

## 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.

A separate plan will be needed for different species.

**Member/s:** Trinh & AI

**Site:** #36

**Date:** 9 DEC 21

### Reason/s for having the animal/s:

Manure, compost, pest control, sustainability, to know the origins of some of our food, to learn skills in animal husbandry, ethics

### Species / Breed / Gender:

Chooks, Isa Brown, Rescue Hens

Honeybees, female except some lazy drone males in spring/summer

### Number:

Rescue Hens: 15 Bees Hives: 2

### Care and welfare:

Chooks are cared for by us and we have an agreement with our neighbours to care for them while we are away. Bees look after themselves but we have processes in place to check on them.

### Range and containment:

Chooks are housed in a secure pen within a secure orchard.

Bees are housed in hives and management of bees as per the Australian Honeybee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice. If our direct neighbours have an issue with any of our livestock, we would consider their needs as a priority.

### Protection of the Environment including Native Flora & Fauna:

The swarming of bees is controlled by the bee husbandry practices outlined in the Australian Honeybee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice

### Waste and maintenance:

Chooks are kept specifically kept to collect manure for compost and fertilisation of orchard. We collect eggs before goannas come around & AI is developing an AI door to close when a goanna is detected in the vicinity.

All products from bees are useful.

### Noise and other impacts on people:

We have a good relationship with our direct neighbours & any of their concerns are important to us and we would act on them promptly.

### Removal of animals:

When our rescue hens die, we bury them under a new fruit tree or deep within our compost. Should our hens become a nuisance, and our neighbours needed their removal, we would look to rehome them.

### Any other considerations:

The keeping of honeybees requires registration with the DPI.