

Rainbow lorikeets

Trichoglossus haematodus



Image: Chris Tzaros

Natural range:

Indonesia
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands
New Caledonia
Australia (South Australia to Queensland)

Risk to Tasmania:

Extreme

Main impacts:

Native wildlife (esp. parrots)
Agriculture
Spread disease

Status:

Rainbow lorikeets are a controlled animal under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*

Importation is prohibited in Tasmania

NOT WANTED

in Tasmania

Although a very attractive looking bird, rainbow lorikeets pose a serious threat to Tasmania's native biodiversity, environment and agriculture.

Who's a pretty pest?

Rainbow lorikeets are an emerging invasive threat to Tasmania. If they were to establish here they would compete for food and resources with native parrots, such as the musk lorikeet, swift parrot and green rosella.

They also pose a potential disease risk as they are carriers of Psittacine beak and feather disease.

Rainbow lorikeets are a serious threat to Tasmania's agricultural industries. They have the potential to have high impact on cherry, apple, pear, stone fruit and grape crops.

Prompt action is vital

Rainbow lorikeets are very adaptable birds that have the ability to quickly establish in new areas.

Feral rainbow lorikeets are believed to have established in Western Australia from fewer than 10 birds that were either deliberately released or escaped from aviaries in the 1960s.

By 2006, the population was 15 000 – 20 000 birds!

What can we do?

The Invasive Species Branch is currently managing a control program to reduce the numbers of feral rainbow lorikeets in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian public should be on high alert for this species and report all sightings.

Early detection to allow rapid response to incursions is vital.

Invasive Species Enquiries
03 6165 377

What to look for

Key identifying features

- **Blue head**
- **Seen in fast-moving flocks**
- **Screeches loudly during flight and when roosting**

Adult rainbow lorikeets are approximately 30 cm long with a 45 cm wingspan. They are brightly coloured with a blue head (which distinguishes them from other Tasmanian parrots) green wings, tail and back, and an orange-yellow breast.

Juveniles are generally duller than adults, with a much duller brownish-orange bill.

Rainbow lorikeets have a swift, direct flight with rapid whirring wing beats and display flashes of dark green and bright red.

They screech continuously while in flight, when at food sources and at roost sites.

References

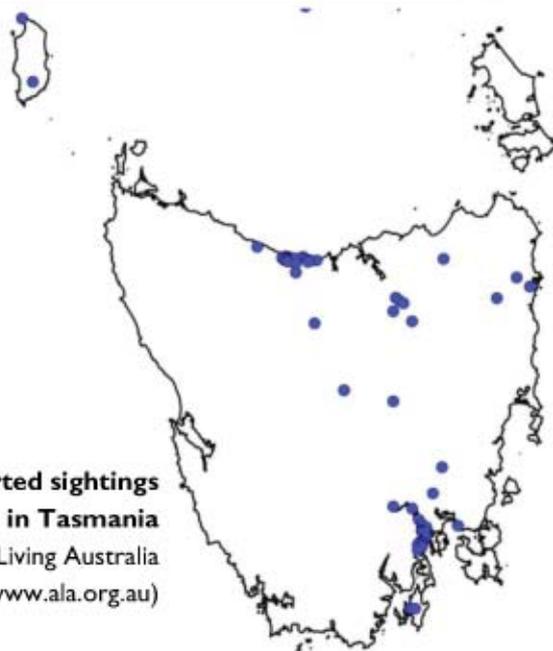
Latitude 42 (2011) Pest Risk Assessment: Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*). Latitude 42 Environmental Consultants, Hobart, Tasmania.

Massam, M. & Mawson, P. (2009). Management of rainbow lorikeets in Western Australia – a two-year update. Australian Viticulture v13n6: NOV/DEC 2009.



Image: Jennie Stock - Courtesy of Invasive Animals CRC

Rainbow lorikeets can be identified by their **distinctive blue head**; no Tasmanian native parrot has a blue head.



Known locations and reported sightings of rainbow lorikeets in Tasmania

Image sourced from Atlas of Living Australia on 20 Feb 2013 (www.ala.org.au)

Get involved to help protect Tasmania

- Don't let captive rainbow lorikeets loose in Tasmania.
- Don't feed (either intentionally or accidentally) rainbow lorikeets that are living in the wild.
- Be on high alert for this species and report all sightings in Tasmania to the Invasive Species Branch on **03 6165 3777**

www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasivespecies

Invasive Species Branch

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