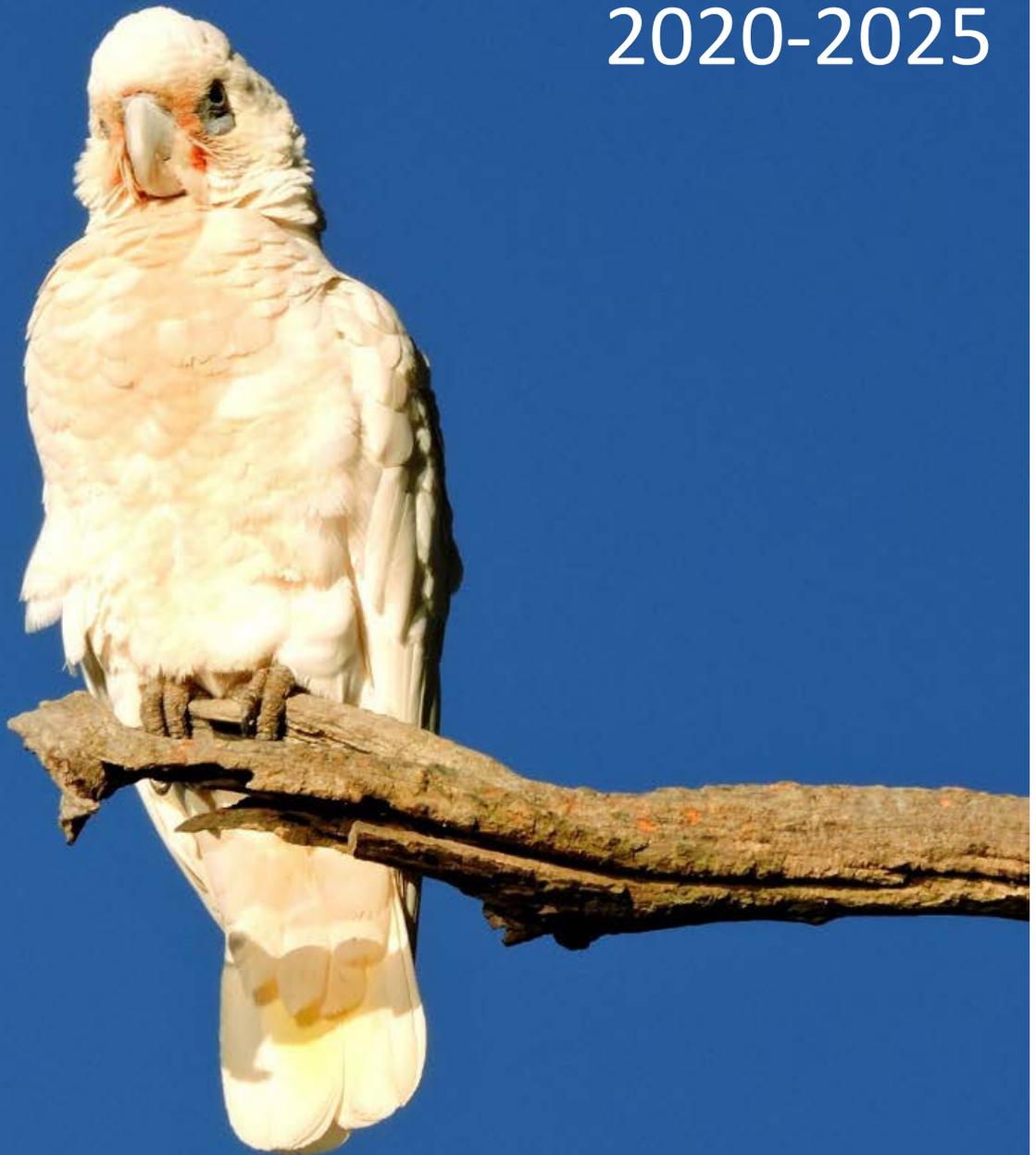


Draft South Australian Little Corella Management Strategy 2020-2025



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Glossary

Controls Management activities that include lethal and non-lethal deterrents that aim to deter or remove birds (or reduce their numbers) in an area in order to reduce their impacts.

Corella Sanctuary (also referred to as ‘sacrificial site’) Suitable areas deliberately set aside as a little corella habitat; little corellas are not be moved on from these sites.

Cull To destroy (kill) birds, usually in large numbers, to reduce the overall population size.

Flock A large number of birds congregating together in a single area.

Habitat Little corella habitat includes roosting and nesting, watering and feeding areas.

Human-wildlife conflict Experience of negative interactions with wildlife. Causes of this conflict can be varied, from real or perceived danger, to economic losses, to a reduction in amenity.

Lethal deterrent Destruction of a small number of birds in order to deter a large flock of birds from the area, typically used in conjunction with non-lethal measures.

Non-lethal deterrent Non-lethal actions that deter birds from an area.

Problem site A location where the presence of little corellas is of concern and where management action is desired.

Roosting Birds sleep at their roosts, typically little corellas settle at night in large roost trees.

