# HEALTH & COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

# AGENDA

# 5 AUGUST 2014

*Your attendance is required at a meeting of the Health & Compliance Committee to be held in the Council Chambers, 232 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton on 5 August 2014 commencing at 3.00 pm for transaction of the enclosed business.*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
29 July 2014

Next Meeting Date: 02.09.14

**Please note:**

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, please be advised that all discussion held during the meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

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# 1 OPENING

# 2 PRESENT

Members Present:

Councillor C E Smith (Chairperson)
The Mayor, Councillor M F Strelow
Councillor N K Fisher
Councillor A P Williams

In Attendance:

Mr E Pardon – Chief Executive Officer
Mr M Rowe – General Manager Community Services

# 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

# 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Health & Compliance Committee held 1 July 2014

# 5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

# 6 BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

## 6.1 BUSINESS OUTSTANDING TABLE FOR HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

| | |
|---|---|
| **File No:** | **10097** |
| **Attachments:** | **1. Business Outstanding Table for Health and Compliance** |
| **Responsible Officer:** | **Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer** |
| **Author:** | **Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer** |

**SUMMARY**

*The Business Outstanding table is used as a tool to monitor outstanding items resolved at previous Council or Committee Meetings. The current Business Outstanding table for the Health and Compliance Committee is presented for Councillors' information.*

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Business Outstanding Table for the Health and Compliance Committee be received.

# BUSINESS OUTSTANDING TABLE FOR HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

## Business Outstanding Table for Health and Compliance

**Meeting Date: 5 August 2014**

**Attachment No: 1**

| Date | Report Title | Resolution | Responsible Officer | Due Date | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 July 2014 | Pest Survey Program 1 September 2014 - 30 November 2014 | THAT in accordance with the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, Council approves the Pest Survey Program, as detailed in the report, for the locality of Alton Downs between Monday 1 September 2014 and Sunday 30 November 2014. | Catherine Hayes | 15/07/2014 | |

# 7 PUBLIC FORUMS/DEPUTATIONS

Nil

# 8 OFFICERS' REPORTS

Nil

# 9 STRATEGIC REPORTS

## 9.1 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITY STATEMENT FOR JUNE 2014

**File No:** 1464

**Attachments:** Nil

**Authorising Officer:** Michael Rowe - General Manager Community Services

**Author:** Catherine Hayes - Manager Health & Environment / Acting Manager Local Laws


### SUMMARY

*This report provides information about the activities of Rockhampton Regional Council's Environment and Health Section for the month of June 2014. The Section consists of three Units namely Environment and Public Health, Pest Management and Vector Management.*


### OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Health and Environment Activity Statement for June 2014 be received.

### COMMENTARY

### ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

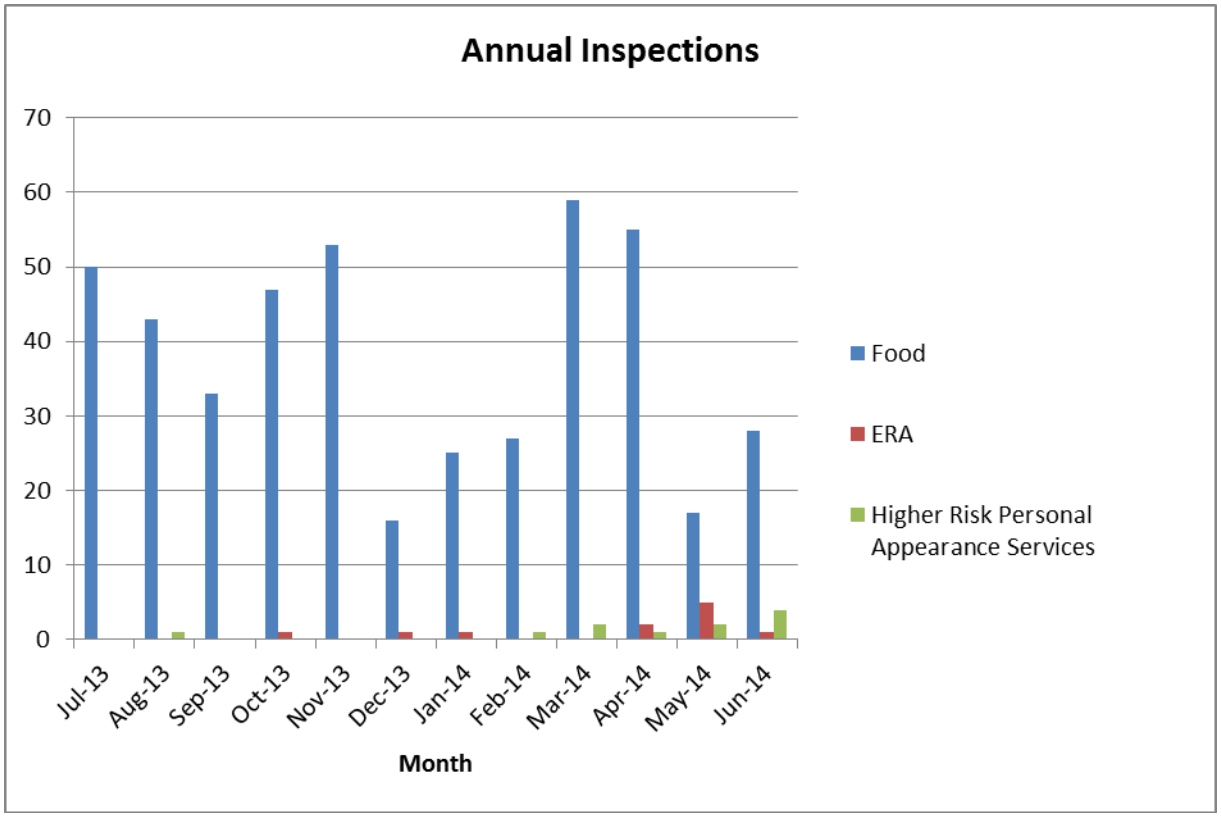
The following is a summary of the activities of the Environment and Public Health Unit for the month of June 2014.

