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**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

**Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity (Tenth Assembly) -
Report No 12 - Inquiry into Petition 17-23: Indian (Common) Myna Control**

Government Response

**Presented by
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Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
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Introduction

The ACT Government acknowledges the former Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity (Standing Committee) of the Tenth Legislative Assembly for conducting an inquiry into *Petition 17-23: Indian (Common) Myna Control*. The Government appreciates all the businesses, organisations, and individuals who contributed evidence to support the work of the Standing Committee. The evidence provided demonstrated the significant diversity in opinion about the threat posed by Common Mynas and the most appropriate approach to manage this threat.

The ACT's biodiversity and environment is threatened to a large and growing numbers of pest plants and animals of which the Common Myna is a declared prohibited pest animal under the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* (Act). Canberrans have a strong appetite and commitment to fighting pest plants and animals to protect the ACT's natural environment. Each day across Canberra there is likely to be community members volunteering for one of the many volunteer groups and who are removing weeds, reporting pest animals, planting trees, or improving soil conditions.

The ACT Government is pleased to provide this response to the report from the inquiry. The response is consistent with the position of the previous government in response to E-Petition 17-23, and evidence provided by the former government to the inquiry.

The ACT Government recently finalised an invasive species prioritisation assessment, which was funded in the 2023-24 budget. This work will help inform and guide future Government work and investment in invasive species. Common Myna birds were considered as part of this work

Government Response

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government recognise the ongoing efforts of CIMAG to control the Common Myna population.

Government response: EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY.

The Government recognises and understands the passion and commitment of CIMAG members to control Common Mynas in the ACT.

The Government will continue to engage with CIMAG about their work and the threat posed by Common Mynas to help guide and inform the planning and delivery of the ACT's strategic pest plants and invasives programs.

Culling of Common Myna birds needs to comply with humane procedures and preferably with oversight from suitably trained persons.

The RSPCA provides information regarding the gassing of Common Mynas using car exhaust fumes. The process has many variables which if not properly considered can result in inhumane death of trapped Common Mynas and even pose a risk to humans. Any community program utilising these methods would need to be able to demonstrate management of these risks and compliance with animal welfare provisions.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government recognise the significant concern by the community regarding the threat to our ACT biodiversity as a result of the presence of the Common Myna.

Government response: EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY.

The Government acknowledges the significant interest by sections of the Canberra community about efforts to controlling Common Mynas. This interest reflects the strong interest by Canberrans to protect the natural environment from pest plants and animals.

The Government will continue to work in partnership with all environmental groups to support, guide, and inform control action against pest plants and animals in a prioritised, proportionate, safe, and resource considered manner.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to monitor the impact of Common Mynas on ACT biodiversity.

Government response: AGREE IN PRINCIPLE.

As part of its broader conservation research and monitoring program, the government will continue to monitor the impacts of pest plants and animals including the Common Myna. The scale and level of this monitoring will be carefully considered against all monitoring priorities and response actions adopted as appropriate.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government support community-led initiatives to educate the community and control Common Myna population.

Government response: AGREE IN PRINCIPLE.

The Government will continue to consider on a case-by-case basis all requests for support of community-led initiatives to educate the community and control Common Myna populations.

Requests for support that are received will be carefully considered against the priorities of the invasive species prioritisation assessment and any operational considerations that may need to be taken into account.