



Corella Management Plan: 2026 to 2031



CONTENTS	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. STRATEGIC APPROACH	3
3. BACKGROUND	5
4. MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS	6
5. MANAGEMENT AIM	7
6. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	7
7. ACTION PLAN	13

1. INTRODUCTION

Corellas are becoming an increasing problem in the Shire of Morawa ('Shire') through nuisance and impacts on infrastructure. This management program has been prepared in order to document the Shire's current approach toward corella management and to guide future efforts. It will also serve as a communications tool for key stakeholders and the community.

The Little Corella (*Cacatua sanguinea*) and Western Corella (*Cacatua pastinator butleri*) are declared pests in the Shire under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007. They are a Category 3 declared pest under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013 which requires landholders to undertake some form of management that will alleviate the harmful impact; reduce the numbers or distribution; or prevent or contain the spread of the declared pest in the area. However, in practice there is minimal expectation that residents within the Shire can undertake control work.

In addition, the Little and Western corella is a native species protected under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Under the Act the population in the Shire is one of the 'managed fauna' species. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) further classifies the Little, Butler's, and Eastern long-billed Corellas (along with the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo) under the Open Season category, which allows for their take (control) without a specific licence from DBCA. However, all proposed control and disturbance methods (including shooting and baiting) will still be regulated under relevant subsidiary legislation, such as the Firearms Act 2024 and the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

2. STRATEGIC APPROACH

The Shire of Morawa's Corella Management Plan is guided by the seven key principles for best practice pest animal management, ensuring a strategic, outcome-focused, and adaptive approach:

Principle 1: Definition of a Pest (Addressed in Introduction)

Although the corellas are native bird species in Western Australia, their presence and impact within the Shire's urban and agricultural areas classify them as a declared agricultural and environmental pest under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, necessitating management actions.

Principle 2: Stakeholder Engagement

This plan is based on a nil-tenure approach, meaning management actions are planned to achieve maximal impact across the broader landscape. Consultations will continue with relevant stakeholders, including private landholders, neighbouring Local Governments, and public agencies, to ensure coordinated control efforts.

Principle 3: Eradication vs. Management

The aim of this plan is sustained management and protection of key assets, rather than outright eradication, which is neither feasible nor realistic given the corella population dynamics and distribution. Control activities are focused on managing damage to an agreed, acceptable level.

Principle 4: Focus on Outcomes, Not on Killing Pests

The primary goal is the reduction of damage and the protection of Council infrastructure and assets. Success will be measured by defining and achieving specific asset protection zones and reducing damage complaints, not solely by the number of pests removed.

Principle 5: Whole of System Approach

The plan requires an understanding of the target species' ecology. Management efforts integrate various techniques, including direct control (lethal and chemical), dispersal, and habitat modification (e.g., managing and limiting resources and roost sites) to achieve the best long-term outcomes.

Principle 6: Adopt an Adaptive Approach

Recognising that ecological systems are complex and dynamic, this plan adopts an adaptive management approach. The results of the annual monitoring and evaluation will directly inform and adjust future management actions to ensure they remain effective and efficient.

Principle 7: Effective Monitoring and Evaluating Strategy

The plan includes the establishment of a formal monitoring program (Action A21) to rigorously measure the effectiveness of all actions and the overall impact on the corella population and damage levels, providing the data necessary for the adaptive management framework.

3. BACKGROUND

Corellas are long-lived, highly intelligent birds that learn from each other. They are increasingly common in the urban landscape of Western Australia (Paton et al., 2018). The corellas cause significant and costly damage through chewing infrastructure (e.g., wires, streetlights, solar panels, aerials), as well as fouling infrastructure with droppings.

While there are several species of corella native to Western Australia, range expansion of eastern populations of corellas (e.g., Eastern Long-billed Corella, and eastern subspecies of Little Corella) has driven a significant increase in population numbers in the last 20 years (DBCA, Corellas and Other Flocking Cockatoos). Expansion of the native subspecies of Little Corella and the native Western Corella (*Cacatua pastinator butleri*) may also be a significant factor in local population increases.

Based on current knowledge, the corella species and subspecies believed to be contributing to the issue in the Shire of Morawa and the wider region include:

- Western Corella (*Cacatua pastinator butleri*): A native subspecies whose range has expanded in the Wheatbelt due to agriculture.
- Little Corella (*Cacatua sanguinea*): Both the native WA subspecies and introduced eastern subspecies are present in the region.
- Eastern Long-billed Corella (*Cacatua tenuirostris*): A non-native, introduced species that is known to hybridise and is highly problematic in urban settings.

