

Common (Indian) Myna Birds

Common (Indian) Mynas are an international pest and widespread throughout eastern Australia. First introduced to Melbourne in 1862 to control crop pests, they have since spread as far north as Cairns.

Why are they a pest?

Behaviour - Common Mynas eat almost anything. They nest in cavities which can include other bird's nest hollows, roof spaces and exotic palm trees. Because of this, they are especially widespread in Georges River's urban centres and not as common in our natural areas.

Impact - Their noise and odour can foul urban centres. They are known to compete with native animals for nest hollows and may even eat their eggs.

Health – Common Mynas carry some diseases harmful to birds and humans such as Avian Influenza and Avian Malaria¹. Their droppings can present a health risk if accidentally ingested.

Common (Myna) Misconceptions:

- Common Mynas defend their nests and this behaviour is thought to evict native birds.
- The Common Myna is often confused with the native Noisy Miner, a lighter coloured bird with more aggressive swooping behaviour.
- Common Mynas are identifiable by the following features:
 - » a brown body
 - » a glossy black head, neck and upper breast
 - » distinctive white patches on their wings that are clearly visible in flight.

¹ Markula A, Hannan-Jones M and Csurhes S (2009). Pest animal risk assessment: Indian myna (*Acridotheres tristis*). Biosecurity Queensland, Brisbane



How Can We Reduce Their Impact?

- Cover all outdoor bins and waste
- Feed pets inside and do not leave pet food outside
- Avoid feeding any birds as the food may attract Common Mynas
- Cover cavities under roofs and eaves with spikes so they cannot be used for nesting
- Prune or remove undesirable palm species so they cannot be used as nests. Not sure if you have an undesirable palm? Check Council's webpage www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

Other methods like trapping are resource and labour intensive, requiring a large volunteer contribution. Council does not offer trapping to residents, but residents can investigate their own trapping by visiting the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions PestSMART website at www.pestsmart.org.au

What is Council Doing?

Council contracts Common Myna bird control around certain Council buildings. We are also committed to educating the community on Common Myna behaviours, misconceptions and tips to reduce their impact.

Want more information

Visit the NSW Department of Primary Industries website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

You can also contact Georges River Council's Environment, Health and Regulatory Services section via email mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au or calling 02 9330 6400.