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PUBLIC URGED TO RELEASE TRAPPED INDIAN MYNAS

The Animal Protectors Alliance deplores as hypocritical nonsense the ACT government's latest hysterical attempt to get citizens to kill innocent animals pretending that this will address problems that are caused entirely by humans.

“Any species will do, if the government thinks it can get away with blaming it for something that humans have done to the environment, the government will do so!” declares Robyn Soxsmith, spokesperson for the Animal Protectors Alliance.

“The worst of it is the apparent willingness of otherwise decent humans to get on the bandwagon of blaming and join in the killing,” Ms Soxsmith adds.

As usual, in its web publication “Indian Myna Birds, the government has set out to mislead the public by obfuscation and exaggeration. Most importantly the web article fails to admit that if there is indeed a “marked increase in Indian mynas over the last few decades” this is a direct, well-known and inevitable result of the government's campaign to get members of the public to kill these animals in incredibly high numbers.

Indian mynas (like foxes, cats, rats, rabbits, pigs, pigeons and, in fact, most other naturalised species) are fast-breeding animals that are essentially impossible to eradicate, other than by sustained fertility control.

“It's the exact opposite of what happens when you kill slow breeding animals like kangaroos, where the current scale of killing, if sustained, will certainly lead to extinction,” comments Robyn Soxsmith.

She explains that when you kill fast-breeding animals, every single individual killed empties a niche for another, usually younger individual of the same species. Since younger animals are more fertile than older animals, if you maintain a sustained killing program you are maintaining, in perpetuity, a younger population and therefore a larger population.

This is exactly what the ACT government has been doing with Indian mynas for several decades.

“The worst of it is that the government knows this!” asserts Ms Soxsmith. “Scapegoating has been a standard tactic of governments down the ages. Focusing the public's attention on Indian mynas distracts attention from the single most significant cause of all the environmental (and many of the social) problems

currently facing the ACT: endless appropriation of green space and wildlife habitat for urban development. It incites public anger against a totally innocent party, to keep that anger from falling where it is so richly deserved - on the government itself.

The APA will be doing everything possible to educate the public on this matter, and is asking anyone finding trapped Indian mynas to release them immediately.

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