

# Indian Myna

# Managing Indian Mynas in the Bundaberg Region

# **Indian Myna Birds**

Indian Mynas (Acridotheres tristis) are a highly invasive bird species that were introduced into Australia in the late 1860s.

Native to the Middle East, India and Asia, Indian Mynas are now well established across most of Eastern Australia and are spreading across other parts of the country.

#### Why are Indian Mynas a problem?

- Compete with native birds and animals for nesting hollows
- Feed on eggs and young native birds
- Carry diseases such as avian malaria
- Damage crops
- Spread weeds
- Form noisy roots
- Cause dermatitis, allergies and asthma
- · Carry mites and lice

# What is Bundaberg Regional Council doing?

Bundaberg Regional Council have been running a community education, trapping and monitoring program since 2010.

The program commenced in Childers where the species was first sighted and has expanded inland to Wallaville, across Bundaberg and now to the coastal regions.

#### Community education

A key part of the program is to increase public awareness about the environmental and health risks posed by this species.

Land Protection Officers attend key events throughout the region to provide information to the community.

Better understanding of how the community can reduce feeding and breeding opportunities can also assist the program.

# Indian Myna trapping tips

#### Trapping and removal

Land Protection Officers work with landholders to place traps where Indian Mynas have been sighted.

Officers provide the trapping equipment, offer assistance to set up and operate the equipment and organise for the humane euthanasia and disposal of trapped birds.



Traps used are specifically designed for Indian Mynas, and come in different sizes to accommodate an urban backyard or large property.

The trapping program helps to limit the spread of the species, with a bounty paid for each bird received.

#### **Monitoring**

Land Protection Officers monitor reported sightings of Indian Mynas, record statistics of trapped birds and map their locations. This information helps Officers better understand Indian Myna behaviour and their movements across the region.

#### **Partnerships**

Bundaberg Regional Council work closely with neighbouring Councils to reduce the spread of Indian Mynas.

Land Protection Officers deliver presentations, share information and caller birds (Indian Mynas used to lure other Mynas into a trap).

## How to recognise an Indian Myna



#### **Further information**

Council's Land Protection Officers are happy to provide further information and assistance by phoning the Call Centre on 1300 883 699.

#### What should I look out for?

Indian Mynas are social birds, forming pairs and using the same territory each year. Mynas maintain their territories and defend them aggressively. A territory will cover a nesting site and a nearby feeding area.

Mynas form loose flocks of around 5 - 6 birds during the day when foraging. At night all Mynas within a lkm radius gather in a communal roost, typically numbering 40 - 80 birds but they can number in the thousands. Mynas will often roost where there is dense foliage and shelter in large trees, in buildings and under bridges.

## What can I do to help?

If you have Indian Mynas on your property you can:

- Report your sightings
- Request to have a trap on your property
- Plant a range of local native plant species to provide a diversity of habitats for native birds
- Restrict feeding bird seed to when Indian Mynas are not present
- Feed pets inside
- Ensure chicken and duck pens are Indian Myna proof to reduce access to food
- Clean up spilled/leftover horse/goat food
- Block holes in roofs and eaves
- Keep palms trimmed to reduce habitat for Indian Mynas
- Cover food bins

# Noisy Miner Manorina melanocephala

