

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 7 August

2026 Royal Adelaide Show Bird Competitions Update

The Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia (RA&HS) has made the decision that bird competitions will not proceed at the 2026 Royal Adelaide Show following consultation with relevant authorities and industry stakeholders.

The RA&HS takes its responsibility for animal health and biosecurity seriously and regularly reviews risks and measures to support the safe delivery of the Royal Adelaide Show, working closely with veterinarians and industry representatives to ensure appropriate measures remain in place to protect animals, exhibitors and visitors.

After monitoring the ongoing animal health environment and reviewing current guidelines provided by the Department for Primary Industries and Regions, the RA&HS has taken a cautious and considered approach in making this decision.

RA&HS CEO Will Rayner said the decision was made with exhibitors, competitors and the broader agricultural community in mind.

“Protecting the health and welfare of animals is our highest priority, and we believe this is the right decision to support our exhibitors, our agricultural community and broader biosecurity efforts,” said Mr Rayner.

“Our exhibitors and volunteers invest significant time, effort and resources in being part of the Royal Adelaide Show, with many travelling from regional communities to compete. We wanted to provide as much notice as possible so they have clarity and can plan accordingly.

“We recognise this will be disappointing for many, and this decision has not been taken lightly. However, after considering the ongoing situation and speaking with the Department for Primary Industries and Regions who are leading the South Australian bird flu response, we believe it is the right thing to do.

“By making this decision now, we can support broader biosecurity efforts and ensure expertise and resources remain focused where they are needed most.”

The Royal Adelaide Show remains committed to celebrating South Australia’s agricultural industries and providing opportunities for the community to connect with exhibitors, producers and animals in a safe and responsible environment.

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