

## INFORMATION FOR LANDOWNERS AND LAND MANAGERS

# Introduced rainbow lorikeet control

## Maintaining palms to limit breeding habitat for introduced rainbow lorikeets

Rainbow lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) (figure 1) are an attractive but troublesome introduced bird inhabiting many areas in the Perth metropolitan area. Rainbow lorikeets are listed as a declared pest in the southern parts of Western Australia due to the risk to the agricultural industry through direct impacts on fruit crops. They also pose a threat to native wildlife through competition for nest hollows and food, and are a community concern due to the noise they can make in roosts, fouling under roost trees, and other matters including aircraft collisions if roosting in the vicinity of airfields.

In WA, only the red-collared sub-species of the rainbow lorikeet occurs naturally and is only found in the Kimberley region. In Perth, rainbow lorikeets were first recorded in the central and western suburbs in the 1960s. Since their establishment they have increased in number and continued to spread, covering an estimated 174km<sup>2</sup> by 2006.

A targeted strategy to manage the impacts of introduced rainbow lorikeets in the Perth area was undertaken between 2006 and 2013. During this time, the Department of Parks and Wildlife with support from the Department of Agriculture and Food, the Swan Valley Declared Species Group and private managers, removed over 34,000 rainbow lorikeets.

The residual, remaining populations of rainbow lorikeets are again increasing and land managers across all land tenures need to take action to prevent these birds again posing a significant threat to native wildlife and agriculture.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife has identified palm trees as important breeding habitat for introduced rainbow lorikeets. During the breeding season individual palm trees often have multiple pairs of these birds nesting behind the old leaf bases (leaf sheath and petiole) (see figure 2). By simply cutting away any old leaf bases, leaving just the trunk to the crown, removes this breeding habitat (see figure 3).

Maintaining palm trees is an effective non-lethal and proactive action for landowners and land managers to limit the amount of breeding habitat available and help limit the impact that rainbow lorikeets are having on native wildlife and fruit growers. Pruning should be done outside of the rainbow lorikeet breeding period (September – November) as a humane measure to avoid destroying active nests.

Land managers in Perth are encouraged to maintain palm trees in this manner to reduce the breeding opportunities for rainbow lorikeets.

### For more information:

Department of Parks and Wildlife  
17 Dick Perry Avenue,  
Technology Park,  
KENSINGTON WA 6151

Phone: (08) 9219 9511  
Email: [info@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@dpaw.wa.gov.au)  
[dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://dpaw.wa.gov.au)



Figure 1 Rainbow lorikeet. (Photo: Gary Porter/Parks and Wildlife)



Figure 2 An unmaintained palm showing evidence of multiple rainbow lorikeet nest entrance holes. Photo: Gary Porter/Parks and Wildlife

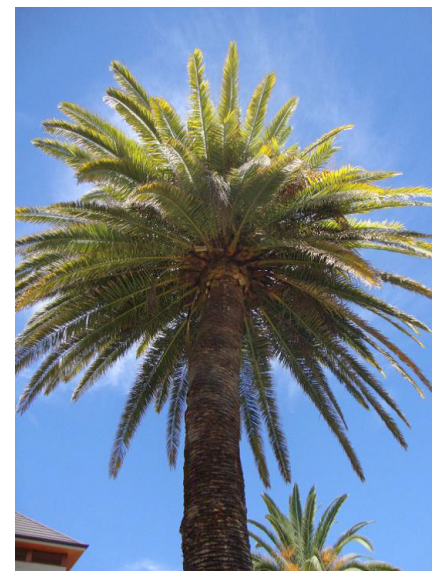


Figure 3 A well maintained palm showing unsuitable nesting habitat for rainbow lorikeets and is aesthetically pleasing. Photo: Mark Blythman/Parks and Wildlife



Figure 4 A pair of introduced rainbow lorikeets sitting at the entrance to their nest in a palm tree. Photo: Marion Massam/Department of Agriculture and Food WA