



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: H1N5 Bird Flu

Hearing: 17 November 2025

In relation to: H1N5 BIRD FLU

Question received: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 02 December 2025

- 1) There is concern amongst environment stakeholders that not enough is happening to increase awareness of the risks and preparations to manage H5N1 bird flu when it arrives in Australia. What work is CED doing to increase awareness of H1N5 impacts and response measures within the ACT community?
- 2) Are there things the ACT community will be expected/need to do when H5N1 arrives in Australia?
 - a) If so, what are those response measures?
 - b) When will they be communicated to the public?

Suzanne Orr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) The Government is not aware of concern amongst environmental stakeholders. The ACT Government remains actively engaged with the Australian Government and all states and territories to strengthen national planning, preparedness and response arrangements for any potential detection of H5 bird flu. The ACT Government has received \$800,000 in Commonwealth funding to bolster biosecurity capabilities and species risk assessments.

The City and Environment Directorate (CED) is working closely with industry and community partners to promote strong biosecurity practices and reduce the impact of a H5 bird flu outbreak within the Territory. The renamed Nature Conservation Forum that brings together the Government and environmental community organisations continues to receive updates.

OFFICIAL

The ACT is fully aligned with national biosecurity frameworks and response protocols to ensure any detection in poultry operations can be contained where possible and managed effectively.

The ACT continues to investigate and respond to all suspected reports lodged through the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline, ensuring timely assessment and appropriate follow-up action.

The ACT is trialling a new online reporting platform developed to enable the reporting of sick and dead wild birds. The platform will help identify trends and monitor impacts of H5 bird flu. The platform is currently being trialled with ACT Government staff, local ornithologists and ACT Wildlife. It is not currently available publicly.

The ACT has a diverse and dedicated agricultural sector, including one large egg production facility and four free-range poultry enterprises spread across our territory. The ACT Government has been actively working with each of these enterprises to ensure they are well-informed and well-prepared for potential biosecurity incursions, including the growing global threat of H5 bird flu.

- 2) A) Information is available online at [Avian influenza \(bird flu\) - ACT Government](#) and on the national website <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/campaigns/birdflu>.

B) Any required measures will be communicated promptly once national and jurisdictional authorities confirm the appropriate response settings. The ACT Government will provide clear, coordinated public information through established channels as soon as there is evidence-based advice for the community. This ensures messaging is accurate, consistent with the national approach, and issued at the most appropriate time to support community preparedness.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:

Date: 05/12/25

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA