

PIGEON CONTROL AND ERADICATION STRATEGY



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History Summary

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Preface

The Pigeon Control and Eradication Strategy has been developed to address the ongoing challenges posed by feral pigeons within the Shire of Narrogin. These birds have contributed to property damage, health risks, and the degradation of Narrogin's valued heritage assets. This strategy outlines a proactive, humane, and coordinated approach to effectively reduce the pigeon population and mitigate associated risks.

The strategy aligns with the Shire's commitment to maintaining a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and visitors. It includes a combination of population control techniques, public education initiatives, and incentives for building owners to support exclusion methods. Where necessary, enforcement measures may be introduced to ensure compliance and achieve desired outcomes.

This document serves as a practical guide for Shire officers, residents, and business owners, ensuring clear direction for addressing pigeon-related concerns. By implementing this strategy, the Shire of Narrogin aims to protect public health, preserve heritage buildings, and improve overall amenity within the community.

The strategy will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure its ongoing effectiveness, and feedback from stakeholders will play a key role in refining the program. The Shire encourages residents, property owners, and businesses to support this initiative to help maintain Narrogin as a vibrant and attractive place to live and visit.

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INTRODUCTION

Pigeons have become a persistent pest in Narrogin's townsite, causing property damage, health concerns, and threatening the integrity of heritage buildings. The Shire of Narrogin, as both a major property owner and the local health authority, is committed to reducing and eventually eradicating feral pigeon populations in the Central Business District (CBD) and townsite. This strategy outlines a comprehensive approach that balances humane control measures with enforcement of the Shire's Health Local Law 2022. The primary objectives are to significantly reduce pigeon numbers (targeting a >50% reduction over three years through reproductive control ([Use of Fertility Control \(Nicarbazin\) in Barcelona: An Effective yet Respectful Method towards Animal Welfare for the Management of Conflictive Feral Pigeon Colonies - PMC](#)), protect public health and heritage structures, and engage landowners in long-term prevention efforts.

Key Objectives

- **Population Reduction:** Gradual decline in pigeon numbers each year through sustained control (aiming for measurable drops in flock size, e.g. ~50% over 3 years ([Use of Fertility Control \(Nicarbazin\) in Barcelona: An Effective yet Respectful Method towards Animal Welfare for the Management of Conflictive Feral Pigeon Colonies - PMC](#))).
- **Protect Buildings & Health:** Prevent damage to buildings (blocked gutters, corrosive droppings) and minimise disease risks and nuisances associated with pigeon infestations ([Feral pigeon control](#)) ([Feral pigeon control](#)).
- **Community Engagement:** Achieve broad participation from CBD property owners in pigeon-proofing and control efforts, through education and support, before resorting to any penalties.
- **Legal Compliance:** Utilise the Shire's authority under local laws (e.g. issuing notices to abate pigeon nuisances ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#)) and prohibiting feeding that causes nuisances ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#))) to ensure compliance while maintaining goodwill.

Section 1 - Budget Allocation

Year 1 (Initial Intensive Program – \$10,000 Shire-funded)

The Shire will allocate \$10k in the first year to kick-start the pigeon control program. These funds will cover the purchase and deployment of **OvoControl** bait (pigeon contraceptive) as the primary control measure, contracting licensed pest controllers, and initial installation of physical deterrents on high-priority structures. A portion of the budget will also develop educational materials (webpage, pamphlet printing) and possibly subsidise landowners who undertake approved control measures on their property (e.g. installing netting or spikes). Any urgent reactive measures (such as targeted trapping or shooting if needed early on) will be funded from this initial budget as well.

Ongoing Annual Budget (Years 2+ – \$5,000 Shire-funded per year)

In subsequent years, the Shire will commit \$5k annually to continue the program. This recurring budget will primarily fund the yearly replenishment and application of OvoControl and maintenance of installed deterrents. It will also support continued engagement activities (refresher education campaigns, minor subsidies for new participants) and any necessary follow-up control actions. By sustaining funding, the Shire ensures the pigeon population does not rebound, recognising that single-year culling without follow-up is ineffective long-term ([Microsoft Word - Pigeon Brochure 28 may.doc](#)).

Landowner Contributions

Private landowners will be encouraged to contribute to control costs on a **voluntary, ability-based** basis. In Year 1, the Shire will bear most costs to demonstrate success and lower the barrier for participation. From Year 2 onward, owners of properties with persistent pigeon issues may be asked to share costs **according to affordability or necessity**. For example, a large commercial building owner might fund their own roof netting or ongoing bait supply once they see the benefits, whereas a smaller shop owner could receive more Shire assistance. This co-contribution model will be communicated as a partnership: the Shire provides expertise and seed funding, and those most affected invest in protecting their premises. The Shire may subsidise critical treatments on key sites if the owner cannot pay, ensuring the overall program's effectiveness. Over time, as pigeon numbers drop and fewer interventions are needed, the financial burden on both Shire and landowners is expected to lessen.

