

Fact Sheet

Feeding Local Birds

THE JOY OF FEEDING BIRDS

Many people love the simple pleasure of watching birds visit their yard. Feeding can bring:

- beautiful colours and species diversity
- opportunities to observe bird behaviour up close
- a sense of connection with nature.

It's a wonderful pastime but it's also important to feed responsibly so we protect both wildlife and our community.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Queensland Government

Feeding birds is not illegal in Queensland. However, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* places limits on wildlife feeding when it:

- involves a dangerous native animal (e.g. crocodiles)
- creates an immediate threat to human health or safety (e.g. feeding birds near roads where they may interfere with traffic)
- occurs within a protected area, such as a national park.

These rules help keep both people and wildlife safe.

Ipswich City Council (council)

Council does not have specific local laws regulating bird feeding. However, residents are encouraged to consider:

- the wellbeing of the birds
- the impact on neighbours
- the potential for attracting unwanted wildlife.



THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE FEEDING BIRDS

1. What you're feeding

Some foods can harm birds even if they seem harmless such as:

- bread, processed foods and mince lack essential nutrients and can cause illness
- some seed mixes contain high levels of sunflower seeds, which may lead to fatty liver disease in birds
- birds fed poor diets may become malnourished or dependent on humans for food.

Choosing appropriate, species safe foods is essential for their long term health.

2. Other animals you may attract

Leftover food can draw in:

- rats and other vermin
- ibis, crows and other aggressive bird species
- possums and other wildlife that may become reliant on human food sources.

This can create other nuisance issues.

3. Impacts on neighbours

Feeding birds can unintentionally affect those living nearby. Common concerns include:

- noise from large numbers of birds
- droppings, feathers and mess
- birds roosting on roofs or damaging property
- increased presence of scavenging species.

Being mindful of how your feeding habits affect the community helps maintain good neighbour relationships.

FEEDING RESPONSIBLY

If you choose to feed birds:

- offer small amounts of appropriate food
- keep feeding areas clean
- avoid creating large gatherings of birds
- consider planting native shrubs and trees as a natural, healthier alternative.

Responsible feeding supports bird health, protects the environment and keeps neighbourhoods pleasant for everyone.

WHAT TO DO IF BIRD FEEDING IS CAUSING A NUISANCE

1. Speak with the person feeding the birds

- A direct, respectful conversation is often the quickest way to resolve the issue.
- Discuss the impacts of feeding wildlife, such as noise, mess, health risks or attracting vermin.

2. Contact your local government

- If a conversation isn't possible or hasn't resolved the problem, your local council can provide guidance.
- Councils can advise on issues related to noise, odour, public health concerns and vermin attracted by excess food.

3. Seek dispute resolution (last resort)

- If the behaviour is not unlawful and the issue remains unresolved, the Department of Justice (DoJ) offers dispute resolution services.
- These services can help neighbours reach an agreement when other steps have been unsuccessful.

Source: [Qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/animals/discovering-wildlife/feeding-wildlife](https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/animals/discovering-wildlife/feeding-wildlife)