



HUME CITY COUNCIL

Living with wildlife

SNAKES

Snakes, such as Brown, Tiger and Red-bellied Black Snakes, become active in Spring through to Autumn, and will often seek warm places such as concreted surfaces and dry, open areas to sunbake. This can include areas close to houses and infrastructure in parks and reserves.

Diet

Snakes are carnivores and generally eat small mammals such as frogs or lizards.

Problems

While snake bites are rare, they do pose a serious health risk if the species is venomous.

Snakes can be a problem for your pets, but usually only if the pet attacks first. Anti-venom is available from vets if pets do get bitten.

Council's advice

- Council recognises that Public Open Space provides good habitat for snakes and advises residents to be tolerant of their presence, and avoid walking through long grass or areas where a snake has been sighted.
- Approaching a snake can be very dangerous. The best strategy may be to leave the snake alone and avoid the area if possible. The snake will likely move on after a while.





- If you are worried about snakes near your house you can make your yard less attractive to snakes by removing the things that attract them. Snakes like areas with an abundance of small reptiles, frogs or mammals. A pond with frogs may attract snakes, so having your pond well away from the house may reduce this risk.
- Exclude rodents and lizards from chook pens, or make food and shelter unavailable to them, as they may attract snakes.
- Most snake bites happen when people are trying to kill the snake, so please refrain from doing this. Under the Wildlife Act 1975 it is illegal to kill snakes and other native animals without a permit.



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

January 2020