



Little Corella Control Fact Sheet

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

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 loud vocalisations. They can also damage 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 Mid Murray Council have trialled various control methods over the last five years.

Where there are problems with abundant birds, the destruction of the offending birds has often been a popular option of some affected community members. However, large scale destruction is expensive, time consuming and, on its own has been shown to be not necessarily effective in reducing bird impacts. This option can also be contentious with some people opposed to the destruction of native wildlife. Little Corellas feed, water and roost communally. The social nature of their daily life contributes to the problem of pruning damage to roost trees by large flocks, but also suggests a number of possible solutions. Reliance on easy access to food and, in particular, water makes the flock vulnerable through manipulation of these resources (although this is difficult with the birds having ready access to the Murray River). Other measures that can be applied to reduce bird damage include:

- reduction of the population by culling individuals (destruction by shooting and trapping and destruction by carbon dioxide narcosis);
- modification of feeding, watering or roosting habitat to deter birds from affected areas;
- use of noise-generating devices to scare birds and other devices to scare birds.

So What's Being Done?

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 will examine 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. We hope to see outcomes from the research in the coming months. Further information on this project can be found at <http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/projects/little-corellas/>
- Once released we will use these research project outcomes to help determine and implement the best approaches for our area. We will continue to work with landowners and the community as to how they can contribute to addressing the issue in their area.
- Over the coming months Mid Murray Council we will be trialling different control methods at community events and targeted sites which are still to be determined.
- Council will continue to lobby the State Government to take a more proactive approach in addressing this issue across many areas of our State.

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.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Rocky Warren, Regulatory Services Coordinator on 8564 6020 or by email at postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au.