



## The Wheatbelt Corella Collective

### Who we Are

The Corella Collective is a collaboration between Wheatbelt NRM, Cooperative Bulk Handling (CBH) and 12 Wheatbelt local councils who have come together to develop a coordinated approach to corella management.

We have an Advisory Committee of leaders in pest bird research and management, bird welfare and interest groups, plus regulatory bodies in place to ensure that control strategies are best practice.

Our work is underpinned by a report commissioned from Edith Cowan University 'Research and Management Priorities for Corellas in the shires of Goomalling, Northam, Toodyay, Victoria Plains and York' Micheal D. Craig and Robert A. Davis 2022.

### Why we Exist

In the Western Australian Wheatbelt, white corellas have reached plague proportions on the back of our nation's largest export grain producing region. The ready availability of grain has expanded both the geographical range and population of the birds, with devastating consequences for their endangered black cockatoo cousins.

Flocking in their hundreds, sometimes even thousands, these long-lived rapacious, raucous birds strip trees, damage buildings, electrical wires, sports fields and community facilities. They foul waterways, damage crops and drive away tourists with the noise they make. They have even been known, not just to steal precious black cockatoo nest sites, but to evict chicks and eggs to take the nests for themselves.







The agricultural industry, small businesses, the tourism industry, local governments and the community at large are becoming increasingly desperate to find solutions to a problem that is growing year by year. Only by acting collaboratively can we hope to make an impact

## **What we Seek to Achieve**

As damaging as the birds are, and as true as it is that they are outside their traditional habitats, white corellas are native to this country. As a consequence, any control program needs to be approached with sensitivity. Public education and citizen science is therefore a crucial to the Collective, ensuring that the partners maintain their social license to operate among the local community.

Control options are currently limited with most designed to move the birds to alternative sites. The only legal culling option is to shoot the birds, but this method is problematical in urban landscapes and to date has had no discernable impact on bird numbers. Many of our Councils report that for them, shooting is not an option, leaving them powerless to reduce bird numbers.

Advocacy is an important part of the Collective's activities. We advocate for the approval of new culling and control methods, for local governments struggling to fund repairs on damaged public infrastructure, and other matters as they arise.

We are using citizen science to baseline the effect of the birds on our communities, this will be used as a monitoring tool to measure the success of coordinated management activities.

Ultimately, the Corella Collective aims to reduce the negative impact of the birds in the region in which we operate.



**wheatbelt**  
natural resource  
management



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