

Algal bloom wildlife post-mortem report



Government
of South Australia

Department for
Environment and Water

Species – Silver gull

Date collected – 24 February 2026

Location – Glenelg North beach

History relating to the animal

A silver gull (*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*) was found dead at Glenelg North beach near the rocks. No dead fish or foam was found near the bird. This bird was found and submitted together with another silver gull (on a separate report) on 24 February 2026.

Clinical examination

The bird was found dead so no clinical examination could be performed.

Necropsy

The necropsy (looking at the whole body) revealed that the bird was in moderate body condition, weighing 200 g. There were putrefactive changes (decomposition), abundant maggots in the oral cavity (mouth) and coelomic cavity (space containing digestive tract and other organs). No organs were present in the coelomic cavity. Multifocally (in multiple areas) the skin over the body was absent and intercostal (between ribs) muscles were absent.

Due to decomposition and the absence of organs, tissues were not able to be collected for further examination. Tissues were collected for testing for avian influenza and Newcastle disease.

Virology

Testing results for avian influenza and Newcastle disease were negative.

Summary

A silver gull was found dead. Another silver gull was submitted with this bird and was examined and reported on separately. The bird was very decomposed and laboratory examination was therefore limited, and a cause of death could not be determined. Testing for avian influenza and Newcastle disease was negative.

PATH RESULTS: SILVER GULL, (Wi) {BIRD 2} [REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]

Date Sat 28/02/2026 7:30 PM

To [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tested on 24/02/26
Reported on 28/02/26 20:00
Referred on 24/02/26 **by:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

SILVER GULL
NORTH GLENELG BEACH
GLENELG NORTH 5045

Animal/s: BIRD 2

Wild Birds

DOB: N/A

Collected: 24/02/26 09:13

Subm.No: [REDACTED]

Lab No.: [REDACTED]

Samples tested as received

NECROPSY REPORT

CORRECTED REPORT 27/2/2026

This report replaces the previous report. The previous report should have been on submission [REDACTED]

CLINICAL HISTORY

The dead silver gull was found at North Glenelg beach close to the rocks. There were no dead fish or foam around the birds

SAMPLES SUBMITTED

2 x dead silver gulls are received in one bag. One bird is allocated to this submission number.

NECROPSY FINDINGS

The bird is in moderate body condition and weighs 200g. There are putrefactive changes, abundant maggots over the oral cavity and coelomic cavity and no organs are present in the coelomic cavity. Multifocally the skin over the body is absent and intercostal muscles are absent

GROSS SUMMARY

No assessment can be concluded

SAMPLES COLLECTED & TESTING

There are no suitable samples for biotoxin and brevetoxin testing.

Cloacal and tracheal swabs in virus transport medium are stored.

COMMENTS

There are no findings to conclude the cause of death.

[REDACTED]
Specialist Veterinary Anatomic Pathologist
[REDACTED]

Validated by [REDACTED]

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PATH RESULTS: SILVER GULL, (Wi) {1 2} [REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]

Date Fri 27/02/2026 4:00 PM

To [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tested on 25/02/26
Reported on 27/02/26 16:30
Referred on 24/02/26 **by:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

SILVER GULL
NORTH GLENELG BEACH
GLENELG NORTH 5045

Animal/s: 1 2

Wild Birds

DOB: N/A

Collected: 24/02/26 09:30

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 swabs

SPECIMEN ID	Type A	H5	H7
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BIRD 1&2	Not detected		
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Validated by [REDACTED] Laboratory Scientist.



Tested on 25/02/26
Reported on 27/02/26 16:30
Referred on 24/02/26 by:



Owner:
SILVER GULL
NORTH GLENELG BEACH
GLENELG NORTH 5045

Animal/s: 1 2
Wild Birds
DOB: N/A

Collected: 24/02/26 09:30

Subm.No:



Lab No.:



Samples tested as received

All Tests Complete

MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS

NEWCASTLE DISEASE VIRUS RNA PCR (REAL TIME REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE)

Specimen type: Cloacal &
Tracheal swabs

Number of specimens: 1

SPECIMEN ID	F Gene	M Gene	L Gene
BIRD 1&2	Not detected	Not detected	Not detected

Validated by  Laboratory Scientist.

PATH RESULTS: SILVER GULL, (Wi) {BIRD 2} [REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]

Date Fri 20/03/2026 6:30 PM

To [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tested on 24/02/26
Reported on 20/03/26 19:00
Referred on 24/02/26 **by:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

SILVER GULL
NORTH GLENELG BEACH
GLENELG NORTH 5045

Animal/s: BIRD 2
Wild Birds

DOB: N/A

Collected: 24/02/26 09:13

Subm.No: [REDACTED]

Lab No.: [REDACTED]

Samples tested as received

SUMMARY DIAGNOSIS

NO diagnosis is concluded

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Due to the marked post mortem autolytic changes a cause of death cannot be determined. There are no samples suitable for biotoxin testing.

[REDACTED]

Specialist Veterinary Anatomic Pathologist
[REDACTED]

Validated by [REDACTED]

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