

# Corella Control

Each year Council receives many complaints from residents, sporting groups, businesses and schools regarding Corellas.



**The information and control methods outlined in this flyer focus on discouraging Corellas from impacting Council owned and managed assets.**



## About the Bird

### Habitat:



Corellas prefer grass seeds from grain crops but also dig for stems and rhizomes of certain grasses, roots, seeds, bulbs (especially onion grass) and insects.

### Behaviour:

- Corellas mate for life, with breeding from July-Nov
- Flocks repeatedly return to favourable feeding sites and use regular flight paths.
- Flocks will also opportunistically join other flocks they see feed on the ground.
- Corellas are always on the lookout for predators, a couple will be found in the trees to warn the flock.

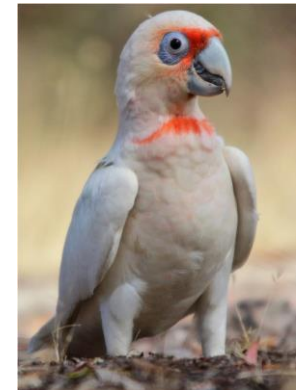
More information about this bird species within Victoria can be found online:  
<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/cockatoos>

### Appearance:

- The long/slender-billed Corella is a cockatoo native to Australia
- These medium sized birds are mostly white with a reddish pink face, and have short crest and tail.
- Their long pale beaks grown continuously and need to be maintained.
- They reach maturity at 3-5 years of age in the wild.

### Please note:

Corellas can carry viruses and bacteria such as chlamydia and psittacosis which can be passed onto humans. Always follow appropriate handling procedures, including wearing personal protective equipment.



## Management

There is no 'silver bullet' for the control of Corellas.

Effective damage control programs need to be:

- Well planned and persistent.
- Based on an understanding of the behaviour of the birds.
- Varied frequently.
- Integrated with a number of different control methods.

The most successful control actions are a combination of:

- Limiting access to food.
- Scaring techniques.
- Landscape modifications.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA) have developed a strategy outlining how we can work together to collaboratively manage the impacts of Corellas and identify best practice management options to achieve more effective reduction in damages and a better outcome for the community.

<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/victorian-corella-strategy>

**Please note:** Corellas are native wildlife and are protected under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. Trapping, gassing, poisoning and using live birds of prey as a control measure is illegal in Victoria.

## Roles & Responsibilities

### Licensed User Groups:

- Notify Council when Corellas are present and to what extent.
- Undertake Corella scaring techniques.
- Install and manage visual barriers (eg scarecrows, fake snakes/birds of prey).
- Making food sources less palatable (eg using grape seed extract or netting over sections of grassed areas).



### Council:

- Provide education materials to the community.
- Undertake ground improvements (topsoil enrichment and installation of computerised irrigation systems), budget permitting.
- Regularly monitor deterrent options and emerging trends.
- Investigate opportunities for providing alternative feeding ground (depending on the severity of the damage).
- As a last resort, apply for permits through DEECA to use scare shots.

## Control Actions

### Short-Term:

#### Scaring

- Scare kites (eg Hawk).
- Fright balloons and clappers.
- Noise generating devices: random intervals, range of sounds, source moved frequently.

#### Decoy Feeding

- Providing and attracting birds to alternative food sources.
- Trial methods to decrease food palatability in smaller areas.

#### Last Resort

- Scare shooting.

### Medium-Term:

#### Community Corella Education

#### Visual Barriers

- Install or erect temporary vertical screens/ shade cloth to block line of view.

### Long-Term:

#### Recreation Reserve Improvements

- Planting pockets of bushes and shrubs to reduce open space.
- Topsoil enrichment to minimise dieback.
- Installation of computerised irrigation systems (budget permitting).