

# Keeping of Pigeons

## Animals Local Law 1999

If you wish to keep pigeons on your property please obtain a Certificate of Registration from the City's Health and Environmental Services. You will also need to obtain a written opinion on your intention to keep pigeons from all neighbours adjacent to your property. The opinions will be taken into account when the City processes the application. The *Animals Local Law* addresses the issues of pigeon numbers, flight times, and loft construction.

### Approval limitations

Unless approved prior to the 1999 Local Law, pigeons are not to be kept on a property of less than 600m<sup>2</sup>.

### Limit on number of pigeons

Once in possession of a Certificate of Registration from the City's Health and Environmental Services you will have permission to keep either of the following maximum numbers of birds:

- a maximum of 20 pigeons (excluding young birds) for all general applicants whose land is the subject of a Certificate of Registration
- a maximum of 150 pigeons (excluding young birds). If you intend to keep more than 20 pigeons, or wish to release your pigeons for exercise, then you must provide evidence that you are a current financial member of a recognised incorporated racing pigeon body, or evidence that you are a registered pigeon fancier. The City will need to see proof please.

### Exercise of pigeons

When exercising your pigeons please abide by the following rules:

- Racing or homing pigeons may be released for exercise between sunrise and 9.00am and between 3.30pm and 7.00pm, as outlined in the *Code of Practice for Pigeon Keeping and Racing in Western Australia*.
- No more than 60 registered racing/homing pigeons are to be released for exercise at any one time.
- Only a pigeon keeper registered with the City's Health and Environmental Services may release pigeons for exercise.
- If you are a registered certificate holder with the City, please practice the 'no aerial soiling' policy and discourage your pigeons from roof sitting.

The City's Health and Environmental Services may impose and amend conditions on a Certificate of Registration, as required, to minimise any nuisance associated with the keeping of pigeons.

### Cage, enclosure, or loft requirements

Your pigeons' cage, enclosure, or loft must blend in with its surroundings and be constructed of new materials. Please ensure that the following minimum requirements are fulfilled:

- The floor is to be constructed using a minimum of 50mm thick concrete.
- The cladding of the loft, including the roof, is to be of a smooth material.
- The loft height is not to exceed 2.4m.
- Where the loft roof has a gable, the height is not to exceed 3m.

In addition a loft is not to be located nearer than:

- 1.2m from the boundary of any adjacent land
- 9m from any dwelling or food premises
- 9m from any road, reserve or street.

Planning and/or building approval may be required for pigeon cages, enclosures or lofts. Please contact the City's Planning and Building Departments for further advice on **9400 4000**.

### How to apply for a certificate of registration

Please apply in writing to the City if you wish to keep pigeons on your property. To assist you we have provided a list below of items that must be included in your application before we can consider issuing you with a Certificate of Registration:

- your name/s and contact numbers
- your address and the address of where the pigeons are to be kept

- a plan of the premises showing the location of the pigeon loft in relation to all dwellings, other buildings, structures and fences
- the plans and specifications of the proposed loft
- the written opinion of all owner/occupiers whose land is adjacent to the land where the pigeons are to be kept
- the proposed number of adult pigeons to be kept
- the application fee (please refer to the City's Health and Environmental Services Schedule of Fees)

If approval is granted, we request that you pay the initial licence fee for the remainder of the licence year, which is from 1 July to 30 June. Please refer to the City's Health and Environmental Services Schedule of Fees for current fees for approved pigeon keepers.

### **Do you need further information?**

Please contact the City's Health and Environmental Services on **9400 4933**.

You may wish to visit the following website:

*Animals Local Law 1999* on the City of Joondalup website  
**[joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au)**