

# Keeping birds

If you wish to keep birds in the city of Wodonga, you must follow the rules set out in Wodonga Council's Environment and Community Protection Local Law.

These controls have been introduced to protect the amenity of the area and reduce the impact on neighbours from:

- Odours;
- Noise;
- Dust; and,
- Rats, mice, vermin and insects.

## How many birds can I keep?

- Up to five birds can be kept on an allotment less than 450 square metres.
- Up to 10 birds can be kept on all other size blocks without a permit.
- A permit application must be made to keep more than 10 birds.

## Where can I house my birds?

Any structure used to house up to 10 birds must be placed a minimum distance of one metre from any boundary.

Requirements for housing more than 10 birds will be discussed and agreed upon as part of the permit application process.

## Bird housing conditions

The owner or occupier of the land where the birds are kept must ensure that:

- The ground within one metre of a bird enclosure located on the ground is kept free from dry grass, weeds, refuse, rubbish and other material harbouring which may harbour rats or other vermin;
- The ground surrounding the enclosure must be drained to the satisfaction of the council;
- All food for the birds must be stored in a vermin and fly-proof receptacle;
- The area is kept in a clean, inoffensive and sanitary condition;
- The birds do not cause a nuisance;
- The birds are kept in accordance with standards set by the council; and,
- There is no noise or smell emanating from the premises.

## What will the council consider when deciding whether to grant a permit application for keeping more than 10 birds?

- Complaints received in relation to the keeping of the birds
- The amenity of the area
- The type and additional numbers of animals to be kept
- The likely effects on adjoining owners or occupiers
- The adequacy of the birds enclosure
- The proximity of any adjacent habitable dwelling to cages
- Whether the neighbours are in support of the application
- Recommendations as result of an onsite inspection from a ranger/authorised officer
- Any other matter relevant to the circumstances associated with the application

## What happens if the council receives a complaint?

If the council receives a complaint regarding birds, the complaint will be investigated by council officers. If the complaint is found to be justified, you will be required to implement remedial measures. Such measures may include removing the birds from your premises. Failure to comply with a direction from the council can result in an infringement notice being issued to the occupier of the premises.

**For further information, advice or assistance, please contact Wodonga Council on (02) 6022 9300.**