



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 14 September, 2011

Movement of pigeons into SA prohibited

Pigeons are no longer allowed to be brought into South Australia from interstate, under moves by Biosecurity SA to protect the State's pigeon and poultry industries from a virulent virus killing pigeons in Victoria.

The paramyxovirus was confirmed last week in pigeon flocks in Shepparton and the north-western suburbs of Melbourne. **The virus has not been detected in South Australia.**

Chief Veterinary Officer with Biosecurity SA, Dr Rob Rahaley, said as well as prohibiting the movement of pigeons into SA, the *Livestock Act* had been amended to list the virus as a notifiable exotic disease.

"It is believed that pigeons are capable of infecting poultry. The virus therefore poses a significant threat to the State's commercial poultry industry," Dr Rahaley said.

"In making this disease notifiable, pigeon and poultry owners and producers are under obligation to report any signs of the disease.

"If anyone notices something unusual in their pigeons or poultry, or a number of them die within a short time period, they must report it to Biosecurity SA.

"Until further notice, pigeons cannot be brought into South Australia from interstate, except where authorised by the Chief Inspector. This is to further strengthen the protection of our pigeon and poultry industries.

"The prohibition will be removed once the disease has been brought under control interstate."

If you notice any unusual signs please contact your veterinarian or contact the Animal Watch hotline on 1800 675 888. Biosecurity SA may assist with the cost of any investigations.