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Poultry industry to be licensed from 1 April 2021

From 1 April 2021 South Australian poultry farms (broiler) will be required to apply for a licence from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

This requirement brings the poultry industry into line with other intensive farming industries such as cattle feedlots and piggeries, which have similar potential environmental impacts.

EPA Director Regulation Peter Dolan said licensing of poultry farms enables the EPA to set conditions and regulate potential environmental impacts such as odour, waste, wastewater or contaminated stormwater run-off, and noise pollution.

“The EPA advised poultry farm operators in April 2020 that they would require a licence once poultry farms were added to the list of activities of environmental significance requiring EPA authorisation – and this occurred in December,” Mr Dolan said.

“Poultry farm (broiler) operators who grow poultry meat where the total area of the sheds or structures used to keep the poultry is 13,500 square metres or more will require an EPA licence.

“Poultry includes chicken, turkey, guinea fowl, duck, geese, pheasants, quail, squab (pigeons), muttonbirds or other avian species.

“Holding an EPA licence will give the poultry industry regulatory certainty and clarity about their obligations.

“Licensing fees have been set to reflect the amount of effort required by the EPA to regulate potential environmental impacts.”

Poultry farmers will be able to apply for a licence online from 1 April 2021. Licences will be issued for a period of five years, after which time the licence will be renewed.

In most circumstances, standard licence conditions will be set for poultry farm licensees who are ensuring that all reasonable practices are being taken to minimise risk to the environment. The EPA will focus its attention according to risk, which will promote a more level playing field for environmental management for the sector.

Further information is available on the EPA website:

https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/business_and_industry/licences/poultry-farm-licensing or contact the EPA on (08) 8204 2004.