



MEDIA RELEASE

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Community program key to myna bird problem

September 2, 2019
COOKTOWN

A community-led program which has resulted in more than 80,000 pest Indian myna birds being removed from Cairns was recently showcased at a Cooktown workshop.

Cook Shire Council and South Cape York Catchments facilitated the workshop, with Cairns Men's Shed coordinator Ron Moon sharing the methods used in the successful Cairns removal program. "The community support was great, with 11 people attending and expressing their interest in being part of the solution to our growing Indian myna bird problem," South Cape York Catchments Group Coordinator Jason Carroll said. "A community-led trapping program to reduce Indian myna numbers has proven highly successful in Cairns and other areas, and we hope through the information provided at this workshop, such a group will be formed in Cooktown."

The Indian myna bird is an introduced species which poses a serious threat to local wildlife by reducing breeding success when aggressively competing for nesting hollows. The birds also spread diseases such as avian malaria and weeds including lantana and fireweed, and damage fruit, vegetable and cereal crops. "Indian myna numbers in Cooktown are currently very low and our hope is that if we can reduce their numbers now we might prevent them from becoming established," Mr Carroll said. Council and the Catchment Group will continue to support community efforts to reduce Indian myna bird numbers by providing the traps which have successfully caught 80,000 of the pest birds in Cairns, and tracking sightings for future management planning.

For more information or to report Indian myna sightings, please contact Council's Biosecurity Services team via email at biosecurity@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.

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