Both the northern and southern Wheatbelt regions of Western Australia provide perfect foraging habitat, in combination with local and permanent water on farm properties, and appropriate roosting trees through retained fringing and remnant vegetation. To a large extent, rural, peri-urban and urban communities duplicate this resource availability across landscapes, meaning that flocks are persistent despite being physically moved using various scaring devices.

In the Shire of Morawa, the increase in corella activity has been evidenced by rising maintenance costs related to infrastructure damage and an increase in community complaints regarding noise and property damage.

Despite the considerable efforts undertaken by the Shire to date, eradication of the corellas appears unlikely in the short to medium term due primarily to the size and distribution of the corella population in the Midwest region. As such, management of the birds is likely to remain an ongoing issue for foreseeable future.

The Shire will continue to refine and improve its management of the corellas into the future (Action A20) in order to minimise their impact on the local community. However, it must be recognised that the corellas along with many other pest species pose a significant problem, one that extends beyond local government boundaries, resource availability and statutory responsibilities. As such, corella management requires a shared response (Action A10) across all stakeholders including government, the private sector and the community, where appropriate.



4. MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS

There are a number of key constraints that have the potential to pose a significant impediment to effective corella management, these include:

- lack of data relating to numbers, migration paths, breeding and feeding areas.
- current lack of experienced and equipped introduced corella control contractors.
- limited availability of secure and unimpeded control sites.
- lack of diversity of control methods.
- limited participation by and coordination across key stakeholders.
- limited resources in light of the magnitude of the problem.
- legislation around control methods.
- un-foreseeable changes to corella behaviour in response to environmental conditions.
- divergent community values and desires regarding management.

The Shire will endeavour to address these constraints where possible in order to improve its management outcomes and efficiency. However, it must be recognised that certain aspects are outside of the Shire's jurisdiction and resources to address and as such, these constraints may continue to pose a challenge into the future.

5. MANAGEMENT AIM

To minimise the adverse impacts caused by corellas within the Shire of Morawa

In achieving the above aim it must be recognised that the Shire has finite resources to allocate to corella management and as such must priorities its actions. Therefore the Shire's primary focus is on protecting Council infrastructure and assets on Council owned and managed land (which includes community sporting facilities).

6. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The Shire's response to corella impacts is based on an integrated approach involving multiple tools and strategies.

It is very important to accept and understand that there is no 'silver-bullet' fix. Many members of the community are not aware of the complexities in managing abundant bird species, particularly corellas. Attempts at lethal culling of birds will not solve this ongoing problem alone.

5.1 HUMANENESS ASSESSMENT AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Shire of Morawa recognises the importance of maintaining high animal welfare standards, even when managing corellas as declared pests. All control activities must align with the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and follow best practice principles for humaneness.

The humaneness of a pest control technique is the measure of its impact on the animal, balancing effectiveness against suffering (Sharp and Saunders, 2008). The hierarchy for selecting control methods prioritises non-lethal and habitat-based solutions before considering lethal methods.

The humaneness classification for corella control methods (based on the PestSmart Humaneness Matrix) generally applies as follows:

Control Method	Humaneness Ranking (Sharp & Saunders)	Ethical Consideration
Habitat Modification	Highest Humaneness	No direct suffering; highly desirable.
Exclusion / Deterrents	High Humaneness	Minimal stress/suffering; highly preferred.
Dispersal (Noise/Visual)	Moderate Humaneness	Can cause stress and distress, but non-lethal.
Lethal Control (e.g., Shooting)	Varies	Requires extreme skill and strict protocols to ensure immediate death; otherwise, low humaneness.
Lethal Control (e.g., Trapping/Gas)	Low to Moderate Humaneness	Requires strict monitoring and humane dispatch protocols.

All actions detailed in this plan involving direct interaction with corellas will be carried out under the relevant state legislation (e.g., a Licence to Take Fauna Causing Damage) and using protocols that ensure the highest feasible level of humaneness.

5.2 Dispersal

To minimise the adverse impacts caused by corellas within the Shire of Morawa.

Dispersal is an important action in the short to medium term to minimise corella impacts, as the culling efforts proposed under section 5.3 Control will likely take time to achieve a sufficient reduction in the corella population such that adverse impacts are reduced.

