

DUMPING OF CHICKENS ON PUBLIC LAND

Council has noticed an increase in the number of both domestic and feral chickens being dumped on public land. We understand that this could be due to the lack of feed on the island and that community members would like to protect their gardens from these pests.

If you are trapping feral chickens on your property, we encourage you to keep doing so. If euthanising the chickens is something you don't think you can do, we would like to offer this service for you. If you have trapped a chicken, please feel free to bring it to the Waste Management Centre during opening hours and we will dispose of it humanely for you.

Both Council and Parks Australia have invested significant resources into controlling feral chickens across the island so we would like to assist the community, where possible, to help keep the numbers down.

The impact of feral chickens on agriculture and home vegetable gardens on Norfolk Island is well known. They also have a major impact on the natural environment by scratching and displacing native seedlings and dispersing noxious weed seeds. Chickens also feed upon invertebrates such as endangered endemic land snails and dung beetles, and have a major impact in forest areas by removing the soil fauna required to breakdown leaf litter and other organic material.

Feral chickens can produce a clutch of eggs every 20 weeks (a typical clutch size is between 8 and 12 chicks) and these same chicks become fertile after 20 weeks. Studies in Bermuda have shown that a single hen can create up to 195 chicks per year, which explains why it is difficult to keep the number of feral chickens on Norfolk Island under control.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Customer Care via email at customer care@nirc.gov.nf or by telephone on local free call 0100.

PJ Wilson

TEAM LEADER WASTE & ENVIRONMENT

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Scan QR code

