

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).