

Information on Indian Myna control in Lismore LGA

Hello and thank you for assisting our community (and native wildlife!) in controlling the spread and increase of Indian Mynas. The Lismore Indian Myna Control Program is jointly coordinated by Lismore City Council, Richmond Landcare Incorporated and the Lismore Men's Shed.

Getting started

I'm sure you are keen to start trapping birds as soon as possible but the ultimate success of your attempts will depend on some background reading and preparation. So please follow these steps before you come to collect a trap from Council.

1. Read the Indian Myna Control Handbook, particularly pages 10 to 16 which explain the trapping process.
2. Ensure birds are free feeding from your chosen trapping site.
3. Ensure you are aware of the euthanasia process – euthanasia by carbon dioxide can be arranged through Lismore City Council or a vet (see below).
4. Sign the attached agreement and bring it to Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah, to collect a trap, which costs \$14.00 to cover the cost of materials.

Indian Myna Control Program

Joint program – Lismore City Council and Richmond Landcare Incorporated

PROTOCOL ON ANIMAL WELFARE AND TRAP MANAGEMENT

Community members who participate in trapping are required to commit to the following animal welfare and trap management and care protocol.

When trapping

- You must position the trap so that there is adequate shade for the trapped birds. The containment cage of the trap **must contain food and clean water at all times**.
- Trappers are not to use grain-based food (including bread) in this trap as this can attract native birds.
- If a native bird is trapped it should be released as soon as possible.
- The birds are not to be exposed to undue stress while trapped – avoid manhandling or approaching the traps too frequently.
- The traps are to be monitored regularly – at least every morning and evening.

Dealing with trapped birds

The trapped birds are to be treated in a humane and responsible manner. It is a condition of borrowing this trap that you observe the requirements of the NSW *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*. The method of euthanasia to dispose of trapped birds is to be quick, painless and as stress-free as possible.

There are two methods of euthanasia endorsed for community members. These are: gassing with carbon dioxide gas (NOT carbon monoxide as in a car exhaust) or cervical dislocation (breaking their necks). If you feel that you are unable to euthanase the birds, you can contact the Lismore Vet Clinic on 6622 0033 or Clarke-Williams James on 6625 1311 and arrange a time for the birds to be euthanased at no cost.

Care of decoy birds

Decoy birds should be managed in accordance with the guidelines below.

Trap management and care

It is the responsibility of the person/s borrowing this trap to return it to one of Council's officer and to alert the program manager that this has occurred. It is the responsibility of the person/s borrowing this trap to ensure that the trap is returned **clean** and in good working condition.

I (*print name*).....commit to act in accordance with all of the above protocols.

Signed:

Date:

Address:

Phone number:

Use and care of trapped Indian Mynas as decoy birds

Decoy birds are live Indian Mynas that are retained in the containment chamber of the trap. The decoy birds (also referred to as lure birds or Judas birds) call the target Indian Mynas down to the trap, then the bait guides them to the entrance tunnels and into the trap.

The use of decoy birds can significantly reduce the amount of time needed to trap Indian Mynas at a site and, if retained in the trap, can significantly increase the number of Indian Mynas caught. Another advantage of using decoy birds is that it can enable people that do not have Indian Mynas on their property, but who have seen them nearby, to successfully lure the birds to their own property and catch them.

Welfare of decoy birds

The welfare of decoy birds is very important and they must be cared for in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure for Trapping Pest Birds prepared by the NSW Department of Primary Industries. The above document states that if decoy birds are used when trapping they must be provided with suitable and adequate food, water and shelter, and that they must not be subjected to undue stress. The lure birds must be removed when the trap is not in use and traps containing lure birds must be inspected daily.

Decoy birds can be deliberately put into the trap when the trap is first introduced to a site or it can be trapped using the techniques outlined in the Indian Myna Control Handbook.

Care of decoy birds

Undertake daily care of decoy birds when you bait your trap. Visiting the trap only once each 24 hours will reduce the stress on the decoy birds. Make sure that your trap has adequate shade during the hot part of the day and protection from rain and wind. The decoy birds should be provided with a clean living environment. The trap should be moved each morning or evening, to provide the birds with a clean floor. The trap should also be hosed out when necessary.

The birds should be provided with clean water. Ensure that their water container/s are cleaned and replenished each morning or evening. The birds should be provided with adequate and suitable food. Their diet should include:

- A mixture of soaked and dry dog biscuits.
- Some fresh mince at least every few days; and
- Fresh fruit.

They generally prefer cut up banana and grapes, however, this can vary from flock to flock. If they are not eating the fruit you provide them with, try cutting it into smaller portions and/or a different fruit. The amount of food needed by the birds will vary depending on the number you have in the cage. The best measure is to observe how much they are eating. If they are getting enough, there will be a small amount left at the end of the day. If all the food is gone at the end of the day, provide them with more. If they are leaving excessive amounts, cut it back a bit.