



## Feral Pigeons

Pigeons are not endemic to Australia and feral populations have flourished from escaped or released domestic homing pigeons.

### Why are pigeons a problem?

Pigeons adapt well to living in the wild and under favourable conditions mating pairs breed three to four times per year, producing one to two eggs each. Young birds stay close to the original nest site and once established in an area can be difficult to move on.

Pigeons carry and spread mites and lice, their droppings contain pathogens and diseases, and they make loud cooing sounds that can disrupt sleep. Droppings, feathers and nests may clog and damage ducting and roof guttering.

### Control Methods

Pigeons gather wherever food, water and safe nesting is found. Their control requires a collective effort across all adjoining landowners.

Control may include lethal techniques such as shooting and poisoning, but these methods are difficult to administer in residential areas and are not considered to be effective in the long term. Non-lethal control is the better solution by driving the birds away and breaking their attachment to a site.

Effective control starts with regularly locating and removing nests which can be found along building ledges, under air-conditioning units, solar panels or window sills.

Never directly feed pigeons and remove all food and water sources, such as:

- pet food leftovers and inadequately stored or contained foods
- bird baths and feeders.

Lastly, stop pigeons regaining access to roosting and nesting sites with:

- bird proof mesh to cover openings
- bird wire, mesh, wire coils or spikes to prevent birds landing
- bird deterrent devices, such as scarecrows or ultrasonic repellants
- bird repellent gel products applied to surfaces
- Anti-bird netting to cover any food sources around the home such as vegetable gardens or fruit trees.

Persevere as pigeons are persistent.

