

Fact Sheet

Little Corellas

In South Australia, Little Corellas (or *Cacatua sanguinea*) are a native species whose behaviour can have a detrimental impact from economic, environmental and social perspectives.

The population of Little Corellas frequenting the Council region has increased significantly over recent years. It is the behavioural nature of Little Corella flocks to gather and descend on a few localised areas.

The diversity in agricultural activities in the region provides an ideal food source for Little Corellas. These food sources include grain and cereal crops, orchards, open grassed areas, pine trees and stockpiles of grape marc, to name a few. The abundance of food sources, combined with the presence of permanent water sources and roosting sites provide an attractive area for these birds.

Little Corellas are highly intelligent birds with a communal and habitual nature. It is likely one of their motivations for roosting in town is for shelter and security.

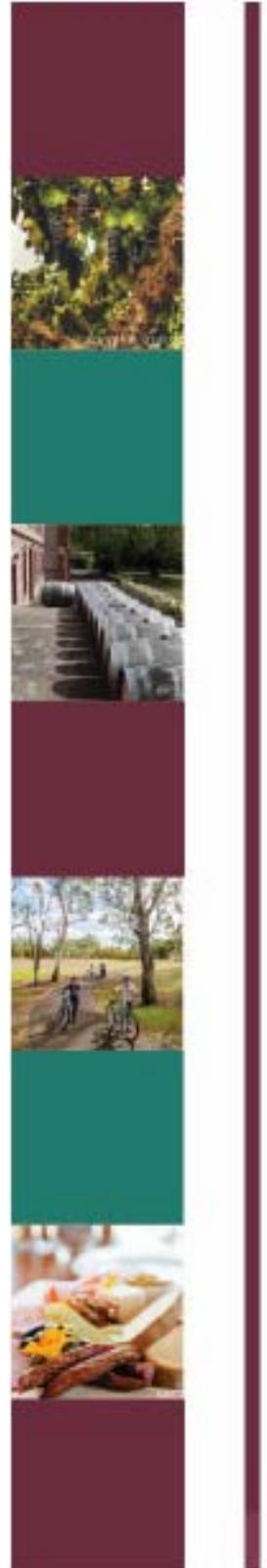
Little Corellas have been known to damage electrical cabling, chew new vine shoots, forage in newly sown crops, damage a variety of sports playing surfaces and assets, and defoliate trees. This, combined with their ability to produce a significant amount of noise when in large flocks and their potential to spread disease, makes the Little Corella a significant source of nuisance for the community, resulting in regular complaints to Council.

What can residents do?

In South Australia, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* declares this species (Little Corellas) to be unprotected. This means that subject to the *Firearms Act 1977*, private property owners, or people acting under the authority of the property owner may destroy little corellas by shooting without a permit.

The Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources has prepared a code of practice for the humane destruction of birds by shooting, which is available on their website www.environment.sa.gov.au. It is important that this code of practice is followed at all times.

Property owners experiencing detrimental impacts caused by Little Corellas can use a variety of non-lethal methods to deter them from frequenting their property. These include the use of loud, sharp noises where appropriate or rotating flashing lights and high powered torches between sunset and sunrise. The use of physical barriers such as bird netting or visual deterrents may also be used.



Rural property owners must comply with requirements set by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Country Fire Service (CFS) when using gas guns to deter these birds from their property.

It is important to employ a multi-faceted approach with a number of control mechanisms to ensure that the birds do not become accustomed to one particular control method. Of particular importance is to restrict their access to food sources where possible, specifically stockpiles of grape marc.

Whilst Little Corellas are listed as an unprotected species, a number of protected species are known to flock with Little Corellas. This includes the Long-Billed Corella (which is similar in appearance) and the sulphur-crested cockatoo. Both species are protected and must not be destroyed without a permit.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Council's General Inspectors on (08) 8563 8444 or The Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources on 8204 1910.