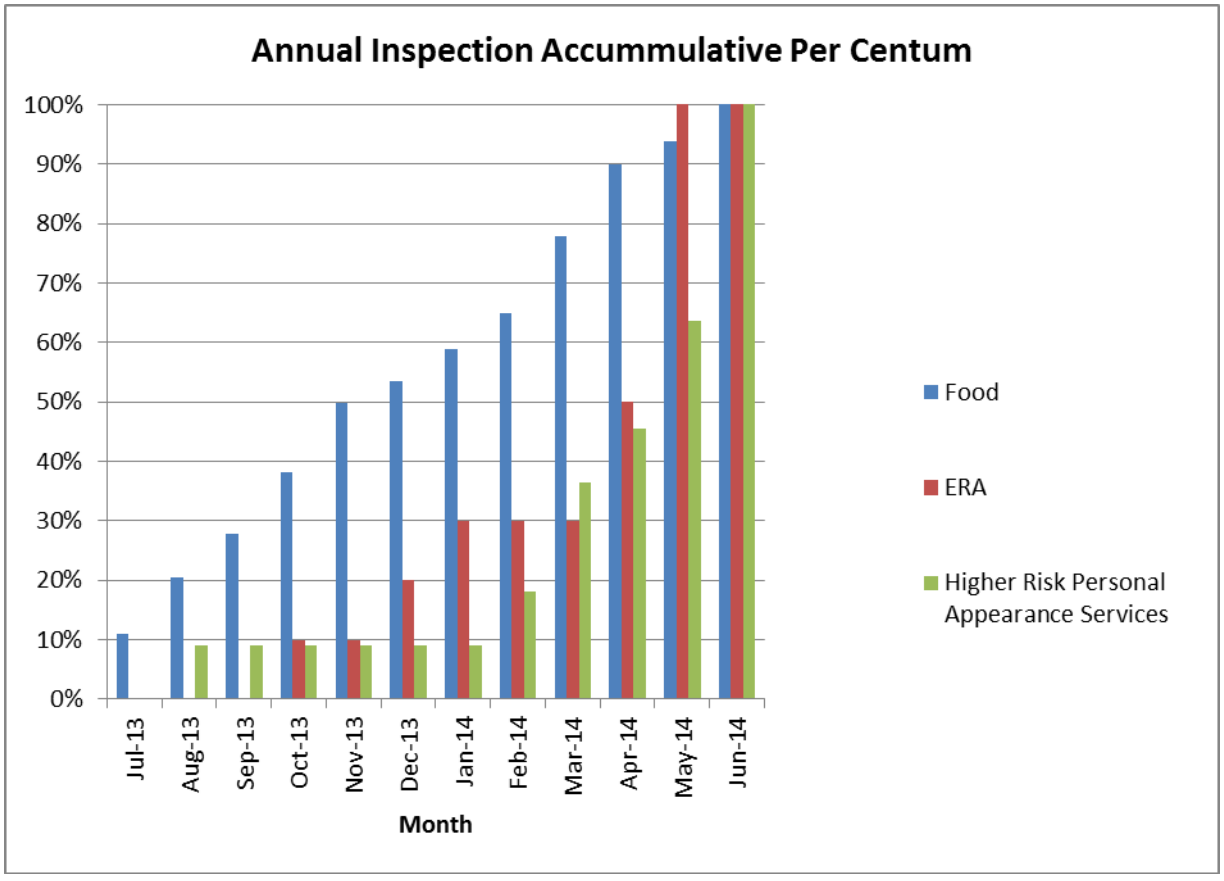
**Applications Received**

| Business Type | Applications Received |
|---|---|
| Food Business | 7 |
| Higher Risk Personal Appearance Services | 1 |
| Environmentally Relevant Activity | 0 |

**Annual Inspections Undertaken**

| Business Type | Annual Inspections | Per Centum Of Businesses Inspected |
|---|---|---|
| Food Business | 28 | 6 |
| Higher Risk Personal Appearance Services | 4 | 36 |
| Environmentally Relevant Activity | 1 | 9 |


Annual Inspections
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Jul-13
Aug-13
Sep-13
Oct-13
Nov-13
Dec-13
Jan-14
Feb-14
Mar-14
Apr-14
May-14
Jun-14
Month
Food
ERA
Higher Risk Personal Appearance Services


Annual Inspection Accummulative Per Centum
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Jul-13
Aug-13
Sep-13
Oct-13
Nov-13
Dec-13
Jan-14
Feb-14
Mar-14
Apr-14
May-14
Jun-14
Month
Food
ERA
Higher Risk Personal Appearance Services

## PEST MANAGEMENT

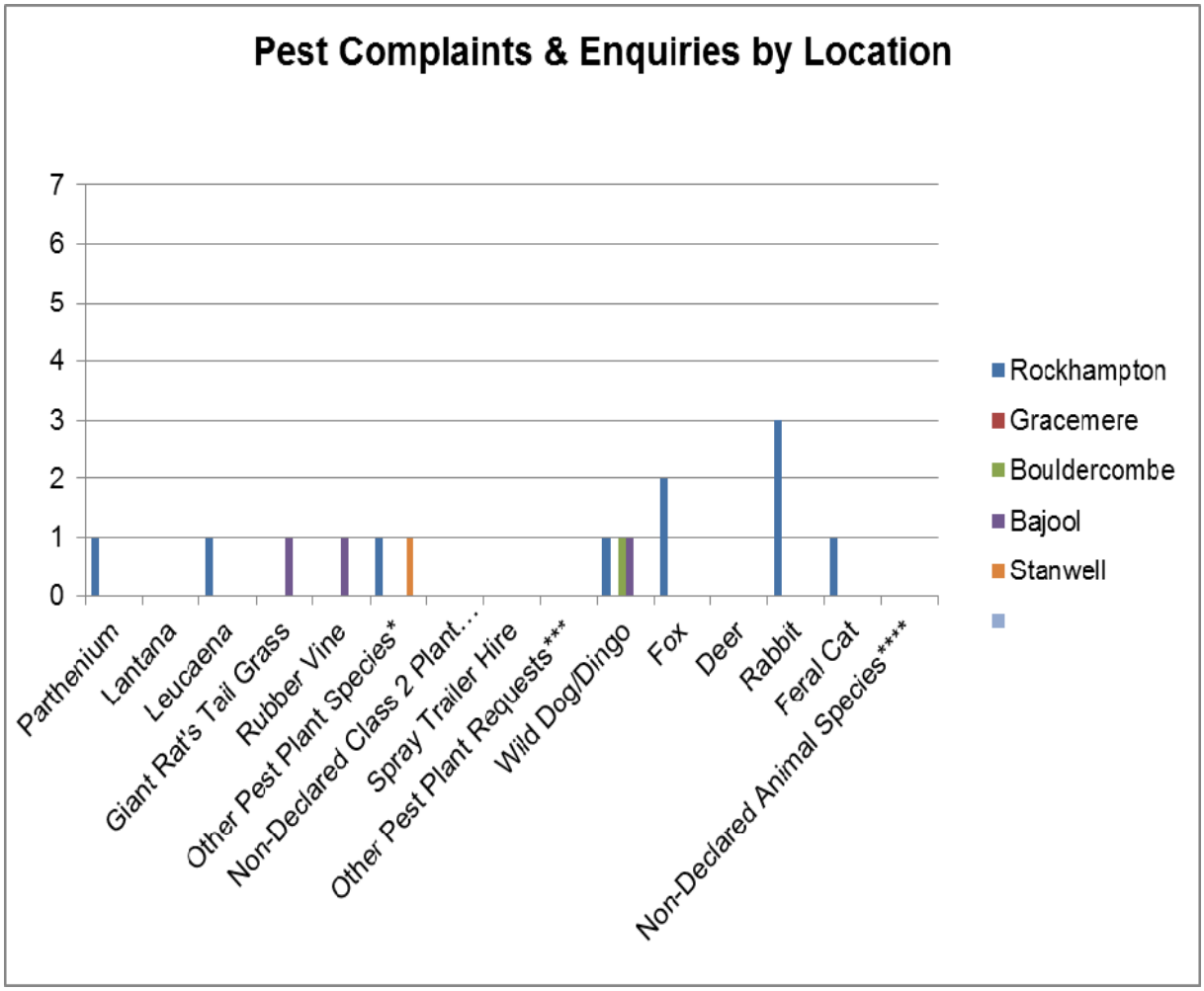
The following is a summary of the activities of the Pest Management Unit for the month of June 2014.

### Complaints and Enquiries from Council's Customer Request System

The following table and associated graph were developed from information sourced from Council's customer request system and provides a précis for the requests received and actioned:

**Pest Complaints and Enquiries by Location**

| | Rockhampton | Gracemere | Bouldercombe | Bajool | Stanwell |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Parthenium** | 1 | | | | |
| **Lantana** | | | | | |
| **Leucaena** | 1 | | | | |
| **Giant Rat's Tail Grass** | | | | 1 | |
| **Rubber Vine** | | | | 1 | |
| **Other Pest Plant Species*** | 1 | | | | 1 |
| **Non-Declared Class 2 Plant Species**** | | | | | |
| **Spray Trailer Hire** | | | | | |
| **Other Pest Plant Requests***** | | | | | |
| **Wild Dog/Dingo** | 1 | | 1 | 1 | |
| **Fox** | 2 | | | | |
| **Deer** | | | | | |
| **Rabbit** | 3 | | | | |
| **Feral Cat** | 1 | | | | |
| **Non-Declared Animal Species****** | | | | | |
| **TOTAL** | **10** | **0** | **1** | **3** | **1** |




## VECTOR MANAGEMENT

The following is a summary of the activities of the Vector Management Unit for the month of June 2014.

**Surveillance of Fitzroy River:** Due to the cooler weather conditions experienced during this month no surveillance was scheduled to be undertaken.

**Surveillance of Urban Saltmarsh:** Due to the cooler weather conditions experienced during this month no surveillance was scheduled to be undertaken.

**Surveillance of Freshwater Areas:** Due to the cooler weather conditions and low amount of rainfall received during this month no surveillance was undertaken.

**Property Inspections:** Property inspections for dengue management were undertaken on twenty eight properties. The inspections found no breeding occurring.

**Disease Notifications:** The following tables provide data relevant to disease notifications in the Rockhampton Region and surrounding areas for June 2014.

**Disease Notifications for Rockhampton Regional Council**

| Disease | Barmah Forest virus | Ross River virus | Dengue fever |
|---|---|---|---|
| No of Cases Reported | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Suburb | Gracemere | Depot Hill<br>Gracemere<br>Park Avenue<br>Rockhampton City | |

**Disease Notifications for Gladstone, Livingstone, Mackay and Rockhampton Councils including Incidence Number (rate/100,000 population)**

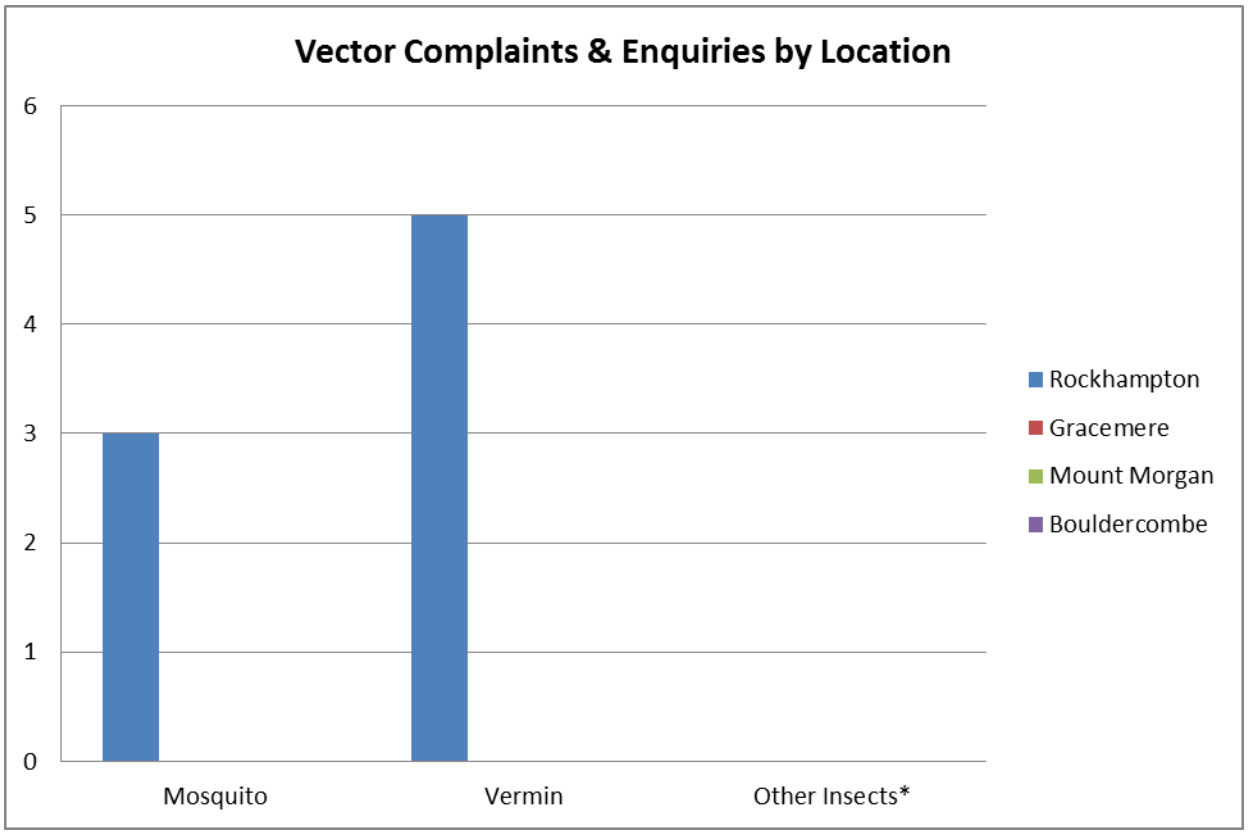
| Local Government | Barmah Forest virus | Ross River virus | Dengue fever |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gladstone Regional Council | 0 | 7 (11.11) | 0 |
| Livingstone Shire Council | 1 (3.03) | 2 (6.06) | 0 |
| Mackay Regional Council | 2 (1.68) | 4 (3.36) | 0 |
| Rockhampton Regional Council | 1 (1.17) | 4 (4.70) | 0 |

**Complaints and Enquiries from Council's Customer Request System**

The following table and associated graph were developed from information sourced from Council's customer request system, and provides a précis for the requests received and actioned:

**Vector Complaints and Enquiries by Location**

| | Rockhampton | Gracemere | Mount Morgan | Bouldercombe |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mosquito | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vermin | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **8** | **0** | **0** | **0** |



## 9.2 LOCAL LAWS MONTHLY STATISTICS FOR JUNE 2014

| | |
|---|---|
| **File No:** | **1464** |
| **Attachments:** | **1. Local Laws Monthly Statistics for June 2014** |
| **Authorising Officer:** | **Michael Rowe - General Manager Community Services** |
| **Author:** | **Catherine Hayes - Manager Health & Environment / Acting Manager Local Laws** |

**SUMMARY**

*The Local Laws Monthly Statistics for June 2014 is submitted for consideration of the Health and Compliance Committee.*

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Local Laws Monthly Statistics for June 2014 be received.

**COMMENTARY**

| Month | No. of Dogs Regulated |
|---|---|
| July 2013 | 1 |
| August 2013 | 3 |
| September 2013 | 8 |
| October 2013 | 3 |
| November 2013 | 2 |
| December 2013 | 0 |
| January 2014 | 1 |
| February 2014 | 1 |
| March 2014 | 1 |
| April 2014 | 0 |
| May 2014 | 0 |
| June 2014 | 0 |

# LOCAL LAWS MONTHLY STATISTICS FOR JUNE 2014

# Local Laws Monthly Statistics for June 2014

## Meeting Date: 5 August 2014

## Attachment No: 1

# Monthly Count of Animal and Local Laws Requests Received and Completed June 2014

**Requests Received - June 2014**

| ANIMAL | Animal Dead Collection | |
|---|---|---|
| ANDEAD | Animal Dead Collection | 26 |
| ANDOGR | Dog Registration Enquiry | 7 |
| ANINUI | Animal Nuisance (Noise, Odour) *Not Barking Dogs * | 17 |
| ANLOST | Animal Lost/Found | 39 |
| ANMULT | Animals (more than permitted number) | 16 |
| ANSTCO | Animal Collection Stray (not owned, restrained) | 71 |
| ANTRPL | Cat Trap Lending | 12 |
| DATTAN | Dog Attack on Animal (Alleged) CSO | 11 |
| DATTKP | Dog Attack on Person (Alleged) CSO | 24 |
| WANANI | Wandering Animals (dogs, cats, poultry) | 134 |
| WANSTK | Wandering Stock | 14 |
| **LLREGP** | **Regulated Parking** | |
| LLREGP | Regulated Parking | 28 |
| **LOLAWS** | **Comm Compliance Barking Letter/Visitors Advice** | |
| CCVISI | Comm Compliance Barking Letter/Visitors Advice | 7 |
| INFRIN | Infringement Enquiry - Local Laws | 57 |
| LLHVPK | Heavy Vehicle Parking | 3 |
| LLOGRO | Overgrown Allotments | 44 |
| LLOQUE | New Local Laws Query (Jan 2012) | 12 |
| LLOUTD | Outdoor Dining | 4 |
| LLPADV | Portable Advertising/Election Sign Complaint/Enq. | 4 |
| LLPERM | Local Laws - Permit Enquiry | 10 |
| LLRDVN | Roadside Vending | 8 |
| LLTREM | Tree Removal Complaint (Local Laws) | 2 |
| STAGE1 | Barking Dog Complaint - Stage 1 | 75 |
| STAGE2 | Barking Dog Complaint - Stage 2 LLEO Use Only | 19 |
| VEHNUI | Nuisance Vehicle | 20 |
| | | **664** |

