



# HUME CITY COUNCIL CARING FOR OUR WILDLIFE

## Please don't feed the ducks!

Feeding native birds and animals is like giving our wildlife junk food. Instead of eating their natural diet, processed food such as bread and seeds can make our wildlife very sick.

Hand feeding increases bird populations unnaturally which can increase illness and diseases; causing some animals to die. It can also cause increased aggression among the birds themselves.

Feeding bread to birds at our local ponds attracts rats, which breed rapidly. Rats carry disease and prey on the eggs and chicks of breeding birds. Rats can then be attracted to nearby homes by the smells of pet food and rubbish bins!

Foxes are also more attracted to these areas, not only for the bread, but also to prey on the birds themselves - although you may not see them, foxes are very common and active at night.

Litter caused by "bird feeders" has been a steadily increasing problem with many bread bags left behind tied to trees, bench seats and fence railings, or merely left on the ground - even when bins are provided. This endangers adult birds as they ingest plastics while feeding. Litter can enter our storm water system and end up in the sea to endanger marine life.

It is great to be able to go to our beautiful parks, have a picnic and enjoy seeing all of the beautiful birds that inhabit our waterways, but to help protect our wildlife, please remember that it is important to:

- allow the birds to eat their natural diet; and
- take your rubbish home and dispose of it responsibly.

**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](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au/wildlife)**



Increased litter in our parks



Increased threat to nesting birds



Increased rats and foxes