



## PLEASE DON'T FEED THE WILDLIFE

When people feed ducks, native birds and wildlife, they may not realise that giving wildlife food that they wouldn't normally eat is bad for their health and environment



Native birds have a varied and healthy natural diet which includes nectar, plants, aquatic plant seeds, insects, yabbies and shrimps. This food keeps them healthy.

People almost always feed the animals food they themselves eat, especially bread. Human food is like junk food for native birds and animals. It can be high in salt and energy, and lead to many dietary and other problems:

- it is bad for digestion
- it can make the birds and animals lazy to forage for their own food and become reliant on humans for food
- it can increase aggression and stress as the animals compete for the human food
- it can encourage large numbers of animals to gather in the one place where they can easily spread diseases to one another
- it can attract mice, rats, foxes and feral cats

- it can lead to delayed migration
- the animals could become a nuisance to your neighbours as they come searching for food
- bird seeds may contain weeds which can help create a weed infestation, and any uneaten seeds may rot, grow mould and become diseased.

Everyone is encouraged to enjoy native birds and wildlife in their natural habitat by watching and learning without impacting on their environment.

If you would like to learn more about native birds and wildlife, you can visit your local library, join the Bushland crew on one of their bird survey community days, or visit [www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au](http://www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au) or [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au).

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