INTRODUCTION

The Common (Indian) Myna has been listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as among the world’s 100 most invasive species and has been assigned an extreme threat category for Australia. It is native to India and Southern China and was introduced into Australia in 1862 and in 1883 it was taken to North Queensland where it was thought it may control insects of sugar cane.

From these beginnings the species has spread to occupy most of the eastern seaboard of Australia, Pacific Islands and, most recently, South Australia. The bird is highly suited to the urban environment of Australia's east coast. Colonies quickly establish in urban areas, where food and shelter is plentiful. Common Mynas prefer to breed in sheltered areas in urban environments such as in roof cavities. They breed faster than native birds, and have been found to displace native wildlife such as sugar gliders when competing for nesting space. Breeding season is between September and March. During this period the birds are more aggressive and territorial as they defend breeding sites.

THINGS YOU CAN DO IN YOUR YARD TO HELP REDUCE COMMON MYNA NUMBERS

Council advises residents to use landscaping approaches that favour native birds, for example:

- Replace exotic plants with native species to attract native birds and increase competition against Common Mynas.
- Reduce the amount of area dedicated to lawn, as this is where Common Mynas like to feed
- Fix holes in roofs and eaves, as these can be used by Common Mynas to nest and breed.
- Plant a diversity of native trees, shrubs and native grasses to attract native birds.
- Don’t feed birds.
- Limit access to pet food; don’t leave food outside where birds can easily access it.
- Participate in the Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program (see below).

Council offers low cost native plants to local residents through Council’s Greenplan Program –

Phone: (02) 4227 7667
Email: botanicgarden@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

THE WOLLONGONG INDIAN MYNA ACTION PROGRAM

The Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program has been developed to provide a response to the growing concerns regarding the abundance and distribution of the Common Myna within the region and their impact on human health, amenity and native wildlife. The three objectives of this program are to:

1. Reduce the breeding, feeding and roosting opportunities for the species.
2. Conduct a humane trapping program that is acceptable to the community, animal welfare agencies and government.
3. Survey and record Common Myna bird numbers and impacts to assist with program development and future research.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE WOLLONGONG INDIAN MYNA ACTION PROGRAM?

You can register your interest in participating in the program by registering online (www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/services/sustainability/volunteerprograms/Pages/IndianMyna.aspx) or by calling Council on (02) 4227 7111. You will then be contacted by Council staff regarding the program and options for attending the workshop.

CAN I GET THE TRAP FROM THE COUNCIL?

Council does not supply traps. Council provides a referral to the Corrimal Community Men's Shed where low-cost traps can be purchased following the completion of Council’s educational workshop (approximately one hour in duration). At the workshop, participants will be provided details on trap management, humane trapping and disposal of the birds, support, monitoring and correct identification of the species etc. At the completion of the workshop, participants will be provided with a signed referral to the Corrimal Community Men’s Shed where a single trap can be purchased from the Men’s Shed.
HOW MUCH WILL THE TRAP COST?
The traps will cost $50 payable to the Corrimal Community Men’s Shed.

WILL COUNCIL HELP ME EUTHANASE TRAPPED COMMON MYNA BIRDS?
Yes, Council will provide assistance to euthanase trapped birds for registered participants. Further details will be provided as part of the program.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR EUTHANASING TRAPPED BIRDS
Wollongong City Council would like to advise that any trapping of Common Mynas requires attention to the Standard Operating Procedure for the Trapping of Pest Birds produced by the NSW Department of Primary Industries. The code of ethics and further information on methods of euthanasia are available at www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/services/sustainability/volunteerprograms/Pages/IndianMyna.aspx.

Residents interested in trapping Common Mynas are encouraged to participate in the Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program where the approved methods of euthanasing birds will be explained and facilities provided for humanely euthanasing trapped birds.

BIRD MITE INFESTATION
Residents commonly experience the effect of bird mites entering the home from abandoned Common Myna nests in roofs. This occurs as Common Mynas create temporary nests in summer, often in residential roof cavities. When the young birds become fledglings, they leave the nest and bird mites migrate into the house. Council does not provide a service to deal with this situation. Please contact a professional pest controller for advice on treating bird mite infestation.

RESEARCH INTO COMMON MYNAS
Council regularly receives complaints from residents about the increasing numbers of Common Mynas and reductions in native birds in their backyards. Research indicates that native bird numbers can be increased by providing native habitat. Common Myna numbers may be reduced by reducing feeding and breeding opportunities as well as through humane trapping.

Council has supported researches at the University of Western Sydney to study the distribution and impacts of Common Mynas in the Wollongong Local Government Area. Researchers used community surveys as well as conducting field work to better understand the ecology of the local Myna population. The research report and information on how to participate in the Wollongong Indian Myna Action Program are provided on Council’s website (www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/services/sustainability/volunteerprograms/Pages/IndianMyna.aspx).

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.indianmynaaction.org.au
www.birdsinbackyards.net