H5 Bird Flu and the Eyre and Far West Region

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

Regional summary statement

The Eyre and Far West region covers a large portion of South Australia with an extensive coastline, offshore islands and diverse marine, terrestrial, and island ecosystems. These environments provide critical habitat for wildlife that may be vulnerable to H5 bird flu.

Priority features of the region

- Extensive coastal, wetlands, mangroves, estuaries, mudflats, saltmarsh systems and island habitats that support large congregations of resident and migratory birds.
- Multiple locations listed in the Australian National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat.
- Major breeding and haul-out sites for Australian sea lions and long-nosed fur seals.
- Significant tourism, aquaculture, commercial fishing and recreational use.

Priority sites

Coffin Bay and surrounds

Located on the southwest Eyre Peninsula, Coffin Bay and Surrounds contains several national, conservation, and marine parks which protect varying habitats from open heath and scrub to seagrass meadows. Highly productive marine ecosystems support numerous species including several listed as threatened.

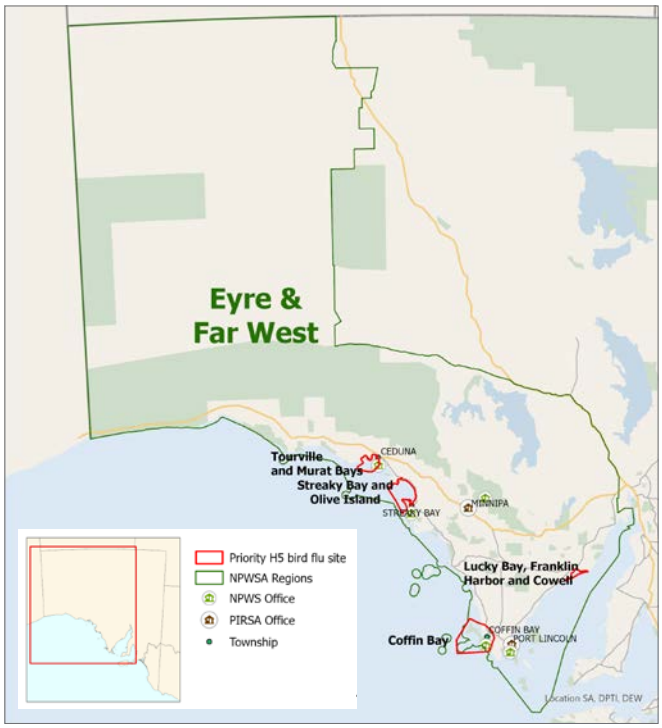
Key features: Directory of Important Wetlands listing; resident and migratory shorebird habitat; key foraging, nesting, and roosting habitat for seabirds; breeding refugia for predatory species including osprey and white-bellied sea-eagles; habitat supporting several marine mammal colonies including Australian sea lions and long-nosed fur-seals.

Streaky Bay and Olive Island

Located on the west coast of Eyre Peninsula, the Streaky Bay and Olive Island site includes estuary, wetland, and seagrass habitats, home to valuable breeding and nursery areas for fish and invertebrates which support a rich diversity of wildlife. Ecologically significant island, mangrove, and samphire habitat is present along the coastline.

Key features: Directory of Important Wetlands listing; nationally important migratory shorebird habitat; extensive seagrass beds and estuaries; significant roosting and breeding areas for seabird colonies; and an Australian sea lion breeding colony on Olive Island.

Eyre and Fare West region H5 bird flu priority sites



Tourville and Murat Bays

Located on the Far West Coast near Ceduna, Tourville and Murat Bays include parts of the Nuyts Archipelago and surrounding coastal habitats. The site is diverse with narrow coarse sand beaches, calcarenite cliffs, small headlands, intertidal flats, islands, and coastal plains.

Key features: Productive waters which support significant resources for a rich assemblage of marine species; internationally significant shorebird habitat supporting several threatened species; Important Bird Area listing; extensive mangrove and saltmarsh systems; Australian sea lion breeding and haul-out habitat; and seabird breeding islands.

Lucky Bay, Franklin Harbor and Cowell

Located on the eastern Eyre Peninsula, this area encompasses Franklin Harbor Marine Park, Franklin Harbor Conservation Park, Lucky Bay and the Cowell coastline. Its sheltered coastal environments provide important feeding, roosting and breeding habitat for a wide range of shorebirds, seabirds and marine wildlife.

Key features: Franklin Harbour Directory of Important Wetlands listing; nationally important migratory shorebird habitat; significant saltmarsh and mangrove communities; habitat for Australian sea lion populations; and important breeding habitat for shorebirds and seabirds.

Cultural significance and key stakeholders

First Nations connections

The Eyre and Far West region is home to the Traditional Owners and custodians of Country, the Nauo, Barngarla, Wirangu, Mirning, Kokatha, Yalata and Maralinga Tjarutja peoples. 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, Eyre Peninsula and Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Boards, the councils of Lower Eyre Peninsula, Streaky Bay, Ceduna and Franklin Harbour, Traditional Owner organisations, Friends of Parks and Nature South Australia, BirdLife Australia, Birds SA, Conservation Council SA, tourism and aquaculture operators, the commercial fishing industry, volunteer organisations and community wildlife groups.

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. For example, a multi-agency-led project aiming to boost preparedness and protective action for Australian sea lions across the region. 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 Eyre and Far West 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 sea lion
- banded stilt
- black-faced cormorant
- common greenshank
- curlew sandpiper
- fairy tern
- far eastern curlew
- red knot
- sharp-tailed sandpiper
- 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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