

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD POLICY

TITLE	Avian Importation Policy		
DATE ADOPTED	March 2011	AGENDA ITEM	9iv March 2011
CURRENT VERSION	July 2015	AGENDA ITEM	CEO Approval
REVIEW	5 years	FILE REFERENCE	PO0027 CO0002
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION	<i>Lord Howe Island Act 1953 (NSW)</i> <i>Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014 (NSW)</i> <i>Veterinary Surgeons Act 1986</i> <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1996</i> <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>		
ASSOCIATED POLICIES	Lord Howe Island Board Biodiversity Management Plan 2007 Lord Howe Island Board Biosecurity Strategy 2015		

1 Introduction

The Lord Howe Island Board (LHIB) encourages responsible pet and poultry ownership and this policy has been prepared to guide and assist pet and poultry owners to understand their obligations and responsibilities. The community in general has the right to expect that they can go about their normal activities without interference from other people's animals. Given the unique environment of Lord Howe Island (LHI) approval to have a pet should be recognised as an important responsibility.

Although the relative isolation of LHI provides an important geographic barrier to the spread of avian disease, there is still the likelihood that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and other avian diseases may be imported to LHI via contaminated avian species which highlights the need to ensure that the health status of the Islands residents and native bird population is protected.

Avian species imported from the mainland have the potential to carry viral or bacterial pathogens. By ensuring that the health of the avian species to be imported is screened prior to arrival and that the species is securely housed should provide important health safeguards to protect the community, the endangered LHI Woodhen and all wild bird species on LHI.

For the purpose of this Policy, importation is divided into two categories;

- a) Bird Importation: Referring to the importation of caged bird species for pets and
- b) Poultry Importation: Referring to the importation of domesticated fowl.

2 Bird Importation

2.1 Approval Process and Conditions

Where approval to bring (import) birds to LHI under clause 62 (2) of the *Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014* (LHI Regulation) is granted, the birds must be imported within six months from the approval

being given, otherwise the approval will lapse and a new application will be required.

Approval to import and keep birds on LHI will be subject to the owner of the birds ensuring that this policy is complied with.

A failure to comply with the policy will be deemed to be a breach of the conditions of the approval to import and keep birds and may, at the discretion of the LHIB, result in approval to keep birds LHI being withdrawn.

Birds imported to LHI must be kept at the normal place of residence of the approved importer and securely housed.

Not more than two birds per household shall be permitted, however, applications to import more than two birds will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The birds must be of a species approved by the LHIB. The following breeds of birds have approval for importation:

- a) Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*)
- b) Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulates*)
- c) Canary (*Serinus canaries*)

Birds imported LHI must be certified free from disease and parasites (see list below for diseases and parasites). The certification must be proved by the production of a certificate not more than 1 month old, signed by a Veterinary Surgeon registered under the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1986*. The certificate must be provided to the LHIB prior to the bird being imported to LHI.

The following diseases must be screened before birds are imported to LHI:

- a) Newcastle Disease
- b) Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease
- c) Internal Parasites: Coccidia, Cestodes and Nematodes
- d) External Parasites: Lice, Mites and Ticks

This policy does not prohibit the re-introduction of ecologically equivalent avian sub species of extinct LHI endemic species.

2.2 Eligibility

Persons may be permitted to import birds LHI if they:

- a) Are a leaseholder or have lived on LHI for more than two years immediately prior to lodging their application, or;
- b) Own a bird prior to becoming a temporary resident LHI, provided that they have documentary evidence that their term of employment will be at least two years duration.

Applicants must show reasons why they wish to import birds, and provide justification for the breed selected.

3 Poultry Importation

3.1 Approval Process and Conditions

Where approval to bring (import) poultry to LHI under the LHI Regulation is granted, the poultry must be imported within six months from the approval being given, otherwise the approval will lapse and a new application will be required.

Approval to import and keep poultry on LHI will be subject to the owner of the poultry ensuring that this policy is complied with.

A failure to comply with the policy will be deemed to be a breach of the conditions of the approval to import and keep poultry and may, at the discretion of the LHIB, result in approval to keep poultry on LHI being withdrawn.

Only day old chicks and fertile eggs purchased from (NSW Department of Primary Industry) certified disease free properties will only be approved for importation to LHI.

Under clause 65 of the LHI Regulation a person who is granted approval to import poultry to LHI must not keep any poultry that the person owns other than on the land that the person lawfully occupies under the *Lord Howe Island Act 1953* (LHI Act 1953).

Where approval is granted to import poultry to LHI the importer, under Section 65 (b) of the LHI Regulation must not permit any such poultry to stray from the land the person lawfully occupies under the LHI Act 1953.

Poultry must be of a species approved by the LHIB. The following breeds have an on-going approval for importation:

- a) Chicken
- b) Turkey

Poultry must be securely penned. Turkeys must be penned at all times with no free-ranging permitted.

3.2 Eligibility

Persons may be permitted to import poultry to LHI if they:

- a) Are a leaseholder or have lived on LHI for more than two years immediately prior to lodging their application; or
- b) Provide documentary evidence that their term of employment will be at least two years duration.

4 Transfer of Ownership

Applications for the transfer of bird ownership can be made on the same form as an application to import a bird. The person applying must satisfy all relevant conditions of this Policy.

5 Seizure of Birds and/or Poultry

If a bird and/or poultry are found in contravention of the policy, the bird and/or poultry may be seized. A bird and/or poultry may be seized by officer(s) appointed by the LHIB, a Police Officer or any other authorised person. If your bird and/or poultry are seized, the LHIB will notify you as soon as practicable and a release fee may apply. If your bird and/or poultry are seized on a 2nd or subsequent occasion within 12 months of it first being seized the owner of the bird and/or poultry may be fined.

6 Penalties

Penalties (enforceable by an on-the-spot fine or in court) may be imposed on the owner of a bird or poultry under Clause 62 and 65 of the LHI Regulation for:

- Importing a bird and/or poultry without prior approval of the LHIB.
- Poultry straying from the land that the person lawfully occupies under the LHI Act 1953.

It should be noted that these offences are in addition to any seizure options available and consequent release fees etc. For example, a bird and/or poultry found straying can not only be seized, but its owner can also be charged with an offence.

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

APPLICATION TO IMPORT AVIAN

Please complete the following details to enable your avian importation application to be assessed.

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Phone:..... Fax:

Email:

AVIAN DETAILS

Lease where the bird/s to be kept:

Breed of bird:

Number of birds requesting to be imported:

Reason for importation:

Chickens:

Day Old

Fertilised Eggs

APPLICANT'S DECLARATION

Signature: Date:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Criteria	Yes	No
Does the applicant meet the residency requirement?		
Does the applicant provide a reason for importing the bird/s?		

Recommendation:

Yes

No

Ranger: Date:

Notes:

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Approved

Not Approved

CEO: Date: