



Feeding Wildlife

Feeding wild birds

It is not against the law to feed wild birds. People feed wildlife including wild birds for many reasons. Many enjoy a positive, close-up experience with our native animals, while others believe they are helping them survive.

However, wild birds can feed themselves and feeding them on a regular basis can have negative impacts.

Encouraging them to congregate in masses can have a detrimental effect on them and your neighbourhood. A better way is to encourage wild birds to your property by planting nectar-rich native plants and making nesting boxes available.



Bird feeding guide

When feeding birds you should take steps to ensure the experience remains enjoyable for the birds, you, and your neighbours.

1. Use bird feeding stations with an easy to clean (e.g. concrete) area below to assist with the clean-up of any spillage.
2. Ensure feeding stations are off the ground so they are not accessible by other pets and animals.



3. Be careful not to overfeed - birds need to continue to obtain most of their diet naturally.
4. Remove food after one hour and vary feeding times and days.

5. Clean feeding stations after use to avoid bacteria build up. Bacteria from dirty feed stations can kill wild birds.
6. Scrub and clean watering stations and bird baths once a week to avoid providing a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
7. Provide appropriate, good quality food, that contain sufficient nutrients for birds. Avoid feeding birds scraps and processed foods such as mince and bread.
8. Avoid feeding large numbers of birds as the risk of disease transmission and stress increases for the birds and it also increases noise and mess for you and neighbours.
9. Remove leftover pet food as this is not suitable for birds to consume.
10. Make feeding a treat, for example feed birds only three times per week.



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

If someone else is feeding wildlife and it is causing a nuisance often the best approach is to talk to the person and discuss your concerns in a calm and respectful manner.

Council doesn't have any powers to stop people from feeding birds.

But if the feeding and watering of birds is causing an increase in rats, mice or mosquitos, Council may be able to assist. The *Public Health Act 2005* has provisions regarding the public health risks caused by designated pests, being rats, mice and mosquitoes.

It is an offence to provide or likely to provide, harbourage, a breeding ground, or a source of food for designated pests.



Council's Vector Management Unit deals with Public Health Risks pertaining to designated pests.

Action may include:

- Issuing a public health order
- Issuing an infringement notice
- Issuing an enforcement order
- Obtaining warrants which will enable Council to enter the property and assess, remove, or reduce the public health risk

In addition, if it is proven that your actions have affected a neighbour, they may seek damages through Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.