

# Indian Myna Control Project

## Working Together to Stop the Spread



### Indian Mynas have arrived in the Northern Rivers!

The Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), native to Asia and India, was first introduced into Australia (Melbourne) in 1862 in an attempt to control pests in market gardens. Further releases occurred in Queensland in 1883 in an attempt to control insect pests in cane fields. Indian Mynas have now spread from these starting points to colonise a large portion of coastal and inland south-eastern Australia through to north-east Queensland.

This range is continuously expanding northwards and westwards. Colonies of the bird establish in urban centers where there is plenty of food, and from there they radiate out to surrounding rural areas. Indian Mynas have recently colonised the Tweed and Byron Local Government Areas (LGAs).

As the species has only recently invaded the Tweed and Byron LGAs on-ground action may assist in preventing of any further range expansion within this area if it is undertaken in the near future. Trapping programs undertaken in Canberra, where the species has been established for a number of years, have been proven to be highly successful in significantly decreasing bird numbers within a localised area. Follow-up trapping is essential to preventing recolonisation of areas by the species.

If left uncontrolled, Indian Mynas will decimate local populations of many of our native species.



The Indian Myna  
Photo: Richard Major/Australian Museum

### Working Together to Stop Indian Mynas

WetlandCare Australia is working with the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA), the Tweed-Byron Indian Myna Action Group, landowners and other community groups to help control the spread of Indian Mynas in the Tweed and Byron Local Government Areas (LGAs). It is anticipated that this project will expand over time to include other local LGAs.

WetlandCare Australia is currently collating the results of a community survey that has been running for the last six months. Through the results of this survey, priority sites within the Tweed and Byron LGAs will be identified and Indian Myna control activities undertaken. Protection of Threatened Species habitat will be a primary focus when identifying priority sites.

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## The Problem with Mynas.....

### *Impacts on Biodiversity*

Indian Mynas are highly intelligent and aggressive birds that successfully compete with our native species for food and nesting sites. As Indian Mynas nest in hollows, the negative impacts from this species are particularly high on hollow-dependant mammals and birds. In addition, as they consume the fruits of exotic plant species, Indian Mynas can assist in the spread of weed species (O'Keefe and Walton 2001).

### *Other negative impacts of Indian Mynas include:*

- nesting in roofs. As Indian Mynas carry bird mites these can spread to the human inhabitants of the house. Bird mites bite, and they can cause asthma and hay fever if inhaled;
- accumulated droppings, particularly under communal roost sites.
- noise at night from communal roosts near residential areas; and
- damage to fruit crops.

## How Can I Get Involved?

Effective control of Indian Mynas is going to take a community effort. WetlandCare Australia is looking to work together with landowners, community groups and land managers in the Tweed and Byron Local Government Areas.

If you have Indian Mynas on or near your property, or would like to prevent the spread of Indian Mynas onto your property, contact WetlandCare Australia. We may be able to offer assistance with trapping of the birds and advice on other ways to limit the spread of Indian Mynas.

You can also help by:

- Reporting Indian Myna sightings to WetlandCare Australia;
- Educating others about the threat that Indian Mynas pose to our native wildlife;
- Providing habitat for our native fauna and restoring degraded landscapes.

Which Threatened Species may be affected by Indian Mynas in the Tweed-Byron region?

- Barking Owl
- Beccari's Freetail Bat
- Brown Treecreeper
- Brush-tailed Phascogale
- Coxen's Fig-Parrot
- Eastern False Pipistrelle
- Eastern Long-eared Bat
- Eastern Pygmy-possum
- Glossy Black Cockatoo
- Greater Broad-nosed Bat
- Hoary Wattled Bat
- Large-footed Myotis
- Masked Owl
- Powerful Owl
- Sooty Owl
- Squirrel Glider
- Yellow-bellied Glider
- Yellow-bellied Shearwater

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