

SHOULD YOU FEED NATIVE BIRDS?

WIRES does **NOT** recommend that you feed any native birds for the following reasons:

- 90% of birds eat **insects and nectar**, seed or fruit. Feeding them the wrong food **changes the balance of their diet** and can negatively impact their health.
- Feeding birds can **increase aggression and stress** as many try to feed together, this wouldn't happen naturally.
- Feeding can **increase the number** of non-native birds, non-native rats, and cockroaches.
- Artificial feeding can **change the balance of species in the wild** as it can increase some species, which in turn, decreases others. The Rainbow lorikeet for example has taken great advantage of the artificial feeding and has all but eliminated the shy Scaly Breasted lorikeet from our urban areas.
- Feeding can **spread disease** through a concentration of food and birds in large numbers in one place.
- Bird seed left out in damp conditions rots, grows mould, and **introduces disease** to the birds, and can also **attract rats and mice**.
- Feeding encourages birds to **become dependent on humans for their survival**. They can lose the ability to find food for themselves, particularly if they are juveniles who should be learning to find their natural food.
- It can **cause sickness and deformities in young** as high quantities of salt are present in bread and processed foods.
- Feeding can make them **overweight** and high quantities of fat are present in processed food and meat. Raw meat is lacking in calcium and has high levels of phosphorous which contribute to dietary imbalance and severe deficiencies.