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**Requests Received and Completed - June 2014**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **ANIMAL** | **Animal Dead Collection** | |
| ANDEAD | Animal Dead Collection | 26 |
| ANDOGR | Dog Registration Enquiry | 6 |
| ANINUI | Animal Nuisance (Noise, Odour) *Not Barking Dogs * | 9 |
| ANLOST | Animal Lost/Found | 39 |
| ANMULT | Animals (more than permitted number) | 14 |
| ANSTCO | Animal Collection Stray (not owned, restrained) | 68 |
| ANTRPL | Cat Trap Lending | 12 |
| DATTAN | Dog Attack on Animal (Alleged) CSO | 3 |
| DATTKP | Dog Attack on Person (Alleged) CSO | 8 |
| WANANI | Wandering Animals (dogs, cats, poultry) | 114 |
| WANSTK | Wandering Stock | 13 |
| **LLREGP** | **Regulated Parking** | |
| LLREGP | Regulated Parking | 26 |
| **LOLAWS** | **Comm Compliance Barking Letter/Visitors Advice** | |
| CCVISI | Comm Compliance Barking Letter/Visitors Advice | 7 |
| INFRIN | Infringement Enquiry - Local Laws | 51 |
| LLHVPK | Heavy Vehicle Parking | 3 |
| LLOGRO | Overgrown Allotments | 26 |
| LLOQUE | New Local Laws Query (Jan 2012) | 12 |
| LLOUTD | Outdoor Dining | 4 |
| LLPADV | Portable Advertising/Election Sign Complaint/Enq. | 4 |
| LLPERM | Local Laws - Permit Enquiry | 6 |
| LLRDVN | Roadside Vending | 5 |
| LLTREM | Tree Removal Complaint (Local Laws) | 2 |
| STAGE1 | Barking Dog Complaint - Stage 1 | 74 |
| STAGE2 | Barking Dog Complaint - Stage 2 LLEO Use Only | 6 |
| VEHNUI | Nuisance Vehicle | 13 |
| | | **551** |

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# Monthly Count of Animals Impounded
# June 2014

| Impound Type | Count |
|---|---|
| PI - Stray surrendered to Pound by Public | 27 |
| SC - Stray secured at property collected by Officer | 69 |
| SD - Surrendered by Owner/Seizure and Destruction | 2 |
| SO - Surrendered during investigation to Officer | 2 |
| SP - Surrendered by Owner/Keeper to Pound | 17 |
| T- Caught in Trap and taken to Pound | 21 |
| W- Wandering dog impounded by Officer | 61 |
| **Total for Jun-14** | **199** |

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# Monthly Count of Animals at the Pound
# June 2014

| Status | Count |
|---|---|
| C- Taken by Capricorn Animal Aide | 17 |
| EA - Euthanased (Aggressive) | 6 |
| ED - Euthanased (Diseased) | 7 |
| EO - Euthanased (other) | 53 |
| EOR- Euthanased (Owner's Request) | 7 |
| O- Released to Owner | 76 |
| R- Taken by RSPCA | 25 |
| W- Taken by Australian Working Dog Rescue | 1 |
| D- Duplicate Record created in error | 2 |
| I- Impounded | 5 |
| **Total for Jun-14** | **199** |

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# Monthly Count of Animals at the Pound
# June 2014

| Status | Count |
|---|---|
| **C- Taken by Capricorn Animal Aide** | **17** |
| Dog | 16 |
| Cat | 1 |
| **EA - Euthanased (Aggressive)** | **6** |
| Cat | 6 |
| **ED - Euthanased (Diseased)** | **7** |
| Dog | 5 |
| Cat | 2 |
| **EO - Euthanased (other)** | **53** |
| Dog | 32 |
| Cat | 21 |
| **EOR- Euthanased (Owner's Request)** | **7** |
| Dog | 7 |
| **O- Released to Owner** | **76** |
| Dog | 73 |
| Cat | 3 |
| **R- Taken by RSPCA** | **25** |
| Dog | 15 |
| Cat | 10 |
| **W- Taken by Australian Working Dog Rescue** | **1** |
| Dog | 1 |
| **D- Duplicate Record created in error** | **2** |
| Dog | 2 |
| **I- Impounded** | **5** |
| Dog | 5 |
| **Total for Jun-14** | **199** |

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# Monthly Count of Animals that Cannot be Re-homed (euthanised) June 2014

| Status | Count |
|---|---|
| EA - Euthanased (Aggressive) | 6 |
| ED - Euthanased (Diseased) | 7 |
| EO - Euthanased (other) | 53 |
| EOR- Euthanased (Owner's Request) | 7 |
| **Total for Jun-14** | **73** |

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# Monthly Count of Infringements Issued June 2014

| Offence Type Code | Description | Ticket Number |
|---|---|---|
| **1PK** | **Parking Infringements** | **387** |
| P6.16 | Stopped in loading zone longer than permitted | 5 |
| P6.21A | Permit Zone - Red Cross Blood Bank | 16 |
| P6.21C | permit Zone - other areas | 3 |
| P6.27 | Stopped on bicycle path, footpath etc | 6 |
| P6.31 | Stopped contrary to a disabilities sign | 9 |
| P6.32A | Parked longer than permitted (2hr) | 251 |
| P6.32B | Parked longer than permitted (1hr) | 14 |
| P6.32C | Parked longer than permitted (3hr) | 34 |
| P6.32D | Parked longer than permitted (half hour) | 16 |
| P6.32G | Parked longer than permitted (4hr) | 1 |
| P6.38B | Stopped heavy/long vehilce longer than 1 hour | 1 |
| P6.38C | Stopped vehicle in no parking zone | 3 |
| P6.5 | Parked vehicle not wholly within the space | 1 |
| P6.6 | Stopped contrary to a no stopping sign | 12 |
| P6.7 | Stopped on a continuous yellow edge line | 15 |
| **ANI** | **Animal Infringements (Act & RRC local law)** | **149** |
| A1.18D | 1-26(7) Failure to comply-keeping dogs on premise | 1 |
| A1.19D | 1-27(6) Failure to comply with keeping dogs | 11 |
| A14.1 | 14(1) Owner must ensure cat or dog is implanted | 3 |
| A2.5 | 2-12(1) Animal not under effective control | 1 |
| A2.9 | 2-14(3) Animal found wandering at large | 69 |
| A44.2 | 44(2) Failure by Owner to register new cat or dog | 45 |
| A54.3 | 54(3) Failure to amend registration details | 1 |
| A57.2 | 57(2) Failure to renew registration | 17 |
| A97.1 | 97(1) Failure to comply with schedule 1 | 1 |
| **LOC** | **Local Law Infringements (excl animals and parking)** | **9** |
| A1.18D | 1-26(7) Failure to comply-keeping dogs on premise | 1 |
| L1.23 | 1-27(6) Failure to comply-overgrown allotment | 8 |
| | **Total for Jun-14** | **545** |

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Rockhampton Regional Council

# Parking Infringements Comparison Year to Date June 2014




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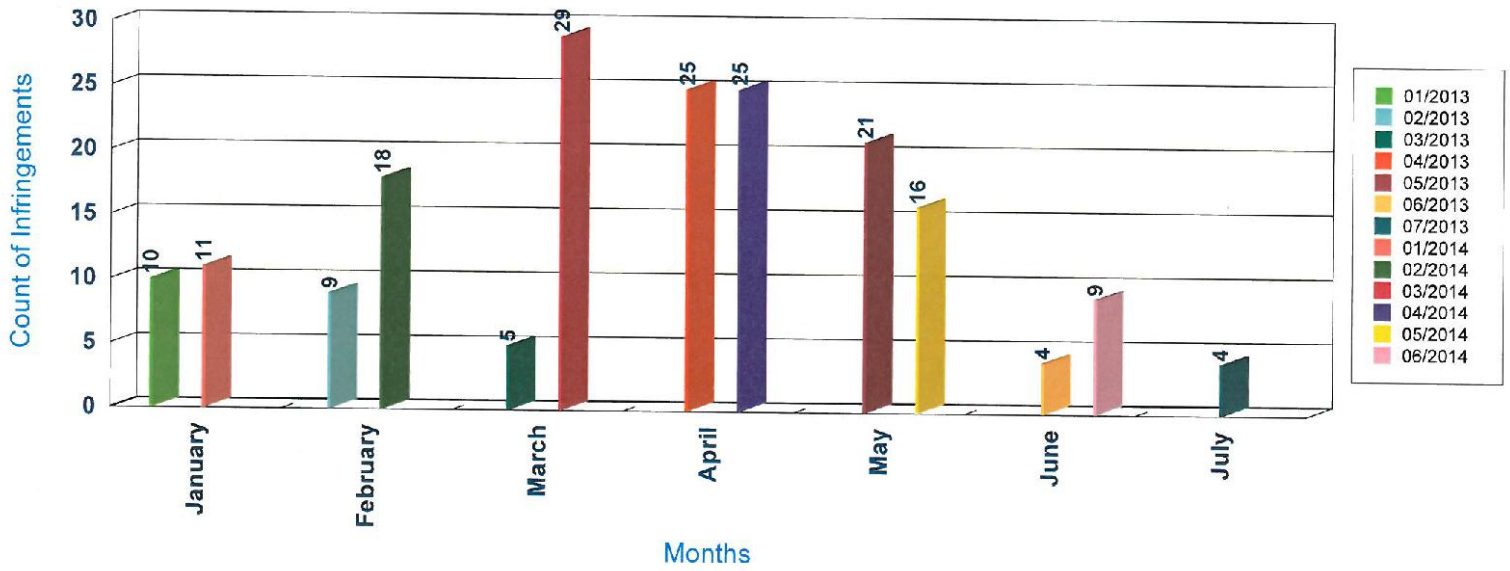
Rockhampton Regional Council

