



LITTLE CORELLA

LOCAL INFORMATION SHEET

Pest birds are an increasing problem within Western Australia.

Pest birds such as the Little Corella conflict with primary production by reducing profitability of a wide range of crops and property destruction. They also displace less abundant native species, destroy ecosystems, and cause a general nuisance to humans and our way of life. This has resulted in the Shire of Carnarvon seeking solutions to deal with the management of the Little Corella within the Gascoyne.

LAND OWNERS

Property owners/occupiers that experience Corella issues may undertake their own management controls to protect and relieve this nuisance on their property.

This can be done by means of:

- scare tactics,
- crop protection,
- food reduction or
- culling of birds

Care should be taken to ensure that any bird deterrent activities undertaken does not cause neighbour conflict.

The suggested scaring techniques and best practices to manage the Little Corella are from the DBCA Fauna Notes or contact the Shire of Carnarvon for more detailed options.

www.dbca.wa.gov.au



The Little Corella (*Cacatua sanguinea westralensis*) is declared to be a pest under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 in the Carnarvon Shire district and other listed local government areas of WA where the bird is present outside of its natural range.



The control category for Little Corellas in Carnarvon is 'management' which means it has been considered necessary to alleviate the harmful impact, reduce the number or distribution or prevent or contain the spread. There is no specific requirement for a 'management plan' and no management plan has been gazetted for use in relation to this bird.

THE SHIRE

The Shire will continue to refine and improve the management of corellas on its properties into the future to minimise the impact on the local community. It must be recognised that Corellas pose a significant problem, one that extends beyond local government boundaries. As such, Corella management requires a shared approach across the wider community.



Management of the Little Corella can be completed throughout the whole year as the Shire of Carnarvon is within the "open season" location.



TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE LITTLE CORELLA

REF: DBCA

DAMAGE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The key to minimising damage by Corellas is to understand their behavioural patterns. Flocks will use regular flight paths and roost sites and will repeatedly return to favourable feeding sites. They will also opportunistically join other flocks that they see feeding. Effective damage control programs are well planned, based on an understanding of the behaviour of the birds, varied frequently and integrated with a number of different methods and persistent.

SCARE TACTICS

Effective scaring and decoy campaigns aimed at disturbing a Corella roost can often move the problem onto a neighbour who has not been employing the same level of control measures.

Therefore, it is important that control programs are implemented community-wide to adequately address the problem on a larger and long-term scale. Switching between different scaring methods, and changing how the method is employed, will reduce the likelihood of the birds becoming accustomed to the techniques.

Gas guns ~ should be set to operate at long intervals and should only be used when the birds are feeding early or late in the day. They should be moved every 2 or 3 days and put out of sight when not in use. Routine deployment should be avoided.

Kites ~ cockatoos are scared by birds of prey. Kites that simulate birds of prey may be effective for small paddocks, but they should be shifted often.

Alternative crops ~ supplying abundant food in an alternative location. Some farmers plough an area to expose grass to lure birds to an alternative site while sowing. The lure should be placed at least 500m away so that scaring techniques being employed at the crop site does not disturb the birds at the decoy site. The most effective decoy sites are those under flight paths and near trees that can be used for perching or roosting.

Roost deterrents ~ spotlights at night roosts, is the most effective method from deterring birds from roosts. It may take a week or more for this control program to move the flock to another roost.

LIMIT ACCESS & CROP PROTECTION

Corellas like to have a clear view when they are feeding, so visual screens can also make a feeding location unattractive to them. Visual screens can be used to protect and hide newly planted seedlings, vegetable crops, feed and water troughs.

Minimising the amount of food available in agricultural areas can be achieved by: covering all grain and clean up spills, minimising left over crops after harvest, and direct drill and sow at the same time as neighbours. Rotating PVC or poly-pipe can be a useful tool for preventing birds from perching and damaging homes.

POPULATION CONTROL

Population control of corellas with firearms is known to be difficult but is the primary option available for the reduction of corellas in Carnarvon in the short-term.

Shooting may have short-term advantages, but the technique is often labour intensive, opportunistic and may have limited value in bird control.

Shooting should only be used in a strategic manner as part of a coordinated program designed to achieve sustained effective control.

Shooting is often used as a scaring strategy to train the birds to associate the sharp, sudden noise with real danger and subsequently, a fear of humans and human activities. Birds can be frightened away without attempts to kill them although small numbers of birds are usually killed with a view to enhance the scaring effect.



REFERENCE

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. (2017). Fauna Notes - Corellas and Other Flocking Cockatoos. Retrieved from <http://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/>

