# INFORMATION SHEET

Pigeon control and management

PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD

Feral pigeons have adapted extremely well to urban environments and can be found almost anywhere, particularly where food and shelter are readily available. They can breed throughout the year and generally remain close to their birthplace, making long-term population control challenging.

**Identifying Introduced or Feral Pigeons**

Feral pigeons can be grey, brown or white, although they are most commonly grey with two black bars across each wing and iridescent feathers around the neck. There are no obvious visual differences between male and female pigeons.

Domestic pigeons, including those kept as pets or for racing, can appear similar to feral pigeons. However, domestic pigeons are often identifiable by an identification band or tag attached to one of their legs

**Crested Pigeons (Native Species)**

Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), commonly referred to as native pigeons, are found throughout South Australia in woodlands, wetlands, towns and suburban areas.

Crested Pigeons are predominantly silver-grey with hints of brown and green. Their wings feature bronze colouring with black stripes and glossy green, blue and purple patches. Unlike introduced pigeon species, Crested Pigeons have a distinctive pointed grey-black crest on top of their heads.

**Pigeons as Pets**

Pigeons kept for racing or homing should be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner.

Keeping pigeons is not an offence; however, owners are responsible for ensuring their birds do not create a nuisance for neighbouring properties. This includes preventing pigeons from regularly landing on neighbouring premises and causing noise, odour, feather accumulation or droppings that may affect others

**Control Measures**

Feral pigeon populations have increased in urban environments due to their ability to quickly adapt to available food sources and shelter. Managing these populations can be difficult because pigeons can roost in a wide range of locations, including narrow ledges, rooflines, beams, building façades, bridges and jetties.

Locally, unmanaged feral pigeon populations have become a concern for the grain export industry. Pigeons can also create nuisance for the broader community through the accumulation of feathers and droppings around buildings and public spaces.

Pigeon faeces can damage building surfaces due to their acidic nature and may present a potential public health risk in some circumstances.

No single control method provides a complete solution. However, a combination of measures can help reduce pigeon numbers around your home or business, including:

- Removing and appropriately disposing of food sources, such as food scraps.
- "Pigeon-proofing" your property by installing mesh, netting, wires or spikes to prevent roosting.
- Seeking advice from a licensed pest control professional.

***Please note that the City of Port Adelaide Enfield does not provide residential or commercial pigeon control or mitigation services.***

**Feeding Pigeons**

Feeding feral pigeons can contribute to nuisance issues and may result in an offence under the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016* where the activity causes a local nuisance. For this reason, residents are strongly encouraged not to feed pigeons they do not own, as enforcement action may result where nuisance can be established.

If you believe someone is deliberately feeding feral pigeons and causing nuisance, consider speaking with them first about the impact their actions may be having on others. If the issue continues, you are encouraged to lodge a complaint so the matter can be investigated by an authorised officer.

**Further Information**

For further information or advice, please contact the City of Port Adelaide Enfield Customer Relations team on (08) 8405 6600 or email service@cityofpae.sa.gov.au.