# Local Law Infringements Comparison Year to Date June 2014

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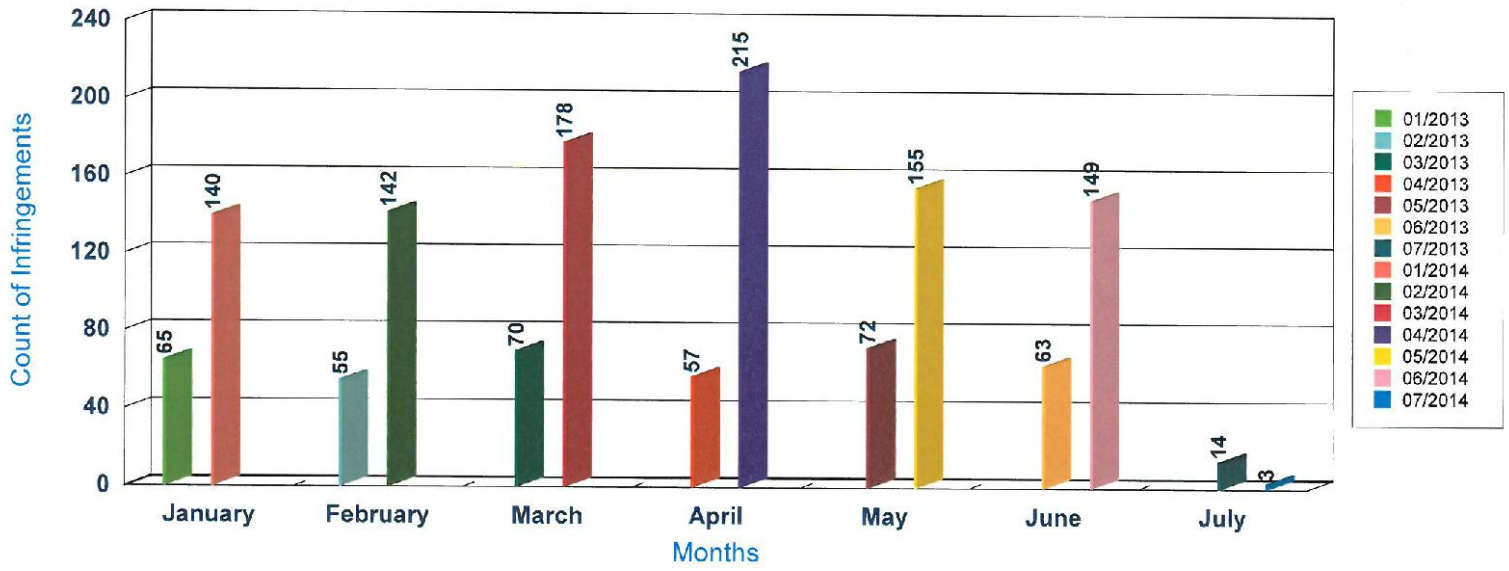
Rockhampton Regional Council

# Animal Infringements Comparison Year to Date June 2014

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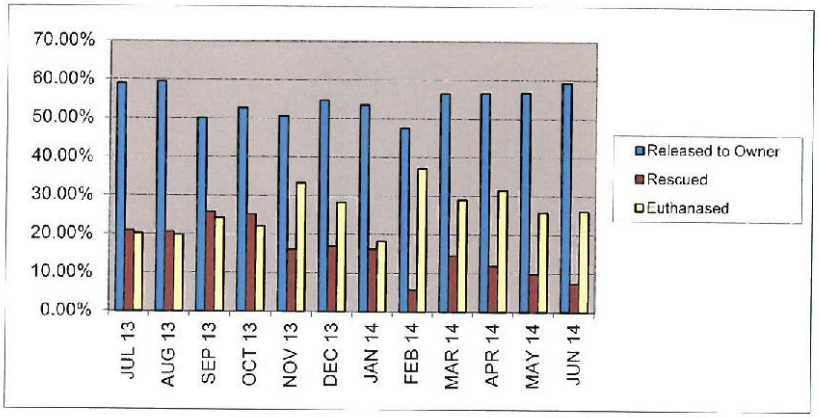
DOGS - Viable for Re-Homing

| MONTH | Number of Dogs | Released to Owner | Rescued | Euthanased |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| JUL 13 | 144 | 59.03% | 20.83% | 20.14% |
| AUG 13 | 131 | 59.54% | 20.61% | 19.85% |
| SEP 13 | 128 | 50.00% | 25.78% | 24.22% |
| OCT 13 | 132 | 52.67% | 25.19% | 22.14% |
| NOV 13 | 156 | 50.64% | 16.03% | 33.33% |
| DEC 13 | 159 | 54.72% | 16.98% | 28.30% |
| JAN 14 | 99 | 53.54% | 16.16% | 18.18% |
| FEB 14 | 124 | 47.58% | 5.65% | 37.10% |
| MAR 14 | 131 | 56.49% | 14.50% | 29.01% |
| APR 14 | 143 | 56.64% | 11.89% | 31.47% |
| MAY 14 | 132 | 56.82% | 9.85% | 25.76% |
| JUN 14 | 123 | 59.35% | 7.32% | 26.02% |



## 9.3 INDIAN MYNAS IN THE CAPRICORN REGION OF CENTRAL QUEENSLAND 2011-2014

| | |
|---|---|
| **File No:** | **1464** |
| **Attachments:** | **1. Indian Mynas (Acridotheres tristi) in the Capricorn Region of Central Queensland 2011-2014.**<br>**2. Indian Myna Fact Sheet** |
| **Authorising Officer:** | **Michael Rowe - General Manager Community Services** |
| **Author:** | **Catherine Hayes - Manager Health & Environment / Acting Manager Local Laws** |


### SUMMARY

*The Manager Health and Environment is presenting the Indian Mynas (Acridotheres tristi) in the Capricorn Region of Central Queensland 2011-2014 report for Council's information.*


### OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives the Indian Mynas (*Acridotheres tristi*) in the Capricorn Region of Central Queensland 2011-2014 report for their information.

### COMMENTARY

Indian myna birds are an introduced species of bird that have the potential to expand their range and become more abundant in a variety of open habitats. Indian mynas have the potential to cause damage including reduce the breeding success of native parrot species, compete for tree hollows with other native wildlife, act as a potential reservoir for diseases that affect native birds, damage fruit, vegetables and cereal crops, spread seeds such as lantana.

A control strategy was agreed between BirdLife Capricornia and Rockhampton Regional Council in February 2013 to establish protocols for the trapping and euthanizing of the birds. The attached report outlines how the program was carried out, the results and the strategy for detection and management of future sightings.

### LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Indian mynas are not declared pests under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002.*

Indian mynas are not protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Indian mynas and their eggs that are more than half incubated are defined as 'animals' under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

Indian mynas are not a declared local pest under *Subordinate Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011.*

Local governments do not have an obligation to control Indian mynas, but may do so.

