Wildlife

The Gold Coast is home to a wide range of plant and animal species and works with the community to protect our native wildlife.

Nuisance native animals

Our backyard lawns, parks, school grounds and paddocks may have been designed for people, but they have also created a unique habitat for native animals that like to live in grassy, lightly treed areas. Some native animals can have nuisance behaviours, such as swooping magpies and noisy crows, however, the benefits of living with wildlife outweigh the negative impacts.

**Magpies and butcher birds**

If swooping magpies and/or butcher birds are causing a nuisance on City land, or their nest is located on City land, please complete our online form below or contact us on 07 5667 5990 to arrange an inspection.

**Report a problem online**

Use this online form to report your issue to City of Gold Coast.

If the bird is nesting in, or attacking from, a tree located within private property, City officers are unable to enter the private property. As magpies and butcher birds are a protected species, a qualified assessor from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will need to assess the bird. Contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on 1300 130 372 to discuss the situation.

**Wild pigeons**

City of Gold Coast does not offer any services to remove or trap wild pigeons. Residents who experience problems with wild pigeons should contact a private pest contractor.

**Possums**

The City does not offer any services to remove or trap possums. Residents who experience problems with possums should contact a private pest contractor.

**Snakes**

Snakes are protected under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and it is an offence to kill, injure or take snakes from the wild.

Snakes usually prefer to retreat when encountered but, if they feel threatened, they can become defensive. Most snake bites are received by people who try to capture or kill a snake. If you encounter a snake, don't panic. Back away to a safe distance and allow the snake to move away. Snakes often want to escape when disturbed.

If you witness a snake on City land that you believe may pose a risk to the public, please contact us on 07 5667 5990 to arrange an inspection.

If the snake is located on private property, you should contact a snake catcher via yellow pages.

**Injured wildlife**

It's an unfortunate fact of life that our native fauna are constantly in danger, whether it be from land clearing, road accidents or natural disasters.

If you find an orphaned, sick or injured animal:

- Keep calm and assess the situation.
- If it is an orphaned bird, check to see if its parents are around. The bird will be much happier if it is reunited with its natural parents.
- If it is a small, easily handled animal, place it in a box and put it somewhere dark and quiet and out of reach of children, pets and other disturbances.
- If it is a large animal, place a box or washing basket over the top of it to calm the animal down.
- Call for help. Call 1300 ANIMAL to report sick, injured or orphaned animals to the RSPCA - anything from marine strandings through to roadside injuries. The RSPCA call centre manages these calls and will either attend or refer you to local wildlife or domestic organisations, animal carers or wildlife rehabilitators.
- You can also take the animal in to any RSPCA Animal Care Centre if you have access to transport and are happy to handle the animal.

Related information

- 1ts
- Flying foxes
- Pest plants and animals
- Protecting wildlife
- Report a problem - Pests

Jump to key information

**Key Information**

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