Budget Review

The allocated funds and contributions will be reviewed annually. Measurable outcomes (pigeon counts, number of treated sites, etc.) will be evaluated against expenditures to ensure cost-effectiveness. If the pigeon population is not responding sufficiently, Council may consider adjusting the budget or approach (e.g., seeking grants or additional one-off funding for more intensive measures). Conversely, significant early success might allow reducing the annual budget or reallocating funds to other community pest initiatives.

Section 2 - Control Methods

A combination of control methods will be employed, with **annual OvoControl treatments as the cornerstone** and other methods used complementarily. An integrated approach is critical – research shows relying solely on lethal culling yields only short-term relief (pigeon numbers can rebound to prior levels within weeks) ([Microsoft Word - Pigeon Brochure 28 may.doc](#)). Instead, this strategy focuses on sustained reproductive control and habitat denial, supplemented by humane culling only when necessary. All methods will be carried out by or under the guidance of licensed pest control professionals, ensuring safe and effective implementation.

Primary Method: Annual OvoControl Program

The Shire will implement an **annual OvoControl** campaign as the primary population reduction method. OvoControl is a pigeon feed containing **nicarbazin**, which acts as a birth control agent by preventing eggs from hatching. It is a proven, humane approach to gradually reduce pigeon flock size ([Use of Fertility Control \(Nicarbazin\) in Barcelona: An Effective yet Respectful Method towards Animal Welfare for the Management of Conflictive Feral Pigeon Colonies - PMC](#)). Key aspects of the program:

- **Frequency & Timing:** OvoControl baiting will be conducted **once yearly** during the peak breeding season (e.g., spring), or as a continuous maintenance feeding over several months each year. A licensed pest management technician will deploy automatic feeders or daily hand baiting on rooftops where pigeons congregate, ensuring consistent dosage during the breeding cycle.
- **Target Areas:** In Year 1, focus will be on known pigeon roosting/breeding hotspots (e.g., the Town Hall complex roof, Goods Shed rafters, Railway Station eaves, and affected private buildings in the CBD). By saturating these colonies with contraceptive bait, we aim to significantly curtail reproduction in the first season.
- **Effectiveness:** The expected outcome is a **steady decline in pigeon numbers** over 1–3 years. (For example, a controlled study in Barcelona saw a 55% population reduction after 3 years of nicarbazin baiting ([Use of Fertility Control \(Nicarbazin\) in Barcelona: An Effective yet Respectful Method towards Animal Welfare for the Management of Conflictive Feral Pigeon Colonies - PMC](#)). In Narrogin, we will monitor flock sizes quarterly to gauge progress. Success will be measured by fewer new juvenile pigeons observed each year and shrinking flock counts at dusk roosting time.
- **Cost & Logistics:** A portion of the Year 1 budget covers purchasing the OvoControl bait and any necessary feeder equipment. The annual \$5k will ensure we can buy enough bait and hire the technician each year. Where feasible, cost-sharing with large building owners may be implemented (e.g., a grain mill or large store might agree to fund the bait used on their rooftop once they see the benefits).
- **Animal Welfare & Safety:** OvoControl is considered safe for other wildlife in urban settings (non-target birds like doves would only be minimally affected, and the active ingredient is practically non-toxic to mammals ([Safety of Nicarbazin in Raptors in Relation to Pigeon Eradication](#))). Nonetheless, the baiting will be done in a controlled manner (e.g., feeders on rooftops inaccessible to pets or non-target species). Signs may be posted during treatment periods to inform the public of the ongoing program and to not disturb feeding stations.

Supplementary Control Options

In addition to OvoControl, the following control methods will be utilised as needed, within budget limits and based on effectiveness in specific situations:

