

Algal bloom wildlife post-mortem report



Government
of South Australia

Department for
Environment and Water

Species – Black swan

Date collected – 30 May 2025

Location – Stansbury

History relating to the animal

One adult female black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) was found dead at Stansbury near the caravan park on 30 May 2025.

Clinical examination

The black swan was dead, with signs of predation. Only the body, legs and wings were able to be submitted to laboratory for assessment.

Necropsy

The necropsy (looking at the whole body) revealed that the black swan had signs of predation prior to being collected for submission to the lab. The head and neck were absent, with the coelomic cavity (space containing digestive tract and other organs) open with broken ribs present. The only organs that remained within the cavity were the kidneys and the left ovary.

Samples were collected to test for avian influenza and Newcastle disease. Tissues were not able to be collected for other testing due to the degree of predation of the carcass.

Virology

Testing results for avian influenza and Newcastle disease were negative.

Summary

An adult female black swan was found dead. Laboratory examination was hampered by significant predation of the body and could not identify the cause of death. The bird was negative for avian influenza virus and Newcastle disease virus.

PATH RESULTS: BLACK SWAN MORTALITY, (Wi) [REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]

Date Wed 13/08/2025 5:00 PM

To [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Report Addressee:

[REDACTED]

Tested on 03/06/25
Reported on 13/08/25 17:30
Referred on 30/05/25 **by:**

[REDACTED]

Owner:

BLACK SWAN MORTALITY
STANSBURY CARAVAN PARK
STANSBURY 5582

Animal/s:

Wild Birds

DOB: N/A

Collected: 30/05/25 10:00

Subm.No: [REDACTED]

Lab No.: [REDACTED]

Samples tested as received

All Tests Complete

SUMMARY DIANGOSIS

No diagnosis is concluded

SUMMARY COMMENTS

The animal tested negative to AI and Newcastle disease virus by PCR.
The body of the swan was predated. For this reason post mortem findings are limited.

[REDACTED]

Specialist Veterinary Anatomic Pathologist

[REDACTED]

Validated by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Reported on 13/08/25 17:30
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Report Addressee:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

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STANSBURY CARAVAN PARK
STANSBURY 5582

Animal/s:

Wild Birds

DOB: N/A

Collected: 30/05/25 10:00

Subm.No:

[REDACTED]

Lab No.:

[REDACTED]

Samples tested as received

All Tests Complete

NECROPSY REPORT

CLINICAL HISTORY

Please refer to the clinical history on the request form and the clinical notes sent with the request form. A brief summary of the clinical history;

The swan was found at Stansbury Caravan Park where there is currently a large fish kill due to an algal bloom.

SAMPLES SUBMITTED

Part of the body of an adult female swan, *Cygnus atratus*

NECROPSY FINDINGS

There is the body, legs and wings. The neck and head are absent. The coelomic cavity is open, the ribs are broken, and there are only the kidneys and left ovary in the coelomic cavity. The left leg is torn at the hock joint and the bones are exposed.

GROSS SUMMARY

Please refer to comments

SAMPLES COLLECTED & TESTING

Cloacal swab in VTM is submitted for AI and NDV qPCR testing.
Fresh (10g) and fixed kidney are stored.

COMMENTS

The body of the swan was predated. For this reason post mortem findings are limited.

[REDACTED]

Specialist Veterinary Anatomic Pathologist

[REDACTED]

Validated by

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Report Addressee:

[REDACTED]

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Animal/s:

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[REDACTED]

Lab No.:

[REDACTED]

Samples tested as received

All Tests Complete

CASE MANAGEMENT DETAILS

Case Managed by:

Case Management Requested by:

Case Management Requested on: 03/06/25

[REDACTED]

Case Details:

The black swan was found dead at
Stansbury caravan park

Number of samples

3

MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS

NEWCASTLE DISEASE VIRUS RNA PCR (REAL TIME REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE)

Specimen type: Cloacal &

Tracheal swab in VTM

Number of specimens: 1

SPECIMEN ID

F Gene

M Gene

L Gene

SWAN

Not detected Not detected Not detected

Validated by [REDACTED] Laboratory Scientist.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Report Addressee:

[REDACTED]

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Referred on 30/05/25 by:

[REDACTED]

Owner:

BLACK SWAN MORTALITY
STANSBURY CARAVAN PARK
STANSBURY 5582

Animal/s:

Wild Birds

DOB: N/A

Collected: 30/05/25 10:00

Subm.No:

[REDACTED]

Lab No.:

[REDACTED]

Samples tested as received

All Tests Complete

MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS

INFLUENZA A RNA PCR (REAL TIME REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE)

Specimen type: Cloacal & Tracheal swab in VTM

SPECIMEN ID Type A H5 H7

SWAN Not detected

Validated by [REDACTED] Laboratory Scientist.