

Frequently Asked Questions – Health Amendment Local Law 2025

The Shire of Murray is proposing changes to its *Health Local Law 2018*. These amendments are intended to improve clarity, reflect community expectations and bring the law into line with modern public health standards.

One of the most notable proposed changes is to clause 5.18(1). This will now require landowners with rural zoned properties up to four hectares in area to obtain approval to keep certain animals. This is an increase from the current requirement, which only applies to properties under one hectare. This FAQ addresses common questions about this and other proposed changes.

General Questions about the Local Law Review

1. What is the Health Local Law?

A set of rules that help protect public health and wellbeing in the Shire of Murray. It includes requirements for managing animals, waste, housing conditions, offensive trades and more.

2. Why is the Shire reviewing the Health Local Law?

Local laws are reviewed periodically to keep them up to date with community expectations and State Government legislation.

3. What changes are being proposed?

Key changes propose to:

- Require approval to keep large animals (eg horses, cows, sheep) on rural zoned land up to four hectares, rather than the current one hectare.
- Provide greater flexibility for how stables are designed, such as allowing whirlybirds for ventilation.
- Align with updated legislation such as the *Public Health Act 2016*, *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*, and new *Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act 2024*.

4. How can I have my say?

You can provide feedback before **4.00pm Monday, 30 June 2025** by:

- Submitting online at murray.wa.gov.au/publicnotices
- Emailing to mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au
- Writing to PO Box 21, Pinjarra WA 6208

5. Where can find more information?

You can download or view the full proposed amended local law at the following link or QR code below: murray.wa.gov.au/publicnotices. Alternatively, contact the Shire's Environmental Health Manager, Phil Steven on 9531 7777 or email mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au.



Questions about keeping large animals

6. What types of animals are affected?

Only larger animals are affected — such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, deer, alpacas and llamas. Backyard pets like dogs, cats, rabbits, or chickens are not affected by this change.

7. What's changing?

Already in place	What's changing?
<p>You must get Shire approval to keep a large animal on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Residential land (e.g. zoned Farmlet or Special Rural) Any property one hectare or smaller Land where large animal numbers exceed the Stocking Rate Guidelines. 	<p>If approved, the local law will require Shire approval for keeping large animals on all land up to four hectares, on rural zoned land even if you're within the Stocking Rate Guidelines.</p>

8. Where do I find the Stocking Rate Guidelines?

The Stocking Rate Guidelines are available as part of the Shire's Keeping of Livestock Policy and are available to download via the below QR code or link:



murray.wa.gov.au/documents/167/local-planning-policy-keeping-of-livestock-in-rural-residential-areas

The full guidelines are available within 'Stocking rate guidelines for rural small holdings, Swan Coastal Plain' by Dennis van Gool, Ken Angell et al. These can be found via the following link or QR code:



https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/misc_pbns/3/

9. Why is the minimum land size proposed to increase from one hectare to four hectares?

Larger animals can create impacts like noise, odour, flies and soil erosion if not managed properly. Increasing the lot area where approval is required will help ensure animals are kept in appropriate environments, with sufficient space and care implemented to prevent nuisance or health risks.

10. I already keep animals on a lot smaller than four hectares – what happens to me?

You may need to apply to continue keeping those animals. The Shire will assess existing cases fairly, considering how the animals are currently managed.

Property owners would most likely only be requested to submit an application, if a complaint is made about their stock. If the proposal is approved, the Shire intends to put in place a streamlined application process to make this as simple as possible. There are no fees proposed for applications to keep animals under the Health Local Law.