There are two primary approaches towards corella dispersal:

Reactive Dispersal: Dispersal that occurs on an as-needs basis in order to provide immediate, although likely temporary, relief from corella impacts.

Directed Dispersal: Dispersal that occurs in a coordinated manner to relocate corellas to a desired area where their impacts can be tolerated and/or control activities can be effectively undertaken.

Reactive Dispersal for Critical Shire Assets is considered appropriate in seeking to protect critical Shire infrastructure assets (e.g., streetlights, solar panels, Town Hall) from corella impacts, given the significant damage and expenses incurred in recent years. The Shire will develop this capability through the receipt of required licences and approvals, training of staff and/or appointment of contractors, and purchase of required equipment (Actions A1, A3). Where appropriate, efforts will also be undertaken to address any risks to the community associated with reactive dispersal (e.g., noise nuisance) and to keep community members informed of the Shire's actions.

Limitations on Shire Dispersal Operations. Given that dispersal approaches have the potential to be highly resource and labour intensive, the Shire will be strictly limited as to where and when dispersal techniques will be employed. Managing this dispersal action may potentially include daily quotas on the number of scaring events and/or pyrotechnic devices used. This is considered important to avoid the untimely exhaustion of allocated resources and/or cost blow-outs.

Crucially, reactive dispersal to protect private assets or public areas/parks without critical infrastructure will NOT be undertaken by the Shire because:

1. It is resource intensive, which could create unsustainable community expectations and set a costly precedent.
2. It is beyond the Shire's statutory responsibilities.
3. It may carry additional and unacceptable operational risks (e.g., the risk of damage to private property through the use of explosive or mechanical scaring devices).

Community Support and Coordination. While internal resources are severely limited, the Shire will provide community support through:

- On-ground site assessment and advisory services (Action A14) to help community members select and implement effective deterrents for their property.
- Serving as the central point for reporting roost sites and taking the lead in coordinating control efforts across multiple tenures (Shire and private land) where large mobile flocks are involved, ensuring actions are unified and systematic (Action A10).

Suggested Dispersal Technique Options. Below are some suggested dispersal technique options for community members to consider:

Clap Boards: Two hinged pieces of timber clapped together loudly. Best used frequently as birds are flying in.

Torches/Lights: Strong, bright lights (e.g., LED torches) waved at roosting birds at dawn and dusk, followed by the use of clapboards.

Visual Barriers: Installing physical barriers (e.g., star droppers with shade cloth) on the ground to prevent birds from having a clear line of sight, making them fear the area due to perceived predator risk.

Other Products: Various commercial bird scaring products such as scare kites (predator mimics), fright balloons, bird spikes, and laser lights.

5.3 Control

Undertake shooting, trapping and humane euthanasia of corellas.

Control measures, primarily focused on population reduction in highly impacted urban areas, are considered a necessary component of the integrated management strategy. These lethal methods are to be used as a last resort, following thorough attempts at non-lethal deterrents and habitat modification, and must strictly adhere to ethical and legal requirements.

Monitoring metrics must be established prior to control. Establishing a baseline measurement and a consistent method that can be measured over time is vital to understand the effectiveness of the controls. Given the Shire's financial constraints, monitoring may be limited to indirect methods such as the amount of damage caused, or the expenses of repair within the Shire.

All control activities involving the take of fauna must be carried out under the required Licence to Take Fauna Causing Damage from the relevant State authority (e.g., DBCA) and must follow national standards to ensure humaneness and competence.

Specifically, all lethal control, including shooting and trapping, must conform to the protocols outlined in the National Standard Operating Procedures (NATSOPs) endorsed by the Australian Pest Animal Strategy:

NATSOP-BIR001: National Standard Operating Procedure: Shooting of pest birds.

NATSOP-BIR002: National Standard Operating Procedure: Trapping of pest birds.

NATSOP-GEN003: National Standard Operating Procedure: Trapping using soft net traps.

The Shire will primarily utilise trapping and humane euthanasia, as outlined in Action A1, concentrating efforts on high-density roosting and damage sites. Shooting may be considered only by authorised contractors in areas where safety and humaneness can be guaranteed, strictly following NATSOP-BIR001.

5.4 Advocacy

Actively advocate for responsible management of corellas by all relevant stakeholders, including all tiers of government, the private sector and community.

