Is the risk to personnel handling the carcasses acceptable from a health and safety perspective?	It may be decided not to remove and/or dispose of carcasses if physical safety is a concern, for example if removal requires people to scale steep cliffs, be exposed to extreme temperatures or there are crocodiles or buffalo present.	
Can site access be controlled to effectively minimise access by the public?	The ability to effectively minimise public access may inform the effectiveness of carcass management actions such as the deliberate decision to leave carcasses in situ to naturally decompose.	
Is the site accessible for carcass removal?		
Are there adequate resources available for removal and disposal, or onsite disposal, of carcasses?	Resources may include financial resources, personnel, machinery, transport, PPE and appropriate disposal facilities.	

Prompts	Key Considerations	Comments
Do available staff at the site have appropriate training?	Are staff appropriately trained in hazard assessment and application of control measures, including PPE selection and use?	
Are there a large number of carcasses or are they of a large size?	Large numbers or large carcasses may require large machinery and special access.	
Is a suitable disposal site available, either in situ or at another site?	Are there any limitations on the site chosen for disposal that make it unsuitable to dispose the carcasses? E.g. ground or surface water flow, significant habitat or species likely to be impacted by disposal, etc. Are additional permissions required, and can these be obtained in a timely manner? E.g. First Nations permissions, etc. Is the disposal site far enough away from other animals, people and water bodies to reduce contamination?	
Industry biosecurity		
Are carcasses on public land and in close proximity to a poultry or other livestock facility? (possible disease spread or trade implications)		
Wildlife and ecosystem		
Has a high level of environmental contamination already occurred from live and dead wildlife?	High levels of environmental contamination may reduce the effectiveness of removing carcasses to mitigate transmission between wildlife.	
Is there a high density of wild birds or other susceptible species at the site?	High levels or densities of sick wildlife in the area may reduce the effectiveness of carcass management actions. If carcasses are in an area of high wildlife density, removing carcasses may be challenging without causing disturbance, and risking onward virus transmission. Large numbers of scavenging species may also impact the effectiveness of carcass management actions if carcasses are not removed or disposed of before scavengers consume the carcasses.	
Is the site an important place for threatened species or important species?	Consider carcass management actions which may prioritise the survival of threatened or important species.	
Is the site a seabird or other species' active nesting site?	Carcass management actions should consider the risks/benefits of different actions in places such as seabird nesting sites. Some actions may result in unintended impacts such as abandonment and increased scavenger activity on eggs, chicks and juveniles, which may reduce the species ability to recover.	

Prompts	Key Considerations	Comments
Is the wildlife population habituated to people? I.e. used to people being around	Populations habituated to human activity are likely to experience less disturbance in the presence of people than populations of the same species that are not habituated. Stress in wildlife can make them more susceptible to disease and lead to other unintended consequences such as dispersal or abandoning chicks and nests.	
Will carcass management actions result in disturbance to live wildlife which may cause unacceptable levels of stress or dispersal?	Disturbing species may lead to: Dispersal of individuals which may spread the disease to new areas. Abandonment of nests/eggs/chicks which can compromise survival and recovery. Increased stress which may alter behaviours such as foraging/feeding behaviours, and increasing susceptibility to infectious disease.	
Is there a clear risk to or of scavengers spreading the infection? E.g. Lots of scavenging seabirds	Scavengers may feed on infected carcasses, contracting and spreading the disease.	
Is it in close proximity to a wildlife facility which houses important species?	Does the wildlife aviary/sanctuary/facility have a threatened species breeding program? If so carcass management and other protective measures should be considered. Does the facility house internationally important species such as the White Rhino? Is the facility a key tourism attraction? Is the facility accepting sick wildlife?	
Other considerations		
What are the average temperatures and temperature ranges at the site?	H5 bird flu may persist in carcasses for several days in higher temperatures and longer (e.g. several weeks) in lower temperatures.	
Could adequate biosecurity control measures be managed during removal and/or disposal (including through transport if applicable) to prevent further spread?		
Is it a species or place of cultural significance for local First Nations people and have the Traditional Owners or right owners requested the carcasses be removed and/or disposed of?		

Glossary

Glossary of terms used within the context of this document

Term	Definition
Amplifying host	An organism in which H5 bird flu virus can replicate rapidly and to high concentrations. For example: Poultry can amplify the spread of avian influenza.
Carcass management	Actions which are considered and/or taken for the purposes of managing wildlife carcasses which are suspected or confirmed to be infected with H5 bird flu. Carcass management actions may involve, but are not limited to: ◆ Leaving carcasses in situ to naturally decompose (i.e. deliberate decision not to disturb carcasses). ◆ Removal of carcasses from an area and disposal at an alternative site via landfill, burial, composting or incineration. ◆ In situ disposal of carcasses via burial, composting, incineration or other methods. ◆ Restricting public access to a site to allow for carcass removal, disposal, or decomposition of carcasses left in situ.
Companion animal	An animal kept by humans to provide companionship (also known as a pet).
Decision-maker	People(s)/entities who conduct a risk assessment and decide what carcass management actions should occur in a specific situation.
Contaminated; Contaminated environment; Environmental contamination	An environment, for example on land or in water, which is considered contaminated because of the presence of wildlife which are infected with H5 bird flu and/or that have secreted and/or excreted into the surrounding environment.
Habituated	Used to the presence of people.
Human health	Physical and mental health of the public and of the people(s) managing wildlife carcasses.
Human safety	The prevention and control of hazards and conditions which may lead to physical or psychological harm of the public, person/s managing wildlife carcasses or others.
Impact	The significant negative consequences caused by H5 bird flu to: ◆ human health, animal health or plant life. ◆ the environment or an ecosystem, including terrestrial, inland waters and marine environments. ◆ social amenity including resulting negative impacts on human infrastructure or human health, including from zoonoses. ◆ the economy, including relevant abiotic aspects of primary production and/or business.

Term	Definition
Important places	Important places include but are not limited to: ◆ Habitat that: – Is important for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) including threatened, migratory, and marine species, threatened ecological communities, and sites listed under the Ramsar Convention and World Heritage Convention, and where H5 bird flu is likely to impact on these Matters – This includes, but is not exclusive to, habitat for species susceptible to H5 bird flu that are already threatened with extinction, or those that may become threatened in response to H5 bird flu. ◆ Significant Aboriginal areas as defined in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984: General guide. ◆ Places of high tourism value, as determined by jurisdictions.
Important species	Species identified by jurisdictions, environment management agencies, environmental law or First Nations communities which are of conservation concern, have high tourism value or considered important to preserve during emergencies or natural disasters.
Responsible person/s	Person/s or entities who are responsible for and undertake carcass management actions.
Social amenity	Any tangible or intangible resources naturally occurring or developed by humans such as dwellings and parks, or views and outlooks.
Wildlife	Wildlife means: ◆ Native species (e.g. birds and mammals) that are free ranging independently of direct human supervision or control in Australia, and ◆ Non-native species including invasive species, that are free ranging independently of direct human supervision or control in Australia.