# INDIAN MYNAS IN THE CAPRICORN REGION OF CENTRAL QUEENSLAND 2011-2014

# Indian Mynas (Acridotheres tristi) in the Capricorn Region of Central Queensland 2011-2014

## Meeting Date: 5 August 2014

## Attachment No: 1

# Indian Mynas (*Acridotheres tristi)* in the Capricorn Region of Central Queensland 2011 – 2014

**By Dave Mitchell, Rod Elder and Melanie Niblett; Rockhampton 28/5/2014**

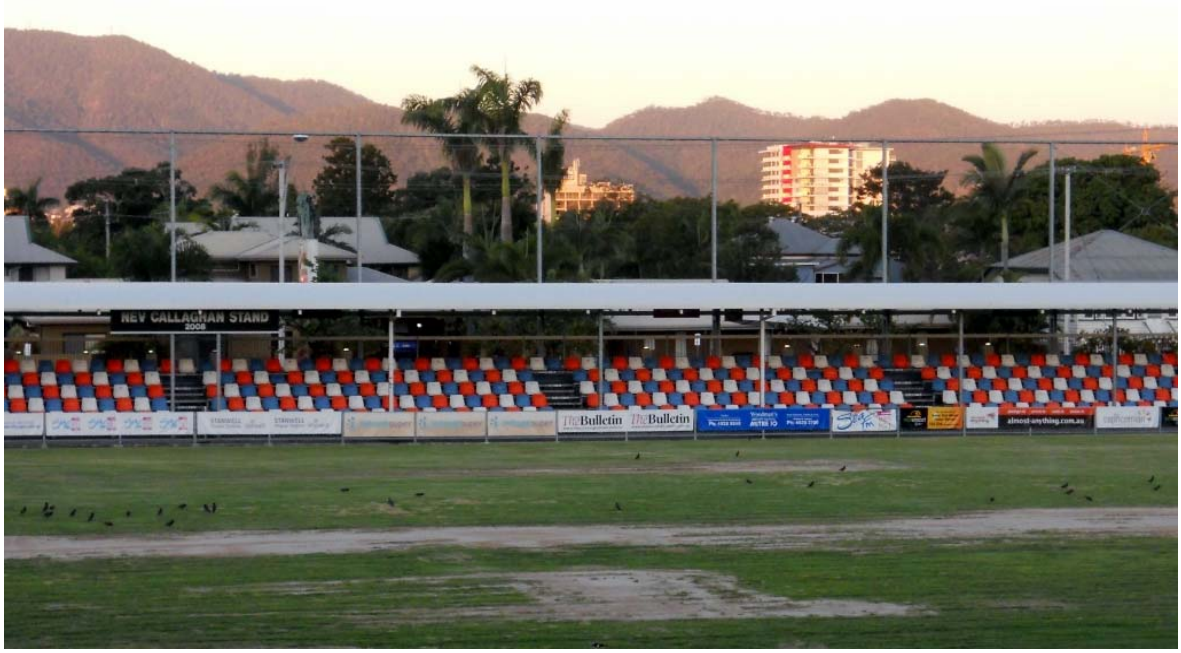



Figure 1. Browne Park, the location of the trapping programme at Rockhampton.

Figure 2. Indian Mynas feeding on the ground at Browne Park Rockhampton.

## Summary

A trapping program at Rockhampton captured three of a population of 27 birds and three of a population of six at Emu Park in Central Queensland. The total population disappeared shortly after the last birds were captured. This coincided with the start of the first wet season rains and at a time when roosting flocks are known to disperse into mating pairs. The fate of the dispersing birds is not known. However it appeared that trapping one of a pair of birds resulted in dispersal of the other which reduced and then broke up the smaller Emu Park population and remaining two pairs of birds at Rockhampton. Use of lure birds in the traps proved critical. The program results suggest that Myna establishment in new areas can be prevented with a relatively small effort. Future trapping should be done in August, September and October following community reporting in July. Timing of these events is based on removing birds at the end of the non breeding season when populations should be at a minimum size.

## Introduction

Indian Mynas are an introduced species of bird which potentially cause large reductions of populations of native birds (Grarock *et al.* 2013; Orchan *et al.* 2013; Grarock *et al.* 2014a) and are a nuisance problem in buildings due to the large amounts of droppings produced and mite and lice problems for owners. There are a number of programs throughout eastern Australia aimed at reducing their numbers to below a level at which they are a problem (Grarock *et al.* 2014b).

A Control Strategy was agreed between BirdLife Capricornia and Rockhampton Regional Council in February 2013 to establish protocols for the trapping and euthanizing of the birds. A program was initiated by Allan Briggs in Rockhampton in 2013 to try and remove the small numbers which had appeared in the district, both in Rockhampton and the surrounding areas, since 2011. A known population of to 24 birds was sighted in March 2013 roosting in the stadium lighting at Browne Park rugby ground in Rockhampton (Figures 1 & 2). This number had increased to 27 by November 2013 with members of the public notifying of smaller numbers outside of the city.

This document is a report on how the program was carried out, the results and the strategy for detection and management of future sightings.

## Methods

Two traps consisting of a trap section with two crab trap type entrances and a holding section on one side (Figure 3) were obtained from Lindsay Boyd, Conservation Officer, Gladstone Regional Council. Lindsay had tried numerous food sources in an extended attempt to trap Mynas in Gladstone without success.

Melanie Niblett of Birdlife Capricornia initiated an attempt to trap Mynas at Browne Park in Rockhampton in mid to late 2013'. Melanie tried all the recommended food sources without success. It was decided that we should access 4 lure or Judas birds to try and improve trapping results. These were obtained from Spencer Katt, Area Coordinator, Indian Myna Control Project, Bundaberg Regional Council. Spencer runs a successful trapping program in Childers using lure birds. At this stage Melanie was transferred to Townsville and Rod and Jeanette Elder and Dave Mitchell from the then Rockhampton Regional Council took over the running of the trapping.

Trapping with the use of lure birds commenced at Browne Park on the 29 October 2013. Each bird had their toe nails painted with purple nail polish to allow identification. One of these birds escaped on the first day of trapping. On 4 November2013 all the Childers birds were taken to a Vet where their wings were cut to reduce likelihood of escape. They were also examined for health and treated for internal and external parasites

Two of the birds were taken to Emu Park to assist in trapping a small population of 6 birds at that location and the remaining 2 birds were held in Rockhampton for trapping the birds at Browne Park.

At Browne Park the trap was put out 3 times a week for 1-2 hours in the late afternoon when the birds returned to the site. The Judas bird was placed in a medium sized bird cage beside the trap. Grated cheese was placed in the runways of the trap with the majority of the food at the inner end of the runway (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Crab type trap with runways blocked with newspaper to prevent escape. The Judas bird is in the small white cage. The captured bird is in the central cage part of the trap.

At Emu Park the two Judas birds were put in the holding section of the trap and held at a residential site. Dog food sausage was used as a bait.

## Results

***Rockhampton***

At Browne Park and the surrounding area, the number of Mynas increased from a total sighting of 2 in November 2011 to a maximum of 27 on 12 November 2013 (Figure 4). From there numbers decreased to 4 on 19 November 2013 following a period of 6 days of rain commencing 14 November. Numbers then declined gradually with none observed between December 2013 and the current date (28/5/14). Three birds were caught between mid November and early December 2013 (Figure 4.)

The period from July to September coincides with the dry season in this region. However, rainfall was below average with 23 ml in July, 0 in August, 3 ml in September, 41 ml in October, 62 ml in November and 3 ml in December. The November rainfall signalled the start of the storm season which is relatively late with 6 days of wet weather starting on 14 November. This coincided with the dispersal of the majority of the Mynas and the observation of two pairs occupying breeding territories at Browne Park.

