

**LOVE BIRDS?
PLEASE DON'T
FEED THEM.**



Feeding wild birds like corellas and pigeons may seem kind, but it can harm them and the environment.

Feeding birds can lead to:

- ⚠ A dependence on humans** (as birds stop looking for natural food)
- ⚠ Spread of disease** (many birds in one place can pass sickness to each other and even to people)
- ⚠ Poor health** (human food like bread and rice can make birds sick or cause deformities)
- ⚠ Aggression and stress** (birds fight over food)
- ⚠ Too many birds** (can damage local habitats and push out other wildlife)
- ⚠ Pests** (leftover food can attract rats, mice, foxes, and feral cats)

A suspected mass bird poisoning occurred in Springvale South recently. Native bird species such as corellas, crested pigeons, ravens, sulphur-crested cockatoos and silver gulls were found among the dead birds. The Conservation Regulator at the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) is investigating.

Killing native animals is illegal. In Victoria, the maximum penalty for hunting, taking or destroying protected wildlife can be over \$10,000 and even jail time. If you have any information, contact CrimeStoppers anonymously at 1800 333 000 or DEECA at 136 186.

Instead of feeding birds, you can attract and help birds safely and naturally by planting native plants that offer natural food and shelter. Recommended native plants for our area include grevilleas, banksias, bottlebrushes, kangaroo paws, and kangaroo & wallaby grass.

Gardens for Wildlife is a free program that helps Greater Dandenong residents create wildlife-friendly gardens using native plants.

You can also get advice and buy native plants from Greenlink Sandbelt Nursery in Clayton South, a not-for-profit community nursery.