



Biosecurity alert: Rainbow lorikeets

(*Trichoglossus haematodus*)

The pest and its impacts

Rainbow lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) are a declared pest in Western Australia. The birds are a major agricultural pest, significantly damaging commercial table grape and orchard fruit crops, as well as vegetable and field crops.

The rainbow lorikeet is already established in the Perth metropolitan area, so it's very important the bird doesn't establish populations in the South West.



LOOK for this pest

Highly distinctive with brightly coloured plumage, rainbow lorikeets have a bright yellow/orange/red breast, a mostly violet-blue throat, and a yellow-green collar.

Rainbow lorikeets fly swiftly with rapid whirring wing beats, displaying flashes of dark green and bright red, and continuously screeching while in flight.

Key points:

- small, about 30cm long
- distinctive, colourful feathers and an orange beak
- spend most of their time in outer foliage of tall trees, including exotic lemon-scented gums, cotton palms, date palms, fig, and native jarrah trees.
- roost in very large, noisy groups, leaving roosts at dawn
- constant screeching and chaotic noise while feeding and at their roosts
- acrobatic and swift, they fly high and rarely go to ground.

How you can help: look, act, report

The rainbow lorikeet is a declared pest under section 22(2) of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*. Outside of the Perth metro area, please report any sightings and roosting locations to DPIRD.



Rainbow lorikeets aggressively compete with native birds for nest holes, chasing away other birds from their nests in the area, even magpies.



Often confused with their flashy cousins, purple-crowned lorikeets (left) have dark purple crowns and a powder blue chin, chest, and belly.

Designated control categories for rainbow lorikeets in WA

Rainbow lorikeets are regulated in two control categories, with different management methods depending on location.

- The Perth metropolitan area is a C3 control category. Private, municipal, and state government landholders manage rainbow lorikeets to alleviate their harmful impact, reduce numbers/distribution, or prevent and contain their spread.
- Most other areas of the state (see map) are a C1 control category. Rainbow lorikeets are excluded from this area. Please **report** any suspected sightings.



REPORT suspected sightings in the exclusion zone

- Be aware of any new or unusual birds
- Note the date, time and location of the bird
- Take photographs, if possible



Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter
via app or online
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
(08) 9368 3080
padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

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