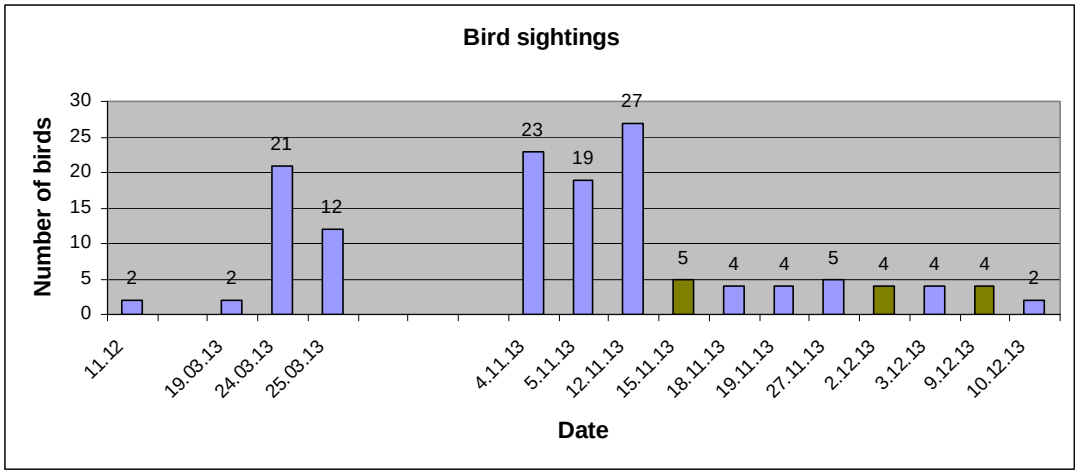



Figure 4. Number of birds observed in and adjacent to Browne Park with the number caught. Lure birds were used from 29 October 2013. The coloured bars indicate when one bird was captured and euthanized.

Pairs of Myna birds were seen taking nesting material and later food up to the top of the very tall multiple lighting poles on the NE and SW corner of Browne Park from mid November. The pairs were very territorial, chasing the other pair if they moved too close and chasing any other birds that appeared. The first bird caught was the escaped Childers bird, identified by its purple painted toe nails. When one bird was removed from a pair the remaining bird disappeared**.**

***Yeppoon to Emu Park***

Small numbers of Mynas were observed along the coast from Cooee Bay to Emu Park (Table 2) including Zilzie (Table 3) where 3 birds were captured and euthanized. All birds disappeared in December as they did in Rockhampton.

Table 2. Indian Mynas observed Yeppoon to Emu Park.

| Date | Location | Number Present |
|---|---|---|
| 25/3/13 | Rosslyn St, Rosslyn Bay | 'lots' |
| 1/4/13 | Skate rink, Emu Park | 4 |
| 1/4/13 | Warnock St, Emu Park | 2 |
| 2/4/13 | Davidson St, Cooee Bay | 6 |
| 23/4/13 | Bell Park, Emu Park | 4 |

Table 3. Number of birds observed in the vicinity of Connor St, Zilzie with number euthanized. Judas birds were used from 1 November 2013.

| Date | Number Present |
|---|---|
| Nov 2012 | 1 |
| 1/4/13 | 2 |
| 16/7/13 | 2 |
| Oct 2013 | 6 |
| Nov 2013 | 3 birds euthanized |
| Dec 2013 | *** |

*** no more birds seen up to the current date 28/5/13

***Other Observations in the region***

Small numbers of birds were observed at locations in, near and at some distance from Rockhampton (Table 4).

In 2008 there were unconfirmed reports from the Gracemere area (10 km west of Rockhampton) and in 2009 there were reports of a bird from Biloela (150 km SW of Rockhampton). The bird has not been seen there since. Mynas are not present in Mackay (300km to the north of Rockhampton; Daniel Burndred *pers. comm*.). In Gladstone (100km to the south) there were an estimated 50 birds in 2013, an increase from around 30 birds over the previous two years (Lindsay Boyd and others). Very small numbers of birds are occasionally reported in the mainly grazing land between Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone.

Table 4. Indian Mynas observed in areas other than in and adjacent to Browne Park and between Yeppoon to Emu Park.

| Date | Location | Number Present |
|---|---|---|
| 5/10/2011 | "Torilla" Cattle Station (100 km N Rockhampton) | 1 |
| 17/11/12 | Rockhampton Dump Lakes Crk. Rd. | 1 |
| Nov 2012 | Six Mile Rd Wandal | 2 |
| 24/03/2013 | East Barmoya Rd | 6 |
| 4/02/2014 | "Glenavon" Cattle Station, W. of Yaamba | 8 **(2)** |

**()** number shot

## Discussion

***Distribution and numbers***

Indian Mynas were first sighted in Rockhampton in October 2012 (1 only) with small numbers spotted later that year in November in Zilzie (1 only) and Six Mile Rd Wandal (2 only). By March 2013 larger numbers (21-24) were reported at Browne Park in Rockhampton with an increase also reported between Yeppoon and Emu Park (about 6). In November 2013, 27 were reported at Browne Park while the numbers between Yeppoon and Emu Park had not increased any further.

Birds Capricornia members have numerous records of various bird species appearing in previously unoccupied areas after storms/and in particular cyclones (Alan Briggs personal communication). It is possible that there is spread of Mynas by this method at irregular intervals. These appearances could also relate to dispersal of birds seeking breeding territories when breeding season starts.

It is interesting to speculate on why Mynas have not established in large numbers in the Capricorn Region even though Mynas have been present in other areas of coastal eastern Australia for a long time (See Pizzey 2012 for distribution).

Markula *et al,* 2009 ( http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/74925/IPA-Indian-Myna-Risk-Assessment.pdf ) undertook a climate suitability analysis which indicated that most of coastal Queensland was suitable for Mynas. They indicated that Mynas preferred built up areas, cropping land and lightly forested land. The Central Queensland region consists mainly of lower rainfall lightly forested grazing land with relatively few patches of cropping.

It is possible that this type of environment is less suitable for Mynas as compared with an area such as Cairns where there are significant areas of cropping in the surrounding area. However numbers in Mackay, which is somewhat similar to Cairns, are also low.

While it is beyond the resources of this study, it could be useful to overlay the climate data, vegetation data and Myna distribution to determine if our knowledge base could be further refined. This information could be useful in determining the threshold number of birds at which control programs should be commenced in Central Queensland. It would be useful to know if we should start control operations when populations reach 6, 12, 27 or more for example.

***Breeding Behaviour and Dispersal***

The breeding season of the Myna is between October and March with pairing and dispersal occurring during this time and flocking behaviour occurring outside the breeding season (Pizzey & Knight 2012; Indian Myna Control Project; Managing the Invasion of Indian Myna in the Childers Area by the Bundaberg Regional Council (undated)). The observations of birds at Browne Park agree with this; breeding commenced in November 2013 and flocking behaviour was observed in March 2013 and before November 2013.

Territorial breeding behaviour in Myna birds was observed at Browne Park at the time of the first stormy weather in November 2013. Where there were previously 27 birds roosting at the park, this rapidly declined to 2 pairs occupying and aggressively defending territories at either end of the football field. The birds nested in the light array towers in opposite corners and were seen taking nesting material and food up to the nests.

It is to be hoped that the 20+ birds that dispersed from Browne Park have not survived. If not they may have formed pairs and bred. If so it will be useful to monitor if a flock reforms and reoccupies Browne Park or elsewhere.

***Trapping Efficacy***

The study shows the importance of lure or Judas birds in bringing the wild birds to the traps. The experience, both in this study and at Gladstone (ref Lindsay Boyd) indicate the lack of success without Judas birds. The type of food is not very important when Judas birds are available. This study also indicates that it might be possible to remove the Gladstone population where it is understood to be still restricted to the CBD and one other area (Lindsey Boyd pers. comm.). The experience using the traps gained by BirdLife Capricorn members will enable an efficient deployment and use of traps should they be needed again.

It is unknown if the effect of trapping several of the birds at each location has resulted in the absence of the birds, with no further observations or reports of Mynas in Rockhampton or Yeppoon/Emu Park since December 2013, a period of 5 months at the time of this report.

While the data set is limited it shows that following the removal of a few birds and at the time of dispersal for breeding the population may have either crashed or moved on. Pairs did not survive when one individual was removed as there was no recruitment of a bird to make up a pair. However if some or all of the birds have survived they could be widely dispersed in pairs or they could have regrouped elsewhere in varying numbers, none of which have yet to be reported.

