



HUME CITY COUNCIL

Living with wildlife

CORELLAS AND COCKATOOS

Cockatoos and Corellas are widespread across Hume. They occur naturally in Hume but numbers have increased as a response to habitat changes and the introduction of grain crops.

Cockatoos and Corellas use their beaks as a grasping tool, a chisel, pliers and a digging implement, and in combination with the tongue, it can husk even the finest of seeds. They can also sometimes inadvertently use their beaks for biting and damaging property. One reason they do this is because their beaks grow continuously, and chewing maintains the beak in good condition. They also like to investigate things, including testing the strength of objects with their beaks.

Diet

Cockatoos and Corellas travel a long distance to source seasonal fruits and water, often forming large flocks. They feed on a wide range of foods including seeds, flowers, grasses and fruit, including exotic garden species.

Problems

When Cockatoo and Corella flocks, containing large numbers of individuals, frequent suburban areas, they can damage property and their noise can be considered a nuisance. Property damage typically includes clothes lines, television aerials, plastic piping, the uprooting of garden plants, defoliation and damage to fruit trees and damage to any exposed timber.

Cockatoos and Corellas are often attracted to residential properties where the resident is putting out feed such as seeds, bread, nuts or fruit scraps. The damage and noise in these instances can impact on several properties in the area.





Council's advice

- Council advises residents not to place feed out for any birds in their backyards. In addition to attracting large numbers of birds to an area, feeding can also have a negative impact on the birds by reducing their ability to forage for their own food. Native plants provide these birds with an abundance of food, so feeding is not necessary,
- In areas that are frequented by these birds, Council advises residents to ensure exposed timber is covered and to use bird netting to protect fruit trees and other vulnerable features.
- Prune back trees and shrubs and remove excessive fruit that might be attracting the birds.
- Hang strips of foil, aluminium or old CD's in affected trees to deter birds.
- Move or cover vehicles and other equipment that may be below roosting sites.
- In the initial stages of Cockatoos and Corellas moving into your backyard, air horns or other loud noises (e.g. banging on pots), may encourage birds to move to another area.



For more information about living with wildlife contact Hume's Coordinator, Land and Biodiversity on 9205 2200 or visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/wildlife