

MANAGING INTRODUCED ANIMALS (NON-CLOVEN) ON MEMBER SITES

Goolawah Co-operative By-law 8: *All cloven-footed animals are banned from the co-operative. Other introduced species are banned from community land, and anyone wishing to run these on their site must submit a plan of management, with regard to soil/air/water quality, noise abatement and permanent containment, to a general meeting for approval.*

This document is designed to help you weigh up whether you want to introduce animals and how you will manage them. It can also be used to develop your animal management plan.

The co-op allows non-cloven introduced species, but builds in protections and oversight to ensure they are being well managed. Members are expected to proactively care for and responsibly manage any animals they introduce. Animal owners may be asked to present, explain or adjust their Animal Management Plan.

Introduced animals can impact on and create conflicts with others and the natural environment. If introduced animals are a source of concern, then it is important to approach such issues with good communication, compassion, tolerance and creative solutions on all sides.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR INTRODUCING AND MANAGING ANIMALS ON YOUR SITE

1. **Reasons for Having the Animals**, e.g. food, produce, sustainability, for children, for management of your site. Are there any other options to meet this need e.g. sharing animals with others, getting produce elsewhere?

2. **Animal Species and Number**

Each species requires its own approach for management due to different needs and behaviours.

Consider the number your site can accommodate.

Will the animals be capable of breeding? How will you keep the numbers under control?

3. **Care and Welfare**

How will you ensure the animals' needs are met, e.g. access to sufficient and appropriate food and water, social needs, etc? Who

will care for them if you are away?

How will you inform yourself on their care and needs?

4. **Range and Containment**

Site sizes are 1.2 acres that also need to accommodate people, homes and storage.

What space do the animals need and what will be the extent of the animals' range?

How will you house them securely, e.g. at night and when you are not there?

How will you ensure the animals remain on your site?

If they escape containment, how will you let people know and re-capture them?

5. Environment, Waste and Maintenance

How will you ensure soil, air and water quality is maintained? How will you manage waste, including faeces, bedding, litter?

How will you keep the area clean, free from vermin and odour, e.g. composting, sealed food containers?

How could native flora and fauna be impacted by your introduced animals e.g. additional fencing leading to habitat fragmentation or animal entrapment?

What will you do to ensure native animals are not harmed e.g. what you will do if they enter animal housing, eat produce?

Do the animals pose a risk of establishing as wild feral populations?

6. Noise and other Impacts on People

How could your animals impact others?

How will you manage animal noise? Sound traveling beyond your site may impact others, e.g. time of day or night, volume, persistence?

What will you do if your animals impact others negatively, e.g. destroy others' property or plants?

7. Removal of Animals

How will you remove or kill animals humanely, e.g. to consume for food, end of life, they become a nuisance?

8. Other Considerations

Are there any laws, formal approvals, licences that will apply to you?

Useful Links/Reference Material

The Federation Council document Keeping of Animals / Birds. It contains useful information on keeping animals and birds. It is designed for residential areas where people live close together. It also refers to the Environment Protection Zone E3- a zone for land with special ecological, scientific, or aesthetic attributes. <https://www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/document-library/corporate-documents/policies/15-9126-keeping-of-animals-birds-local-orders-policy-and-schedule-draft-2018.pdf>

Goolawah Flora and Fauna reports were prepared in 2003 and updated in 2007 to assess the potential impact of the co-op's development of approximately 32 hectares of cleared or substantially cleared land for cooperative rural housing on rare, protected or threatened flora and fauna species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats. The 2007 updates are available here <https://goolawahmembers.com/2020/09/04/fauna-flora-surveys-2007/>

Introduced Species Management Plan

The document "Managing Introduced Animals (non-cloven) on Member Sites" will assist in completing this plan.

Member/s: Samantha and Andrew **Site:** 6\7 **Date:** 9/12/21

Reason/s for having the animal/s: Egg production, gardening assistance, vegie scrap management.

Species / Breed / Gender: Chicken/Chinese Silkies/3 F 1 M.

Number: Currently 4. Intention is to increase the number if chicks are produced. But to only have 1 mature male at a time.

Care and welfare:

We purchase chicken food /seeds for them and feed them the fallen fruit and any food scraps we have.

They have a nice house with roosts and nesting boxes, and have their sawdust changed regularly.

Our neighbours kindly look after the chickens when we are away.

Range and containment:

The chickens have access roughly 7am-6pm to our orchard area, which is big enough for 8 chickens. They are allowed out to range in the rest of the garden when we are around.

The chickens put themselves to bed, and the chicken coop has an automatic door that is adjusted through the year but is currently opening about 7am and closing around 7pm. The chickens are too chicken to go very far

Protection of the Environment including Native Flora & Fauna, Waste and maintenance:

The existing orchard fencing is being used to try to exclude native mammals and is large enough that the area can absorb the chicken poo. There is some risk of rodents or small marsupials being attracted by the food, but no more than to our existing compost. There is zero risk of these chickens surviving in the wild let alone thriving.

Noise and other impacts on people:

Our rooster does crow, although he's not a very loud rooster. To minimise the noise from the rooster the automatic door is set to only open at around 7am.

Our next door neighbours have confirmed they don't notice or mind the noise.

Removal of animals:

Any chickens that are required to be removed due to sickness will be killed on site and buried in the fenced off paddock. Any roosters that are raised that are excess will be rehomed if possible, or otherwise killed on site and eaten.