***Future monitoring and trapping***

In accordance with the local control strategy bird locations and numbers were surveyed and recorded before and after trapping occurred. BirdLife members were asked to advise the coordinator of any sightings throughout the year and the local community was engaged through the distribution of leaflets in five libraries in the region.

Up to a dozen calls were received from members of the public and this resulted in locating birds and recording their distribution and numbers. This demonstrates the importance of involving the community in this type of monitoring programme.

It will be important to maintain monitoring of the area to obtain ongoing data. To ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources future monitoring should be targeted at the time of year when Myna birds are still flocking (typically March to October), occur in larger groups and also when they appear to be more active prior to the breeding season which commences in October/November. It is recommended that BirdLife members continue to be vigilant to look for this species throughout the year and that advertising to members of the public is targeted in July and August so that trapping can be organised in August, September and October.

Future trapping may be more efficient if limited to the non breeding season and in particular August, September and October (Grarock *et al* 2014b). These preliminary results are encouraging and suggest that a relatively minor trapping program could prevent the build up of numbers to unacceptable levels.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Svetlana Jones and her mother Luda who cared for the 4 lure birds during the many months when the birds were not deployed. Wayne Houston is thanked for his assistance in searching for and obtaining the scientific references relevant to this study. He, Alan Briggs and Andrew McDougal commented on the document.

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# INDIAN MYNAS IN THE CAPRICORN REGION OF CENTRAL QUEENSLAND 2011-2014

## Indian Myna Fact Sheet

**Meeting Date: 5 August 2014**

**Attachment No: 2**

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Biosecurity Queensland

Fact sheet
PEST ANIMAL
PA32 December 2013

# Indian myna

*Acridotheres tristis*

**Indian myna** (photo courtesy of Richard Taylor http://www.flickr.com/photos/34094515@N00/4637885601)

**Native noisy miner** (photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Noisy_Miner_at_Adelaide_Botanic_Gardens.jpg)

## Declaration details

Indian mynas are not declared pests under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, as declaration would place an obligation on every landholder to take control measures.

Indian mynas are not protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Indian mynas and their eggs that are more than half incubated are defined as 'animals' under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

This legal status means that, although there is no obligation to control Indian mynas, they may be controlled if this is done in a way that causes the animal as little pain as is reasonable.

Local governments do not have an obligation to control Indian mynas, but may do so.

**Great state. Great opportunity.**

Queensland Government

| | Indian myna | Native noisy miner |
|---|---|---|
| Beak colour | Yellow | Yellow |
| Eye patch | Yellow | Yellow |
| Body colour | Brown | Grey |
| Leg colour | Yellow | Flesh coloured |

## Description and general information

The Indian myna is a medium-sized bird native to the Middle East, India and Asia. Indian mynas are brown with a glossy black head, neck and upper breast; bright yellow bills, eye skin, legs and feet; and an upright posture. They are sometimes confused with native noisy miners (*Manorina melanocephala*); however, native noisy miners are grey rather than brown in colour and have flesh-coloured legs rather than the bright yellow legs of the Indian myna.

Indian mynas are an introduced species that have the potential to expand their range and become more abundant in a variety of open habitats, including parks, gardens, suburbs/towns, agricultural areas and some eucalypt woodlands.

Indian mynas prefer areas that have been heavily disturbed by human activities. Clearing trees for agriculture and urban development creates ideal habitat for Indian mynas.

## Potential damage

Where there is favourable habitat, Indian mynas:

- reduce the breeding success of some native parrot species—Indian mynas compete aggressively for nesting hollows and can evict native parrots from nest boxes or tree hollows and even kill eggs and chicks
- compete for tree hollows with other native wildlife (e.g. possums and gliders)—Indian mynas can kill small mammals and remove sugar gliders from tree hollows
- act as a potential reservoir for diseases that affect native birds (e.g. avian malaria)
- damage fruit, vegetable and cereal crops
- spread weeds such as lantana (*Lantana camara*) and fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*)
- form large communal roosts in suburban areas—this generates noise complaints
- cause dermatitis, allergies and asthma in people by nesting in the roofs of houses—Indian mynas carry mites and lice that can affect humans, and nests built in roofs are a possible fire risk.

## Control

### Maintain and restore native habitat

Indian mynas thrive in disturbed habitat. Retaining or restoring native habitat will provide an environment more suitable for native species. Planting local native trees and shrubs and reducing lawn areas will also make the environment less attractive to Indian mynas and encourage native species.

**Native habitat restoration discourages Indian mynas**

### Don't provide food

Dog food, poultry feed, stockfeed, food scraps and seed put out for native birds can all provide food for mynas. Feed pets and livestock where mynas can't access the food and make sure mynas can't access food scraps.

### Limit Indian myna nesting sites

Indian mynas will build nests in tree hollows, nest boxes, roofs, gutters, exotic trees and the dead fronds of palms.

In order to limit nesting sites:

- remove palms or remove all dead fronds promptly
- block holes in roofs and eaves (make sure no possums become trapped)—some commercial companies provide a service to remove Indian myna nests, bird-proof rooves and gutters, and treat for bird lice and mites.

Tree hollows are important for many native birds, bats and marsupials. Installing nest boxes can be an effective substitute for tree hollows, but Indian mynas can also use these. Consider the following:

- When buying new nest boxes, purchase boxes with holes small enough to keep mynas out (however, this will also limit access for some parrots).

- Rear-entry nest boxes are suitable for marsupials but not mynas
- If you see mynas using nest boxes, remove the eggs each time they are laid. Eventually this will discourage mynas from using the nest box.

## Remove nests and eggs

Indian mynas lay two to five blue/turquoise eggs. They can breed twice a year and will build and defend several nests at a time (although only one will hold eggs). The egg colour is distinctive as no native 'hollow-nesting' birds lay blue/turquoise eggs.

Wear gloves and protective clothing and remove nests and eggs promptly (i.e. well before hatching). Seal eggs/nests in a plastic bag and place them in a wheelie bin.

**Indian myna eggs**

## Community action groups

Several community action groups throughout Australia trap and euthanase Indian mynas. Although the effectiveness of these groups has not been fully evaluated, members believe that coordinated, persistent trapping reduces Indian myna impacts in the activity area.

Forming a community action group requires careful scoping, consultation, research and planning. Existing groups publish a lot of their information, but be aware that local area laws and conditions must be considered when adapting this information.

Members must be prepared to contribute significant time and resources to the enterprise and understand the following issues.

### Animal welfare

Any control must be humane. Trapping must be done in such a way that:

- birds are only in the trap for a minimum amount of time
- native birds can be released unharmed.

Before any trapping takes place, arrangements must be in place for prompt and humane euthanasia of the birds.

Liaise with local government, local animal welfare groups and local veterinarians to produce a streamlined, humane, affordable and documented approach that can be distributed to members. All humane methods of euthanasia will have a cost.

### Viability of control

A trapping program must recruit enough landholders to remove a significant number of Indian mynas and ensure the program has environmental gains.

Indian mynas can be trapped on private land, but not all landholders will have a suitable environment for trapping. For example, some pets will limit a landholder's ability to participate in a program. A predominance of some native birds will also make trapping impossible for some landholders.

Some interstate action groups have been operating for several years and can provide information on the number of volunteers necessary.

### Effective trapping

Thorough research is essential for any trapping program. A poorly managed program will teach birds to avoid traps, making them immune to future trapping.

Several trap designs are available to purchase or build. Trapping usually involves a period of pre-feeding to get birds used to the trap.

Some areas may be unsuitable for trapping. Year-round, abundant food will limit the success of trapping.

More information about trapping is available from the following websites:

- Australian National University
  http://fennerschool.anu.edu.au
- Indian Myna Action Group Inc.
  www.indianmynaaction.org.au
- Indian Myna Bird Project
  www.indianmyna.org

## Further information

Further information is available from Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

# 10 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

# 11 URGENT BUSINESS/QUESTIONS

*Urgent Business is a provision in the Agenda for members to raise questions or matters of a genuinely urgent or emergent nature, that are not a change to Council Policy and can not be delayed until the next scheduled Council or Committee Meeting*

# 12 CLOSURE OF MEETING