



Pigeon, Indian Myna and Pest Bird Policy

POLICY OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the community and the operations of Council on the actions that will be implemented to control and monitor populations of pest birds, primarily pigeons, in the Goulburn Mulwaree Local Government Area. The objective of the specified actions is to reduce the impact of pest birds in the wider Goulburn Mulwaree landscape.

A number of areas in the Goulburn Mulwaree Council Local Government area are experiencing a significant increase in the number of pigeons, Indian Myna other Pest birds and the amount of faeces is increasing maintenance costs of buildings. Research undertaken has indicated that there are many options for the control of pigeons in built up areas and this policy outlines options available to Council and the community.

This policy provides information to the community on ways to discourage pest birds such as pigeon's starlings and mynas in the wider Goulburn Mulwaree region, to encourage native birds and enhance native bird habitat.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Local Government Act 1993

POLICY STATEMENT

The aim of this policy is to:

- To enable both Council and the community to take steps to control pest birds in a coordinated manner
- Provide information on the most effective and efficient ways for property owners to deal with pest birds, in the urban environment.
- To monitor bird populations in the Goulburn Mulwaree region as a tool for gauging the effectiveness of management actions.
- To provide the Goulburn Mulwaree Community with methods of controlling pest birds on their properties, thereby encouraging native birds.
- reduce pest bird populations will reduce competition with native birds for roosting, foraging and nesting habitat

Council's stance that the control of pest birds is the responsibility of the property owner, similar to that of controlling vermin such as rats and mice. However, to improve the success it is recommended that a collaborative approach be implemented between neighbouring properties. Actions that could be taken include:

1. Rubbish Bins - Ensure all bins in the CBD parks have lids to prevent pest birds from foraging on scraps & ensure business waste bins and dumpsters are kept closed at all times.
2. Native Plantings - Recommend the use of locally occurring native vegetation for any new street plantings where appropriate and in accordance with the Vegetation Management Plan.
3. Exclusion Devices - Install netting, bird spikes, gutter guards and other recommended exclusion techniques on buildings with pest bird issues.
4. Nest Destruction - Destruction of nests where feasible, preferably during peak breeding times (July to February).

5. Trapping - Trapping program to be undertaken by business and property owners and encouraged to participate in a collaborative effort. Should only be used in conjunction with other management techniques.
6. Signage – there is anecdotal evidence that some residents are feeding the pigeons. Signs could be erected asking residents not to feed the pigeons in the CBD
7. Shooting – The use of professional shooters to remove birds from buildings is an option if undertaken as a total community response.
8. Distress Callers – These emit species alarm calls where there are a high number of birds congregating but is not a realistic option as it just tends to relocate the birds.

As a general policy statement, Council will not undertake pigeon, Indian Myna or bird pest control unless Council is satisfied that there is a majority level of cooperation from other building owners on a holistic basis. Council’s policy is that it is one of many building owners and other owners in the CBD should contribute to the cost of pigeon control.

Version	Council Meeting Date	Resolution	Adoption Date	Effective From
1	15 October 2019	15.4	15 October 2019	22 October 2019
2	4 October 2022	2022/362	4 October 2022	1 November 2022
All policies can be reviewed or revoked by resolution of Council at anytime.				

DIRECTORATE: Executive Services

BUSINESS UNIT: Executive Services