

Councillor Abrahamzadeh - QoN - Seasonal Bird Nesting

Tuesday, 26 March 2024
Council

Council Member
Councillor Arman Abrahamzadeh

Public

Contact Officer:
Tom McCready, Director City
Services

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Arman Abrahamzadeh will ask the following Question on Notice:

'Noting the recent enquiries regarding the seasonal bird migration and nesting in Leigh Street received by Elected Members from various property and business owners within the Street, can Administration provide advice on what measures have been taken to assist in the management and / or control of this occurrence, including any potential or future solutions or engagement with stakeholders that may be required?'

REPLY

1. Between January and May each year, up to 10,000 Tree Martins migrate to Leigh Street to roost in the Callery Pear trees which line the street. The birds migrate to this location due to the design of the street, and the protection it provides from animals of prey.
2. Having this many Tree Martins in the heart of the city is a bonus from a conservation perspective. However, there are challenges to hosting this many birds in a busy, congested urban setting.
3. The amount of bird droppings required to clean up daily can be challenging in a space which is a major pedestrian thoroughfare and popular outdoor dining and entertainment precinct.
4. Administration has been proactively monitoring the 2023/24 migration season in respect to the bird behaviour and the volume of bird droppings within the street and surrounding areas.
5. To date the measures taken to improve outcomes have included:
 - 5.1. Additional tree pruning to minimise overhang above dining areas.
 - 5.2. Removal of a poor performing tree directly adjacent to the outdoor dining area of Shobosho.
 - 5.3. Additional cleaning during migration season from daily to twice daily.
 - 5.4. Approval of canopy for Shobosho bar and kitchen over their outdoor dining area.
 - 5.5. Investigating bird control technology for commercial buildings including sonar. This technology is not suitable for a highly pedestrianised location due to the risk to eyesight.
 - 5.6. Investigating appropriateness of netting trees, due to the size and scale it was determined this was not a viable option.
 - 5.7. Regular monitoring and spot cleaning where permitted.
6. In response to the regular monitoring undertaken by Administration and feedback from property owners and businesses additional measures have been put in place which include:

- 6.1. Increasing cleaning in the street from two to three visits daily at 6am, 10am and 4pm from Monday 26 February 2024.
- 6.2. Increased detailed scrubbing and pressure washing of the pavement and urban elements.
- 6.3. Ongoing monitoring and liaison with traders to understand the effectiveness of additional services.
- 7. Engagement with stakeholders occurred prior to the bird migration season and has continued.
- 8. There has been ongoing communication between Administration and the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) and Green Adelaide in respect to the options available to deter or stop the birds from migrating to this location, with no specific outcome determined at this stage.
- 9. Administration is continuing to work with DEW and Green Adelaide to explore options available to control future migration of the birds to Leigh Street.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 4 hours.
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