



## **Birds SA Policy Management of Bird Populations Deemed to be Pests**

This policy outlines the position of Birds SA in relation to the management of birds considered to be pests in South Australia.

1. Birds SA acknowledges that there are instances where bird numbers and bird behaviour for a specific species can reach a level where these birds are considered pests. Birds SA supports efforts to minimise the negative impacts on biodiversity of pest birds, whether native or introduced.
2. Birds SA recommends that all reasonable methods to disperse native pest bird populations be trialled before authority is granted for lethal control methods. Such methods may include:
  - Noise or light used as deterrents
  - Netting protection for crops
  - Introduction of raptors
  - Creating barriers to feeding and roosting resources
  - Creating barriers to water resources
  - Identifying or creating alternative sites to attract the pest birds
3. Birds SA advocates an evidence-based approach to identifying pest bird issues and formulating a response. Such an approach would be expected to involve individuals and communities in the affected region and any response must be undertaken under the regulations of the appropriate jurisdiction whether local, state or federal.
4. Approaches to address bird pest issues should consider the impact of any proposed actions on the bird species at the local, state and national levels.
5. Where lethal methods of control are considered to be the only possible means of addressing problems caused by pest birds, whether native or introduced, they should first be trialled on a small scale. The outcome of the small-scale trial should be assessed before culling on a larger scale is considered. Any lethal methods employed should minimise the pain and suffering experienced by the birds. Approvals and outcomes for such lethal culling should be strictly managed and measured by the relevant State Government department.
6. Birds SA strongly opposes the culling of any species identified as Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered according to the IUCN classification.