

Poultry and roosters

Chickens and other poultry, such as geese, ducks, guinea fowl, turkeys, pheasant and quails, are welcome in residential areas as long as they don't cause a nuisance to your neighbourhood. Roosters, however, are strictly not allowed in residential areas. This fact sheet outlines the rules around keeping poultry in Cairns.

How many birds can I have?

The number of birds you can have depends on the size of your property.

Property size	Number of birds
Less than 450m ²	No poultry allowed
Between 450m ² & 799m ²	Up to 6 birds
Between 800m ² & 1,999m ²	Up to 9 birds
Between 2,000m ² & 10,000m ²	Up to 12 birds

Roosters

Roosters are **strictly not allowed** in residential areas in Cairns. You may have a rooster if your property is greater than 10,000m².

Can I have more birds?

If you wish to keep more birds than specified above, you need to apply to Council for an "excess permit".

We consider excess permits on a case-by-case basis. A Council officer will discuss your application with you and will inspect your property to establish suitability.

Application forms to request an "excess permit" are available on our website, at Council's Spence Street administration office or Customer Service desks at Earlville, Smithfield and Gordonvale libraries.

Fines

If you have more birds on your property than allowed you can be fined \$589. Council can also order that you remove the excess poultry (or rooster). Fines of up to \$5,890 can be incurred for failing to remove poultry when ordered to do so.

Rules for keeping poultry

It's important to keep your poultry humanely and maintain your enclosures to prevent nuisance odours or increase the risk of rodents and reptiles moving into the neighbourhood.

The following rules apply, irrespective of how many poultry you have.

- Food must be stored in a sealed, vermin-proof container
- You must not allow your poultry to escape from your property. This means having a secure yard and an enclosure suitable for the number of poultry you have.

Enclosures (fowl houses, pens, and runs) must be:

- More than 10m from a house or unit on a neighbouring property
- More than 10m from where food is kept, processed or stored
- More than 2m from the property boundary or road (whichever is the further distance)
- Weatherproof
- An appropriate size for the number and type of poultry

Enclosures must be kept:

- In a clean and sanitary condition
- Be in good repair and appearance
- Be free from flies, rats and other vermin
- Be free of nuisance odours

More information

You can find more information about keeping chickens, roosters and other fowl on our website. If you have any questions about poultry you can contact us on 4044 3044 or council@cairns.qld.gov.au