Urban adapters Species that live in natural and modified areas, e.g. little corellas.

We All South Australians who have a role to play in reducing the impacts of little corellas.

Summary of little corella issues in South Australia

Little corellas are a long-living, social, highly intelligent and playful native parrot. They have benefited from increased resources and habitat associated with human development. In South Australia, little corellas have been expanding their range southwards over several decades. Little corellas have historically made seasonal movements, wintering in the arid north of South Australia and moving south in the warmer months; but now large flocks seem to be resident in southern settled areas.

Little corellas are described as an 'urban adaptor' as they are opportunistic feeders and thrive in urban environments. It is understood the little corella population has flourished thanks to agriculture, permanent fresh water sources and land clearance. These factors have resulted in large little corella flocks that impact upon urban and peri-urban areas, and rural towns. Little corellas are not often observed to cause impacts in 'natural' areas.

Flocks of little corellas are noisy and through their chewing behaviour they defoliate street trees, dig up grassy areas and can cause significant damage to urban infrastructure including buildings and wiring.

Management of little corella impacts is challenging from both social and practical perspectives. Community opinion about little corellas, and how best to manage their impacts, is polarised. Isolated management actions undertaken to address little corella impacts in the past decades across South Australia have been costly and have not resolved the issue. The attractiveness of cities, towns and agricultural landscapes, to little corellas, has not been reduced by existing management actions.

While current approaches to managing little corellas have benefitted from extensive research, many questions remain. Improved knowledge of the little corella population and its movement patterns is required. Similarly, existing and proposed management tools require documentation of their effectiveness, and novel management tools require investigation. Better information needs to be available to the community about the complexity of the issue and assistance to build community resilience and capacity to manage impacts.

There is no quick fix to the issue. A long-term reduction in little corella impacts will not be attainable if we continue to rely on uncoordinated, short-term management actions. Instead, coordinated multifaceted management approaches, undertaken by a number of stakeholders, are required to manage the impacts of little corellas.

Little corellas are an unprotected species listed under Schedule 10 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

Landowners, and shooters acting for landowners, do not require a permit to destroy little corellas on their land, if they are causing or likely to cause damage to crops, stock or other property. The *Code of Practice for the humane destruction of birds by shooting in South Australia* and legislation controlling firearms applies.

A *Permit to Destroy Flocking Birds by Trapping and Carbon Dioxide Narcosis* is required to undertake lethal trapping and gassing of little corellas. The *Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Flocking Birds by Trapping and Carbon Dioxide Narcosis in South Australia* applies.

How was this strategy developed?

To date, efforts to manage the impacts of little corellas have been undertaken by individual landowners and land managers. It has been identified that a state-wide approach is necessary to address the reported increase in little corella impacts. This coordinated and collaborative management approach, which takes account of the long-term nature of the issue, is required to educate, guide and support all who are impacted by little corellas.

It is acknowledged that there is no quick fix to resolve the issue. The South Australian Little Corella Management Strategy starts the long-term approach to reducing the impact of little corellas on South Australian communities, businesses and land managers. This strategy provides the framework for more informed, effective little corella controls and long-term actions to be identified and implemented, working towards long-term improvements.

The strategy has been developed following a co-design process involving the Local Government Association, local governments, and state government departments. Other stakeholders have provided advice about management solutions and general feedback throughout the development process.

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Aim of the Strategy

A coordinated and collaborative evidence-based state-wide approach with committed actions and resources that minimises the social, economic and environmental impacts of little corellas throughout South Australia.

Principles of the Strategy

We will work in partnership towards long-term solutions to reduce the impacts of little corellas.

This entails identifying, communicating, collaborating and sharing responsibilities across all stakeholder groups, such as local and state government agencies, industry, land managers, landowners and community groups in a regional working group model with state-wide coordination.

We acknowledge that little corellas are, and will continue to be, attracted to human-modified landscapes. Impacts on community amenity, economic impacts from damage to property and environmental concerns for damage to trees are identified as the main concerns of little corellas in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Changes to landscapes, including native revegetation, town planning and agricultural practices, as well as community education, will be required to achieve long-term reduction in human-wildlife conflict.

We will share the responsibility of proactive actions that support long-term solutions to reduce the impacts of little corellas. Short-term remedies, such as repair of damage and dispersal of flocks, are a cost that remains with the landowner or land manager. Commitment of resources to develop long-term solutions, that benefit all experiencing little corellas impacts throughout South Australia, should be a shared responsibility.

We will work effectively by using best practice approaches that have been developed based on evidence. Continuous improvement principles and contemporary research outcomes will be applied to develop and guide management activities tailored to specific little corella impact contexts.

We will always manage little corellas humanely and lawfully. Animal welfare is protected by legislation in South Australia. Any lethal or non-lethal management activities undertaken to reduce little corella impacts must comply with relevant legislative requirements.