The problem posed by corellas extends beyond individual local government boundaries, resource availability and statutory responsibilities. Arguably, the higher tiers of government, private sector and community also have an important role to play in contributing to corella management in their roles as regulatory authorities, research and development leaders, land managers, domestic corella keepers and wild bird feeders, amongst others. In light of these considerations, advocacy for responsible corella management by all parties is considered to be an important strategy for the Shire to employ in seeking to minimise the impacts caused by the birds.

The Shire is of the view that the higher tiers of government in particular have an important role to play with this issue through (for example):

- research and development of additional and alternative control and dispersal techniques.
- regional oversight and coordination of management responses to the issue.
- funding to assist with delivery of regional Corella control initiatives that span multiple jurisdictions and land tenure.
- regulation of bird keeping practices to minimise future releases of caged pest birds.
- establishment and encouragement of best practice Corella management approaches.
- provision of centralised record keeping, data collection and information dissemination.

5.5 Community Education / On-site Advice

Provide advice to the community and meet with property owners on-site

Property owners/occupiers requesting advice must be willing and able to undertake scaring actions on their own property. Shire staff will only visit sites where the property owner/occupier is willing to help-themselves.

To request this service, the Shire can discuss situations and arrange an appropriate time for an officer to meet on-site. The Shire will use its best endeavours to accommodate specific times and days however response times cannot be guaranteed and will be dependent on the availability of staff resources.

Property owners/occupiers that experience nuisance issues at their property on private land need to undertake their own management controls to protect and relieve nuisance on their own properties. Care should be taken to ensure that any bird deterrent activities do not cause neighbour conflict.

5.6 Habitat Modifications

Investigate and where feasible pursue modifications to habitat

Habitat modification focuses on reducing the site's attractiveness to corellas by limiting access to food, water, or suitable roosting sites (Action A18). The Shire will first focus on roost site identification (Action A17) and assessment.

As alternatives to permanent tree removal, intensive, non-permanent deterrence methods can be deployed to break up established roosting patterns without permanently altering the habitat structure. These techniques, used to create a hostile environment and force the corellas to establish new roosts elsewhere, can include pyro-ammunition, taped alarm calls, reinforced by shooting if practicable (following all NATSOP and licensing requirements).

However, while physical changes such as tree removal or heavy pruning (Action A18) are often costly, publicly contentious, and only displace the problem to neighbouring sites, they remain the most permanent solution. If, after all deterrence methods have been trialled, habitat modification is still deemed necessary to protect critical infrastructure, an evaluation (Action A17, A18) can then be made to determine the feasibility, cost, and effectiveness of permanently removing or severely modifying the specific roost trees.

5.7 Other Actions

Continue to research and undertake other actions.

The Shire does not assume that the specific actions listed above are the only actions that may prove beneficial and effective. There are other potential management actions that may become available or be proven successful by other stakeholders.

These potential actions, which will need further research and development before potentially being included in the Shire's management program in the future, include:

The use of a contraceptive product for reproductive control.

Lethal baiting, using registered bait/toxin products as outlined by the WA Government (e.g., DPIRD's guidelines on pest bird control bait/toxin products).

Other actions will need further research and development before potentially being included in the Shire's management program in the future.

7. ACTION PLAN

	Action (SMART Objective)	Responsibility	Timeline	Metric of Success (Measurable)	Note/Comment
5.2 Dispersal	A1. Train at least two Shire staff members each year in the safe and effective operation of the chosen dispersal techniques and legal requirements.	Shire Staff, Contractor	Annually	Two staff members complete formal training and hold necessary certifications (if applicable)	Ensures staff competence and safety
	A2. Deploy a non-lethal dispersal technique at the three most reported corella hotspots (e.g., Town Oval, High Street Park) to assess reduction in roosting/damage complaints.	Shire Staff, Contractor	Ongoing	reduction in related complaints during the period, compared to the previous 4 weeks.	Trials at designated hotspots
	A3. Purchase and maintain all necessary dispersal equipment (e.g., pyrotechnic devices, sound equipment) as identified in the annual budget review.	Shire Staff	Annually	Inventory check confirms 100% operational status of all dispersal equipment before the start of the corella season (Nov 1st).	Equipment is available and working when required
	A4. Provide guidance to others who wish to undertake a dispersal program.	Shire Staff	Ongoing	reduction in related complaints during the period, compared to the previous 4 weeks.	Property owners/occupiers that experience nuisance issues at their property on private land need to undertake their own management controls
5.3 Control	A5. Assess the need for and execute lethal control at Shire assets to reduce the local population, subject to permit.	Shire Staff, Contractor	Annually	Reduction of minimum 15-20 birds from the target flock size at high-impact site.	Execute under necessary permit, targeting Shire areas only. Conducted during the core corella season
	A6. Investigate a trial to reduce breeding success via nest hollow modification (e.g., blockage or netting) at five known nesting trees in the Morawa township area.	Shire Staff, Contractor	Annually	Report on feasibility and cost of hollow modification.	Target five trees in the Morawa township
	A7. Report on the most humane, efficient, and cost-effective lethal control method for the Shire's context, based on Sharp & Saunders (2008) and operational data.	Shire Staff, Contractor	2027	Completion of the research report.	Report may trigger a review of the Management Plan
	A8. Provide guidance to others who wish to undertake a culling program.	Shire Staff, Contractor	Ongoing	reduction in related complaints during the period, compared to the previous 4 weeks.	Record number of submissions received.
	A9. Explore opportunities for collaboration with government agencies for funding of control measures (e.g., through declared pest programs).	Shire Staff	Ongoing	Submission of grant application.	Addresses financial constraints.
5.3 Advocacy	A10. Collaborate with other local governments and key stakeholders to implement a unified, multi-tenure corella management strategy and coordinate management actions.	Shire Staff, Elected Members	Ongoing	Submission of a formal letters each year specifically focused on pest management.	Recognises corellas move across Shire boundaries; promotes a coordinated approach.

