

# MEDIA RELEASE



DEPARTMENT FOR  
**environment**  
and heritage



Thursday, 21 December 2000

## Native birds in commercially-operated orchards and vineyards

Australians recognise that native birds are a unique part of this country and value the positive impacts they have on our environment and lifestyle. However, some native birds can cause significant damage to commercial fruit crops. As wildlife managers, we have a responsibility to ensure the ongoing survival of our wildlife, whilst also minimising the negative impacts of abundant populations in some areas.

Musk Lorikeets, Rainbow Lorikeets and Adelaide Rosellas are common native birds, which feed on pollen and nectar from eucalypts, seeds, fruits and flower buds and some insects. Food sources for these birds have increased in parts of their range due to the establishment of vines, fruit crops and urban and rural revegetation programs. While some people enjoy the company of these colourful and active birds, the cost to the community of increased populations must be addressed.

The Minister for Environment and Heritage has announced that, in the interests of providing improved management of native bird pests on orchards and vineyards in South Australia, the requirement of commercial orchardists to obtain a destruction permit is removed for these common species in the following local government areas:

### **Musk Lorikeets, Rainbow Lorikeets and Adelaide Rosellas**

Mt Lofty Ranges/ Barossa/ Fleurieu Peninsula regions: Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Barossa, Gawler, Kapunda and Light, Mitcham, Mt Barker, Onkaparinga, Playford, Tea Tree Gully, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla.

### **Musk Lorikeets and Rainbow Lorikeets**

Murraylands region: Berri Barmera, Loxton Waikerie, Mid Murray, Murray Bridge, Renmark Paringa.

From 14 December 2000 until 30 June 2001, the protected birds listed may be destroyed by persons owning commercially-operated orchards and vineyards within council districts identified above, and their employees and agents.

This does not remove legal protection for these species. The protected birds listed may only be destroyed by means of a firearm, operated in accordance with all legislation pertaining to the use of firearms, animal welfare and noise, and all other relevant legislation; and in accordance with the code of practice entitled *Humane Destruction of Birds by Shooting in South Australia*.

Copies of the Code of Practice are available from the Fauna Permit Section, National Parks and Wildlife SA, 1 High Street, Kensington (telephone (08) 8204 8702) or any regional office of National Parks and Wildlife SA.

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