

# *Feral Pigeon Control Fact Sheet*



## ***Pigeons in the community***

Feral pigeons have easily adapted to the urban environment, and take up residence almost anywhere, particularly where there is food and shelter. Pigeons are capable of breeding throughout the year and do not migrate far from their birthplace; this makes them difficult to remove. Feral pigeons are a common pest and tend to pose more of a nuisance for residents rather than a risk to health.

## ***Controlling feral pigeons***

If you have a pigeon problem, there are many techniques that can be used to reduce or remove the population. Implementing non-lethal control techniques will provide the most effective long term results. The best way to minimise or prevent the nuisance caused by feral pigeons is to control where they roost, nest and feed.

It is important that other members of the community also adopt pigeon control techniques, otherwise the pigeons may simply relocate to a neighbouring property and the flock size will not be reduced.

## ***Problems associated with feral pigeons***

- Attraction of bird mites;
- Odour and noise;
- Damage to buildings and monuments due to the highly corrosive nature of pigeon droppings;
- Damage to air-conditioning units and other roof top machinery;
- Hygiene concerns due to an accumulation of pigeon faeces.

## ***Removing food sources***

If you have a pigeon problem, there are many techniques that can be used to reduce or remove the population. Implementing non-lethal control techniques will provide the most effective long term results. The best way to minimise or prevent the nuisance caused by feral pigeons is to control where they roost, nest and feed.

It is important that other members of the community also adopt pigeon control techniques, otherwise the pigeons may simply relocate to a neighbouring property and the flock size will not be reduced.

## ***NOTE: NEVER FEED FERAL PIGEONS***

*A plentiful food supply encourages year round breeding; therefore, the removal of the food source will result in less breeding and will also encourage the pigeons to move to another location.*

For more information please  
contact Lithgow City Council

02 6354 9999

[www.council.lithgow.com](http://www.council.lithgow.com)





Although it may not be possible to remove all the pigeons from an area, there are control options available that can reduce the population to a tolerable level. These may be divided into two categories:

- Permanent control (removal of the birds), and
- Temporary control (exclusion and habitat alteration to reduce the impact of pigeons by preventing access to structures as nesting or roosting sites).

There is usually no single, simple solution to the problem, so using a number of techniques may be more effective (such as reducing numbers to a low level, then blocking house eaves).

### ***Pigeon proofing***

Pigeons commonly perch on sites such as eaves, roofs and window ledges. Pigeon proofing your building will prevent pigeons from gaining access to potential nesting or roosting sites. This includes sealing any gaps into buildings and under eaves with mesh or wooden panels or installing wire or spikes to prevent pigeons landing. A licensed pest control operator can install products such as mesh, wires, spikes and gel in these locations to prevent pigeons from landing.

Owners of property impacted by nesting or roosting pigeons are advised to seek the services of a commercial pest controller for specific advice on control and eradication measures.

Please note that when dealing with pigeons and/or pigeon faeces it is important to ensure that you are properly protected by wearing gloves and a face mask.

***Please be advised that  
Lithgow City Council does  
not offer a pigeon  
eradication service.***

### ***Nest Removal***

Look for signs of nesting and remove any materials regularly to help discourage persistent pigeons from nesting in a particular area.



For more information please  
contact Lithgow City Council

02 6354 9999

[www.council.lithgow.com](http://www.council.lithgow.com)