

Q&A Report

#	Question	Answer	Answer Name
1	I understand wild birds in nature are the 'main game' but I wonder is there any advice to those people in urban/regional towns who have bird baths and/or feed the lorikeets, kookaburras and magpies	Thankyou for your care of our beautiful birds. I would encourage you to check out birdflu.gov.au which contains info, links and answers to risk spread questions like this.	Craig Wilkins
2	Why the Indonesian govt stopped sharing the data?	live answered	Joel Voortman AWS
3	Could anyone offer insight into what other countries are/have been doing to help mitigate the spread of this strain, especially countries that have had this for a while? Concerned ecologist here, very worries about the impact this is having on wild bird populations globally	live answered	Anushree Mistry
4	Birds love WWT ponds, they can be fabulous habitats....what practical things can the water industry do to help with surveillance of sick birds or predictive modelling based on microbial monitoring (maybe as part of existing WW surveillance programs) - if there is a known link that would aid in treatment or preventative strategies at the ecological level. & are there specific HSE measures we should be taking for our operational personnel - apart from don't touch the sick birds...	live answered	Geoff Reid
5	Hi Geoff - reach out as happy to work out an east-west collaboration if we can be of help at Water Corporation through our R&D Program.	Yeah sure Sandra, my email is geoff.reid@onebasin.com.au	Geoff Reid
		Hi Geoff and Sandra at GVWater we are part of recently established CDC program of wastewater surveillance. I 've just enquired and H5N1 is going to be monitored, we should work to ensure that samples are taken in lagoons as well as other places in treatment train. Happy to work with you both on this :-)	
		live answered	Geoff Reid
		Great thanks Karen, sounds good.	Geoff Reid
6	Environmental water has the same restrictions on it as irrigation water, so when conditions dry out there is less water available. Can environmental water holders get allocated extra water to provide these wetlands suitable breeding and feeding habitat without getting offside from irrigators?	Thanks Julia. We at the Murray Daring Conservation Alliance think this needs to be considered. Emergency releases of water for the spring breeding season to enhance spring breeding and feeding will be an important part of the response.	Craig Wilkins
7	Is there any evidence that workers or environmental staff working in and around wetlands could contract the virus?	All depends how the virus spreads and changes. I know government agencies are taking it seriously and keeping stuff informed.	Geoff Reid
8	It has been great to learn about the potential environmental impact of H5N1. The One Basin CRC has many members from primary industries which will also be impacted. For example, the broiler farms located along the Murray and major chicken processing plant at Hanwood are major employers and are very likley to be impacted. What can we do to support these industries?	live answered	Anushree Mistry
9	Do we have indications of the level of investment from the government regarding biosecurity measures in both industry and natural environments?	Thanks Karyn. My understanding is that there has been around \$100m spent over the last few years preparing for the arrival of bird flu. However, that has almost entirely been spent on biosecurity (which is absolutely vital!). But so far not much on wildlife resilience.	Craig Wilkins
10	Do we need to be worried about transmission of H5N1 from water to livestock drinking water sourced from rivers/dams	broadly speaking, it's possible — fecal water transmission is how it's transmitted between species overall — but in any circumstance where water is treated, that will kill the virus.	Kevin Slavin
11	They are vaccinating endangered wild birds in New Zealand	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/pest-and-disease-threats-to-new-zealand/animal-disease-threats-to-new-zealand/bird-flu/protecting-our-native-species	