	A11. Advocate to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for inclusion of corella species in their annual control programs and funding priorities.	Shire Staff, Elected Members	Ongoing	Submission of a formal letter/presentation to both departments each year	Align with government financial/planning cycles.
5.4 Community Education & On-site Advice	A12. Develop and publish a high-quality "Corella Information Package" (e.g., webpage, flyer) detailing impacts, required landholder actions, and Shire activities.	Shire Staff	2026	Information package developed, approved, and published	Provides information before the 2026 corella season.
	A13. Undertake community education (e.g., Shire Snippets) focused on reducing food and water availability.	Shire Staff	Annually	Community education is completed and recorded in the annual report (A16).	Interaction with the community to address attractants.
	A14. Provide on-site advice to the community on control, exclusion, and deterrents for corellas.	Shire Staff	Ongoing	Respond to on-site advice requests within 10 business days of receiving the complaint.	Improves community satisfaction and responsiveness.
	A15. Respond to media enquiries as required.	CEO, President	Ongoing	All high-priority media enquiries are addressed within 48 hours.	Standard media communication action.
	A16. Submit a comprehensive annual report to Council detailing progress against all objectives, expenditure, and recommended program amendments for the next financial year.	Shire Staff	Annually	Report submitted and accepted by Council	Ensures budget, planning, and accountability alignment.
5.5 Habitat Modifications	A17. Investigate if there are significant areas in the Shire where corellas roost by conducting a dedicated roost site survey.	Shire Staff	Annually	Identification of the top three major roost sites and a map generated for management planning.	Provides data to enable targeted action.
	A18. Evaluate the top three major roost sites (from A17) to determine the feasibility, cost, and effectiveness of removing/modifying roost trees.	Shire Staff	Annually	Dependent on feasibility, report for Council consideration.	Provides actionable information
	A19. Investigate the possibility of making a site 'more attractive' for the corellas (e.g., planting a large site on the periphery of the Shire with food crop and roosting trees) as a distraction strategy.	Shire Staff	2029	Conceptual plan and cost estimate for a diversionary planting site is generated and reviewed.	Focuses on long-term, non-lethal solutions (Distraction Strategy).
5.6 Other Actions	A20. Engage consultant to undertake analysis of current/emerging control methods and those most likely to be of most effectiveness for the Morawa region.	Shire Staff	2026	Consultant scope of works (SOW) approved and engagement initiated	Extent and scope of works will be dependent on financial budget allocations.
	A21. Conduct monitoring surveys (opportunistically by Shire staff or volunteers) at key roosting sites to estimate average flock size and composition (species/subspecies) to establish a baseline population estimate and trends over time.	Shire Staff, Volunteers	Annually	Baseline population estimate report (including species composition) is established and maintained.	Provides the data needed to make Action A5 Measurable and inform future strategies.
	A22. Seek funding for trial of alternative actions (e.g., reproductive control, advanced acoustic deterrents) based on the findings of A20.	Shire Staff	Ongoing	Submission of grant application for novel control method trials.	Addresses financial constraints. Ensures the Shire explores innovative, potentially more humane methods.