

Poultry - How many can I have at my property?

13 November 2023

The number of chickens and poultry you can have is dependent on the size of your property. The number of animals you can keep is regulated by council's local law. Animals must be kept in a way that does not cause a noise, smell or wandering nuisance to others.

If you own or keep 100 or more birds that are raised for human consumption (e.g. poultry), or the production of eggs for human consumption (e.g. poultry) you must comply with the requirements of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* including identification and movement records.

Don't know the size of your property or want to know more about getting **an approval** for additional animals? Visit www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/animal-allowance or contact council on 07 3205 0555 for assistance.

For information on other animal types please visit www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

Poultry

| Chickens (excludes roosters/cockerels) | | |
|---|----------------------|---|
| Property size | How many can I have? | |
| | As of right | With approval by Council |
| Properties 299m ² or less | 0 | No additional |
| Properties of 300m ² or greater, up to 599m ² | 3 | No additional |
| Properties of 600m ² or greater, up to 1000m ² | 6 | No additional |
| Properties of 1,001m ² or greater up to 3,000m ² | 12 | No additional |
| Properties of 3,001m ² or greater up to 10,000m ² | 20 | No additional |
| Properties of 10,001m ² or greater | 30 | No maximum. Approval is required to keep more than 30 |

| Roosters/cockerels | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Property size | How many can I have? | |
| | As of right | With approval by Council |
| Properties 0 to 5,999m ² | 0 | No additional |
| Properties of 6,000m ² or greater, up to 20,000m ² | 0 | 1 |
| Properties of 20,001m ² or greater | 1 per 20,000m ² | No additional |

| Duck | | |
|---|----------------------|--|
| Property size | How many can I have? | |
| | As of right | With approval by Council |
| Properties 0 to 2,999m ² | 0 | No additional |
| Properties of 3,000m ² or greater up to 10,000m ² | 10 | No additional |
| Properties of 10,001m ² or greater | 20 | No maximum. Approval required to keep more than 20 |

| Geese/turkey/guinea fowl or similar birds | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Property size | How many can I have? | |
| | As of right | With approval by Council |
| Properties 0 to 20,000m ² | 0 | No additional |
| Properties of 20,001m ² or more | 10 | No additional |

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Peacocks

| Property size | How many can I have? | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | As of right | With approval by Council |
| Properties 0 to 20,000m ² | 0 | No additional |
| Properties of 20,001m ² or more | 1 per 20,000m ² | No additional |

Ratites (ostrich/emu or similar)

| Property size | How many can I have? | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| | As of right | With approval by Council |
| Properties 0 to 20,000m ² | 0 | No additional |
| Properties of 20,001m ² or more | 0 | Yes. Number subject to approval |

Primary Producers

Prohibitions and the requirement for an approval for the keeping of animals do not apply to animals maintained or kept for the purpose of primary production.

Primary producer

(a) means a person primarily engaged in the occupation of a —

(i) dairy farmer; or

(ii) wheat, maize or cereal grower; or

(iii) cane grower; or

(iv) fruit grower; or

(v) grazier; or

(vi) farmer, whether engaged in general or mixed farming, cotton, potato, or vegetable growing, or poultry or pig raising; and

(b) includes a person engaged in primary production.

Minimum standards for keeping animals

Animals must be kept in accordance with the requirements of any code of practice approved by resolution of the local government.

If you own or keep any of the following, you must comply with the requirements of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* including identification and movement records and be registered with Biosecurity Queensland as a biosecurity entity:

- 100 or more birds that are raised for human consumption (e.g. poultry), or the production of eggs for human consumption (e.g. poultry) or have been released into free flight since they started being kept in captivity (e.g. pigeons)

When you register as a biosecurity entity, you'll receive a unique Property identification code (PIC) for birds/poultry.

Animal enclosures

- the enclosure must be of dimensions, quality, and type to comfortably and effectively prevent the animal from protruding or escaping, over, under or through the enclosure; and
- gates and other openings to the enclosure must be securely closed and latched when not in immediate use; and
- fencing for the enclosure must:
 - be constructed of material of sufficient height and strength to prevent the animal from escaping; and
 - include a barrier installed directly below the fence to prevent the animal digging its way out (where appropriate).
- Uneaten food scraps, manure, and any other material likely to become offensive and create a nuisance must be collected at least daily; and
 - immediately removed from the premises; or
 - kept in a suitable vermin proof container prior to disposal.
- Vermin and pests including fleas, flies, ticks, lice, and rodents must be controlled in and around the enclosure.
- Run off from animal enclosures must not be allowed to discharge to any neighbouring property.

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Animal identification

- Birds, excluding poultry, must have an identifying leg band or be micro-chipped.

Minimum distance from boundary

- Roofed or fully enclosed (caged) structure for the housing of animals must be a minimum 1.5 metres from any property boundary.

Minimum standards for keeping particular animals

The minimum standards for keeping particular animals are identified in the table below:

| Species or breed of animal | Minimum standards for keeping particular animals |
|---|--|
| Ratites (ostrich, emu, and other similar birds) | A person must not on any premises keep ratites in densities greater than: (i) Chicks 0 to 12 weeks of age - a shed density of not more than 3 chicks per m ² with an additional outside run of 5m ² per chick; or (ii) Juveniles 12 weeks to 6 months of age – a maximum density of not more than two per m ² with an additional outside run of 40m ² per chick; or (iii) Yearlings 6 months to 18 months of age – a maximum density of not more than 100 per hectare; or (iv) Mature ratites over 18 months of age – a maximum density of not more than 18 per hectare. |