

Our Ref: BNE1626-4  
BNE2005/6104  
E/05/01735  
Your Ref: 449-05

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary services  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2005 providing a copy of a petition received by the House on 22 March 2005 concerning crows in the southern Palm Beach area.

Torresian crow populations have increased significantly in the suburbs of south-east Queensland. They are predominantly a scavenging species and the increased amounts of food available through a number of sources provide a ready supply of food.

The culling of crows is not generally recognised as an effective wildlife management tool in urban areas due to the likelihood of animals from surrounding areas rapidly re-colonising the site and the unknown consequences with regard to inter-species impacts.

Consequently, opportunities for managing crow populations are generally restricted to educational strategies aimed at informing the general community of their role in crow abundance and providing information as to how to make a positive contribution towards reducing their numbers.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is actively involved in assisting to reduce the amount of additional feed available for crows through educational programs, such as those delivered at David Fleay Wildlife Park and the Daisy Hill Koala Centre, production of information materials including brochures and web-based information, and day to day interactions with members of the public. The QPWS also now licenses the commercial feeding of wildlife, including the management of feeding of non-target species.

A technique that may be employed to deter the crows from using trees within a property is the use of metallic skinned helium balloons, which can be hoisted on lines into the trees where flocks are known to roost. This is best done when the birds are temporarily absent.

I hope that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Desley Boyle MP**  
**Minister for Environment**  
**Minister for Local Government and Planning**  
**Minister for Women**