

Sulphur Crested Cockatoo

Kakatoe galerita

Australian Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are large white parrots with a yellow crest. They have naturalised in bush areas and displace native birds. They are popular cage birds and are often trapped from the wild and sold.

This acts as a control on their numbers at least in accessible areas. By the same token populations are boosted by the release of unwanted pets into the wild. During the breeding season these gregarious birds live in pairs or in groups of small family parties high in the trees. They build their nests in tree hollows and hollow tree limbs. They feed on seeds, grain, nuts, fruit, bulbs and insects and they supplement their diet by stripping the bark off trees. From dawn until mid morning they usually feed on the ground, then they move into the trees for the hottest part of the day. Here they idly strip off leaves and bark from the trees. They then return to their roosts at night, where there is much noise and screeching over the best perches.

The extent of adverse impact from sulphur-crested cockatoos is difficult to assess. Horizons are monitoring their numbers and assessing their impact on the environment.

Horizons offer advice and information, and if appropriate a user-pays service, to assist the control of these troublesome birds.

The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo is identified in Horizons Animal Pest Management Strategy as a 'Non-Statutory problem animal'. This means that it is an undesirable animal, but has not met all the criteria for inclusion as an animal pest. Where values in High Value Conservation Areas (HVCA) are at risk and in other exceptional circumstances these animals may also be controlled by Horizons. HVCA's are important areas of native bush and wildlife habitat in the Region.



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