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Little Corella Management

Fact Sheet
March 2016

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to explain the impact that Little Corellas are having on our community's parks, playing fields and facilities along with what's happening at a State and local level to address their impact.



An unprecedented number of Little Corellas (*Cacatua sanguinea*) have visited Murray Bridge's riverfront reserves this Summer.

What problems are caused by Little Corellas?

European settlement has significantly changed the natural ecology that originally kept bird numbers such as Little Corellas in check. While many people enjoy seeing these native birds, large flocks in urban and rural areas do cause considerable problems in the warmer months. The most common problems are damage to trees (defoliation), parks, playing fields, taking grain, and disturbing residents with excessive noise. They can also damage to buildings, particularly when they chew flashing or wiring, and to tarpaulins, wooden structures, cars and a variety of crops. It is recognised that there is significant public contention regarding Little Corella management.

What types of controls can be used?

The management of Corellas is a complex issue which has been acknowledged by both State and Local Government and respective communities as an important issue to be addressed. Councils over the last five years have researched and used a raft of measures with limited effect. The Rural City of Murray Bridge have trialled various control methods in recent years.

In general, effective, humane population control programs utilise several techniques in combination to address problems.

1. *Reduction of the Population by Shooting*

Shooting, to achieve a reduction in impacts being sustained, should only be used in a strategic manner as part of an integrated management program. When dealing with large flocks of Little Corellas, shooting rarely achieves the goal of reducing bird impacts and population control and in isolation is not considered an effective method for large scale control of wildlife causing impacts. Shooting requires SAPOL approval. SAPOL have indicated that permission would not be granted to shooting of Little Corellas on private property, in residential areas.

2. *Trapping and Destruction by Carbon Dioxide Narcosis*

Trapping can be an effective means of removing abundant native birds and breaking up large flocks habitually feeding in an area. If persistently applied, it can be effective at removing flocks from an area.



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Health risks exist for people handling birds. *Psittacosis* and *Chlamydia* diseases are common in parrots and can be passed on to handlers through bites and scratches.

3. Use of Noise-Generating (Scaring) Devices

This is the most common advocated technique for dealing with abundant native birds. No permits are required.

Little Corella Research Project

There are a number of initiatives being undertaken at a State and local level:

- A research project involving the Local Government Association of South Australia, University of SA and Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) are seeking to develop a better understanding of Little Corellas and their impacts across the State. While many people enjoy seeing these native cockatoos, large flocks can cause considerable problems for communities. This project is examining which sites have nuisance flocks, what makes these particular sites problematic, and public thoughts and opinions on solutions. A number of Councils are directly contributing to the project, with research focussed in their areas. Further information on this project can be found at <http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/projects/little-corellas/>
- The Rural City of Murray Bridge intends to use these Project outcomes to help determine and implement the best approach for our area. We will also be talking to communities across our Council area to identify where the Little Corellas are proving most disruptive, explore and implement a range of possible control methods for the problems spots.

So what's being done?

The Rural City of Murray Bridge will continue to liaise with Local Government Association of South Australia; the University of South Australia; and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources in the development of the 'Little Corella Research Project' to determine and implement the best approach to Little Corella management in the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge will also consult with representatives from Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources; SAPOL; RSPCA; and other animal welfare agencies to develop a set of protocols in relation to a Culling Program for the 2017 Little Corella roosting season.

A further report will be presented to Council outlining the protocols in relation to a Culling Program for the 2017 Little Corella roosting season.

Want to know more about Little Corellas?

The birds are attracted to areas where food and water resources are readily available such as the River Murray and adjacent agricultural land. Further information on their characteristics and habits can be found at <http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/projects/little-corellas/about-little-corellas/>

Want further information?

For further information on Little Corella behaviour contact the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on 8204 9000 or your local Natural Resource Management Board on 8532 9100.

Please visit Council's website or contact Council on 8539 1100 or at murraybridge@murraybridge.sa.gov.au or for further information on this project.



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