H5 Bird Flu and the Yorke and Mid North Region

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

Regional summary statement

The Yorke and Mid North region contains extensive, environmentally diverse coastal, marine and wetland habitats. These support migratory shorebirds, seabirds, marine mammals and numerous threatened species. The mudflats, tidal wetlands, estuaries and sheltered coastal environments provide important feeding, breeding and roosting habitat for wildlife that may be vulnerable to H5 bird flu.

Priority features of the region

- More than 1,300 km of coastline supporting a wide range of coastal and marine habitats.
- Important migratory bird habitat within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.
- Large concentrations of shorebirds, waterbirds and seabirds.
- Significant wetlands, mudflats, estuaries and coastal feeding areas.
- Habitat for threatened bird species and other wildlife.
- Presence of Australian sea lions, long-nosed fur seals and other marine mammals.
- Strong connections between coastal, marine and wetland ecosystems.
- Significant tourism, recreation and community use of coastal areas.

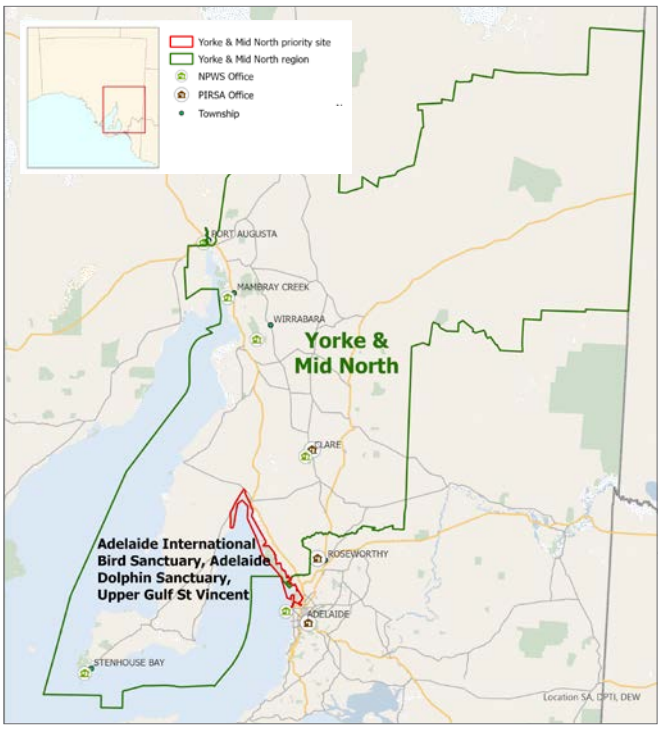
Priority sites

Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary, just north of Adelaide, covers more than 60 km of coastline and 14,600 hectares. Located at the southern end of the East Asian-Australasian migration route, the site provides important feeding and roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds, while also protecting resident bird populations, threatened species, and valuable coastal, marine, mangrove and riverine ecosystems.

Key features: internationally significant shorebird habitat; relatively intact coastal saltmarsh, mangrove and wetland ecosystems; important feeding and stopover habitat for approximately 27,000 migratory birds annually, travelling between Australia and the Northern Hemisphere.

Yorke and Mid North region H5 bird flu priority sites



Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary

The Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary protects 118 km^2 of estuarine and coastal habitat, including mangroves, saltmarshes, tidal flats and creeks. The area provides important breeding, feeding and roosting habitat for birds and supports a range of marine wildlife.

Key features: breeding habitat for the endangered fairy tern; habitat for migratory shorebirds and seabirds; resident Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins; and haul-out habitat for Australian sea lions and long-nosed fur seals.

Upper Gulf St Vincent

The Upper Gulf St Vincent priority area includes Clinton Conservation Park and Wills Creek Conservation Park, which are internationally recognised for their extensive wetlands, mudflats and migratory bird habitat. These coastal habitats provide critical feeding and roosting areas for shorebirds and support cormorant breeding colonies and other species of conservation concern.

Key features: significant coastal wetlands; important fish nursery habitats; critical feeding and roosting sites for migratory waders and shorebirds; and extensive mangrove and samphire communities.

Cultural significance and key stakeholders

First Nations connections

The Yorke and Mid North region is home to the Traditional Owners and custodians of Country, including the Kaurna and Narungga 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, Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, Green Adelaide, Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation, Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Friends of Parks and Nature South Australia, BirdLife Australia, Birds SA, Conservation Council SA, local councils, conservation and volunteer groups, 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 building resilience in coastal bird populations through reducing predation pressure. 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 Yorke and Mid North 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
- Australian painted-snipe
- bar-tailed godwit
- black-tailed godwit
- curlew sandpiper
- fairy tern
- far eastern curlew
- letter-winged kite
- red knot
- ruddy turnstone
- sharp-tailed sandpiper

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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