



Fact Sheet: Feeding Wild Birds

Less is more

It is not against the law to feed wild birds BUT feeding the birds on a regular basis is not doing our feathered friends of the species on a whole, any favours.

Wild birds are capable of feeding themselves and encouraging them to congregate in masses can have a detrimental effect on all parties involved.

Planting bird attracting nectar-rich native plants and making nesting boxes available is the way to go.

Feeding wild birds can give a wealth of joy to the bird feeders but you need to be careful to keep the following steps in mind, so feeding remains a joyful experience for the birds, bird feeders and neighbours.

Bird Feeding Stations

Please refrain from throwing or making food available haphazardly on the ground. Provide an appropriate feeding and watering station that can be easily managed to prevent nuisance and disease. Installing a hardstand surface underneath the station will allow you to easily sweep up leftover husks and wash off any droppings after a feeding session.



Remember that the feeders are really for us, rather than the birds. (ABC Open contributor Terry Lewin)

Bird Feeding Guide

Please embrace the following steps from our friends at Australian Geographic and Council's Environmental Health Section.

1. Ensure feeding and watering stations are not accessible for cats - keep them up off the ground.
2. Clean feeding and watering stations daily with warm soapy water and air dry to remove any bacteria and mosquito harbourage.
3. Remove food after **one hour** and vary the time and days you provide food.
4. It's a snack not a meal – birds should obtain most of their diet naturally.
5. Provide good-quality food, commercial nectar mixes or seed mixes (typical supermarket seed will not contain sufficient nutrition for birds).
6. **Cease feeding** if large flocks (20+ birds) begin feeding at the same time as this increases the risk of disease transmission and stress for the birds.
7. **Cease feeding** when you notice birds waiting for feeding time as this is when they cause significant noise and mess.
8. Feed pets indoors and remove leftovers, as pet food is not suitable for birds.
9. Create a habitat – grow local native plants for food and provide nesting boxes.
10. Make feeding a treat, for example 3 times a week.

What to do if someone else is feeding wildlife and it is causing a nuisance?

The best and most direct solution is often to talk to the person who is feeding the wildlife to discuss your concerns in a calm and respectful manner.

If feeding the birds is causing a vermin issue, this can be reported to Council.

Where the feeding of birds is causing concerns regarding vermin, mosquito breeding (birdbaths etc.), or the accumulation of faeces on the feeders property or surrounds, Council's Environmental Health Officers will investigate.

Whilst Council is unable to direct a person to stop feeding wildlife, persons who choose to do so must do so in a manner that does not cause a public health risk.



And if I refuse to stop feeding wild birds on a regular basis?

By encouraging birds to come back to your provided food daily, you will undoubtedly encourage larger birds and a larger number of birds.

By encouraging larger birds to linger in the vicinity, the smaller birds will be pushed away and the larger birds will remain.

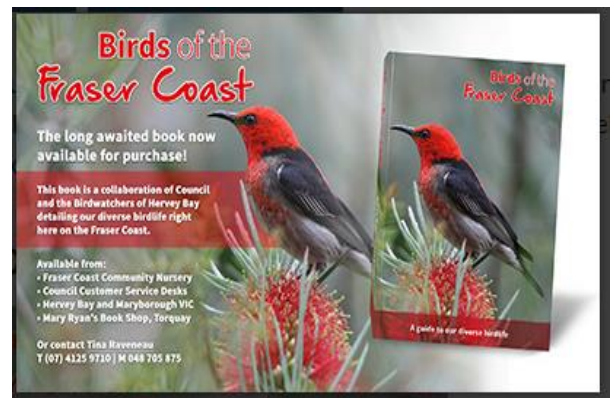
If it is proven that your actions have affected a neighbour, you may be liable for damages and court costs.

These matters are dealt with by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal through the civil dispute resolution process.

Resources and further information

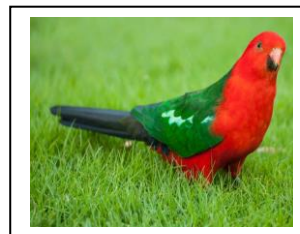
Fact Sheet - Neighbourhood Dispute Services (Document reference number #3329277).

'Birds of the Fraser Coast' book is available to purchase from Council's Customer Service Centre (Phone: 1300 794 929)

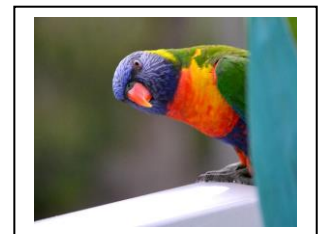


If you require further information or wish to discuss this matter, please contact the Environmental Health Section on 1300 794 929.

King Parrot



Rainbow Lorikeet



Researchers from Wild Health Australia found that King Parrots and Rainbow Lorikeets (pictured right) were dying on mass from Enteritis Infection thought to come from feeding stations and poor hygiene.

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