H5 Bird Flu and the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Region

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

Regional summary statement

The Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges (AMLR) region supports nationally and internationally significant habitats for migratory birds, seabirds, marine mammals, and threatened species. Its extensive coastline, wetlands and offshore islands make it an important focus for H5 bird flu preparedness and response planning.

Priority features of the region

- More than 200km of coastline across Gulf St Vincent and the Fleurieu Peninsula.
- Important habitat for migratory shorebirds using international flyways.
- Offshore islands supporting seabird and marine mammal colonies.
- Extensive wetlands, estuaries and river systems, including the Onkaparinga Estuary.
- High levels of recreation and tourism in coastal environments.
- Large human population and frequent wildlife-human interactions.
- Existing environmental pressures from habitat fragmentation, invasive species, coastal disturbance and climate-related impacts.

Priority sites

Adelaide Metropolitan

Located along the Greater Adelaide coastline, the Adelaide Metropolitan site encompasses a diverse mix of coastal environments adjacent to South Australia's largest population centre. These environments provide important habitat for shorebirds, seabirds and marine wildlife. The Adelaide Metropolitan site, for the purposes of this plan, refers only to the land managed by the Department for Environment and Water, including proclaimed parklands such as Onkaparinga River Recreation Park.

Key features: Onkaparinga Estuary, part of the Onkaparinga Recreation Park, is listed in the 'Directory of Important Wetlands'; migratory shorebird habitat for species such as curlew sandpipers and sharp-tailed sandpipers; breeding habitat for hooded plovers, red-capped plovers and fairy terns; habitat for marine mammals including dolphins, Australian sea lions and long-nosed fur seals; and high levels of public use and wildlife interaction.

Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges region H5 bird flu priority sites



Encounter Coast

Located on the Fleurieu Peninsula, the Encounter Coast includes nationally and ecologically significant environments both along the coast and on offshore islands. These environments support a diversity of marine and terrestrial wildlife, including several threatened and migratory species.

Key features: One of the world's largest Australian sea lion colonies at The Pages Conservation Park; breeding habitat for species such as little penguins, Caspian terns and crested terns; southern right whale aggregation areas; ecologically significant Fleurieu Peninsula swamps; and offshore islands supporting large wildlife aggregations.

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) and Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary (ADS)

Although the ADS and parts of AIBS are within the AMLR region, these sites are instead included as sites of significance for the Yorke and Mid North Region.

Cultural significance and key stakeholders

First Nations connections

The Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges region is home to Traditional Owners and custodians of Country, including the Kaurna and Peramangk peoples whose Country extends across the Adelaide hills, plains, and coastline, and the Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri peoples, whose Country includes the Lower Fleurieu Peninsula and Encounter Coast. These lands and waters hold deep cultural significance and support ongoing cultural practices and caring for Country. First Nations peoples are key stewards of the region's landscapes, coastal environments and biodiversity.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders whose interests, activities or proximity may be affected by, or relevant to, H5 bird flu management include the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Green Adelaide, the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation, the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, the councils of Victor Harbor, Alexandrina, Yankalilla, Onkaparinga, Marion, Holdfast Bay and Charles Sturt, Friends of Parks and Nature South Australia, BirdLife Australia, Birds SA, Conservation Council SA, as well as conservation and volunteer groups, commercial tourism operators, and adjacent landholders and leaseholders.

Management actions and at-risk wildlife species

Management actions for increasing the resilience of wildlife at-risk from H5 bird flu are being implemented across the region. Current management actions include a Green Adelaide-led project reducing predation pressure on coastal bird populations and a Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board-led project controlling predators and pest species on the Fleurieu coast and off-shore island habitat restoration. Additional conservation management actions to be explored include assessment of vaccination and insurance population feasibility. Listed below are several of the key species present in the Adelaide and Mt Lofty region identified as being susceptible to, or at risk from, H5 bird flu. Benefits to species such as these are the primary intended outcomes for current and future threat mitigation work.

- Australian painted-snipe
- Australian sea lion
- Australasian bittern
- bar-tailed godwit
- curlew sandpiper
- fairy tern
- far eastern curlew
- little penguin
- red knot
- white-bellied sea-eagle



Access the latest information at www.birdflu.gov.au

or for South Australian specific information at www.birdflu.sa.gov.au

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