Objectives of the Strategy

1. Coordinated regional management approaches to reduce the social, economic and environmental impacts of little corellas in South Australia

The impacts caused by little corellas in South Australia have been increasing in prevalence over the past 50 years. Communities from the far north to the south east of South Australia have been undertaking management activities to reduce the negative social, economic and environmental impacts in their regions.

A collaborative, state-wide approach that coordinates efforts is required to reduce the negative impacts of little corella in the long-term.

Little corella habitats are diverse and therefore regional management approaches must be tailored to the location and the community being impacted. Regional management plans with multifaceted short-, medium- and long-term management approaches should be developed in consultation and support of the local community and relevant stakeholders.

Actions

- a) Establish a governance model that defines clear responsibilities for little corella management in South Australia.
- b) Identify, and conduct impact assessments, on sites experiencing greatest social, economic and environmental impacts of little corellas.
- c) Develop and implement regional management plans, that clarify roles and responsibilities, to reduce little corella impacts in the region.
- d) Establish and maintain community and regional stakeholder commitment to undertaking appropriate short, medium, and long-term actions that reduce the impacts of little corellas.
- e) Undertake practical alterations to infrastructure, agricultural practices, town planning and native landscape revegetation to reduce impacts of little corellas.
- f) Establish safe habitat areas for little corellas.

Measures

Establishment of regional little corella working groups in impacted areas.

Development of regional management plans that address the identified 'problem sites' and are implemented with stakeholder commitment.

Reduction in the number and severity of reported little corella impacts.

A number of little corella sanctuaries established.

A number of sites modified to reduce attractiveness to little corellas.

2. Share knowledge about the complexity of little corella management

The management of little corellas can be a divisive topic. While some enjoy seeing little corellas, others experience a loss of wellbeing through reduced amenity, disruption from significant noise and damage to property.

Clear, factual information about the issues created by little corellas, and effective measure to address their impacts, needs to be developed and available to all. Making this information available to impacted communities will support collaboration to humanely and strategically reduce the social, economic and environmental impacts contributed to little corellas.

To successfully achieve this objective, appropriate communication methods that enable information sharing between all relevant stakeholders, must be implemented to support a long-term commitment to state-wide coordinated management actions.

Actions

- a) Establish a central point for the community and stakeholders to store, share and access information and resources.
- b) Develop resources to support little corella management.
- c) Develop and promote educational resources about the nature of the issue to the community and relevant stakeholders.
- d) Promote funding and resources that support reducing the impacts of little corellas.

Measures

Information and educational resources easily available when required.

Reduction of contributing causes on private land.

Reduction of reported little corella complaints.

3. Improve the understanding of little corella ecology and management approaches to reduce the impacts of little corellas

Significant investment in understanding and addressing little corella impacts has already been committed. However, existing and un-tested management tools require documentation of their effectiveness to enable communities and stakeholders impacted by little corellas to implement the most appropriate management actions.

While much is already known about little corella biology, management of little corellas could be improved by gaining a better understanding of the little corella population, and also their movement patterns and behaviours. Similarly, more effective and humane management approaches require investigation.

Research will enable evidence-based strategic approaches to be implemented to reduce little corella impacts while preserving little corella populations for future generations to appreciate.

Actions

- a) Investigate the little corella population size and dynamics, and little corella movements patterns.
- b) Investigate and, if appropriate, establish social, economic and environmental impact thresholds.
- c) Research and trial new approaches to reduce the abundance of little corellas, including sterilisation or contraception, and humane destruction methods to determine their effectiveness.
- d) Research new approaches and technologies to manage the impacts of little corellas in high human-wildlife conflict areas.
- e) Record, monitor and share the results of the effectiveness of a number of management approaches.
- f) Involve the community in citizen science to gather and share information.
- g) Collaborate with federal, state and local governments, scientists, industry, landowners and the community to improve the understanding of little corella ecology and management.

Measures

Research projects funded and delivered to inform little corella management.

Establish an estimate of South Australia's little corella population size.

Community involved in citizen science research.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

DEW will systematically monitor the South Australian Little Corella Management Strategy throughout the five years to ensure actions are undertaken effectively in accordance with best practice approaches.

At the conclusion of the strategy, the success measures will be evaluated with an outcome report published on the DEW's website within 12 months.

Additional Resources

Resources will be available at https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/plants-and-animals/Abundant_species/little-corellas as they become available.

Research

Title: Little Corellas: Social and Ecological Research for Management in South Australia
Author: Annette Scanlon, Philp Roetman, Michael Stead, Steven Gray and Mark Lethbridge
Date published: 2017

Title: Managing Impacts of the Little Corella on the Fleurieu Peninsula
Author: Ian Temby, M App Sc, Churchill Fellow 1999.
Date published: 2010

Title: Little Corella (*Cacatua sanguinea*); Resource document
Author: Department of Environment and Heritage
Date published: 2007

Title: Corella Research Project: Towards integrated management of the Little Corella on the Fleurieu Peninsula
Author: QED Pty Ltd, City of Onkaparinga
Date published: 2003

Available at www.environment.sa.gov.au