

## **The Three Models for Myna Control**

Indian Myna control activities across NSW and ACT fall into three general types of approaches. All these approaches have strong points. These are discussed below.

### ***Community-Action Model***

Under this model, education and myna control activities are initiated and organised by a community group without government instigation or facilitation. The community group develops and distributes public awareness information, and members undertake trapping activity on their own properties. A distinguishing feature is that members own and operate traps on their own property according to guidelines / animal welfare protocols developed by the group. Under this approach, there can be very many people with traps and the trapping effort can be quite intense - and highly successful - across suburbs or towns. As traps are made by members of the group rather than being bought commercially, it is a low-cost activity for members and the group.

The Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc and the Central Coast Indian Myna Action Group Inc are examples of this approach.

### ***The Council Model***

Under this approach, a council undertakes the control operations, from public education and promotion, to trapping and disposal. Local governments have advantages in disseminating information to the public and ratepayers. Some councils have been quite innovative in developing and supporting a trapping program: it has been undertaken by council officers or contracted out, and council-owned traps have been rotated gratis / leased out to interested members of the community or to hire companies. This approach does place the onus and a high cost on councils and an effective control program with an extensive trapping effort is resource intense: staff cost, purchase of traps and their management. The purchase of commercial traps is expensive and tends to limit the number of traps in the trapping program. Resource constraints can severely impact on the extent and hence effectiveness of the overall control program.

Sutherland Shire Council and Port Stephens Council have developed council programs that have some of these sorts of elements.

### ***The Council - Community Integrated Model***

Under this approach, the council and community jointly undertake aspects of the control program. Council is likely to initiate the activity by facilitating the establishment of a community group, coordinating initial activity and providing public education through pamphlets and notices, and may even dispose of mynas for community trappers. The community-action group is responsible for trapping – the community makes, owns and operates the traps and generates and sustains community involvement. It does the monitoring and survey work and collates capture data. The group and the council may disseminate information about the community program. This division of responsibilities enables a control program to be set and operate at low cost to the council but with potentially high impact, depending on the enthusiasm of the community organization.

A number of councils are setting up this low-cost / high impact approach. The Shoalhaven City Council is a good example of this model.