- **Exclusion Netting and Proofing:** Physical bird-proofing is a one-time investment that yields long-term results by denying pigeons access to roosting and nesting sites. In Year 1, the Shire will prioritise installing **bird netting or mesh** on its own buildings that harbor pigeons (e.g., sealing the Town Hall roof voids, installing netting under the Goods Shed awning). Netting with a 50mm mesh (2-inch) will exclude pigeons from eaves, rafters, and loft spaces ([Pigeon controls for Balaklava Town Hall | Wakefield Regional Council](#)). Likewise, **bird spikes or wire coil** will be affixed to ledges, window sills, and signage where pigeons perch ([Microsoft Word - Pigeon Brochure 28 may.doc](#)). These deterrents prevent pigeons from landing without harming them. The Shire will **demonstrate these techniques on Shire properties** first, then guide private owners to do the same. By Year 2, we aim for all major pigeon-attracting structures in the CBD to be at least partially proofed (through voluntary owner action or Shire assistance). *Maintenance:* Each year, especially before breeding season, installed netting and spikes will be inspected (and repaired if needed) to remain effective ([Microsoft Word - Pigeon Brochure 28 may.doc](#)). The budget includes maintenance costs (which are minimal compared to initial installation). Proper installation by professionals is emphasised to avoid trapping birds inadvertently ([Microsoft Word - Pigeon Brochure 28 may.doc](#)).
- **Trapping (Live-Capture):** Where pigeon congregations are particularly large or causing acute nuisance (for example, a closed-off attic space filled with birds), live trapping may be employed to quickly remove a portion of the population. The Shire can deploy humane pigeon traps (e.g. walk-in traps with one-way doors) on roofs or near feeding sites. **Frequency:** Trapping operations might be done in the initial phase (Year 1) to give an immediate reduction in numbers, then periodically as needed if certain areas see a resurgence. However, trapping alone is not a long-term fix – it will be combined with OvoControl and proofing, since new pigeons will replace those removed if food and habitat remain ([Microsoft Word - Pigeon Brochure 28 may.doc](#)). Any captured pigeons will be **humanely euthanised** by the licensed contractor (in line with animal welfare guidelines) off-site. The cost of trapping (labor, cage equipment) in Year 1 is covered by the initial budget; subsequent trapping will be limited to specific problem areas given the smaller \$5k budget (unless landowners contribute to an expanded trapping effort on their property).
- **Repellents and Deterrents: Non-chemical repellents** – such as reflective devices, sound deterrents, or gel repellents – can complement the above methods on a case-by-case basis. For example, the Shire can loan or recommend ultrasonic bird repellents or hawk decoy kites to certain property owners if pigeons are stubbornly returning. **Sticky gel** repellents may be applied on favoured roosting beams to discourage pigeons from standing there (the gel makes the surface uncomfortable). These methods will be considered where netting or spikes are not feasible for aesthetic or access reasons (e.g., a heritage façade where netting is undesirable). The effectiveness of such deterrents is variable – they often work short-term until birds acclimate ([Feral pigeon control](#)) ([Feral pigeon control](#)) – so they are **secondary measures**. The strategy emphasises that without removing food sources and nesting access, repellents alone won't solve the issue. Thus, we will use them in combination and rotate techniques if needed (to prevent pigeons adapting). The cost impact is low (many devices are one-time purchases); a small portion of annual funds may be used to acquire deterrent devices for trial.
- **Discreet Shooting:** In scenarios where a few individual pigeons evade other controls or where an immediate cull is required (for instance, a sensitive site like a grain storage facility cannot risk any pigeons), **licensed discrete shooting** will be employed as a last resort lethal method. The Shire will engage a **licensed pest control shooter** (with appropriate firearm permissions) to cull pigeons **humanely and out of public view** ([Feral pigeon control](#)). This could involve using an

air rifle or small-calibre rifle with suppressors, typically at night or dawn when pigeons are roosting, and people are not around. **Frequency & Use:** The need for shooting is expected to be **limited** – if the ovo-control and exclusion efforts are effective, there should rarely be large numbers to cull. However, the strategy keeps this tool available for special cases: e.g., after netting off a building, any pigeons trapped inside the netted area may need to be removed by shooting if they cannot be safely trapped. Any shooting operation will be **planned with police notification and safety measures**, typically done 1-2 times a year at most (and only if necessary). We will schedule such operations during low-activity periods (weekends or early hours) to ensure public safety and minimal disturbance. **Note:** While effective at removing specific pigeons, shooting is recognised as only a short-term fix and will *not* be used as the primary control. It is included to ensure no remaining birds undermine the overall eradication goal.

Effectiveness and Adaptation: By combining **reproductive control, habitat denial, and selective removal**, the strategy creates a synergistic effect. OvoControl gradually lowers birth rates, netting and proofing reduce survival and breeding opportunities, and occasional trapping/shooting removes the most problematic individuals. This integrated pest management approach is expected to yield a sustained downward trend in pigeon numbers ([Feral pigeon control](#)). The program will remain adaptive – if certain methods prove less effective in Narrogin’s context, resources will be shifted to more effective ones. For example, if trapping yields poor results but more netting is needed, budget in year 3 might prioritise additional net installations instead of trap purchases. Annual review meetings (coinciding with budget planning) will assess each method’s impact (using pigeon count data and feedback from building owners) and adjust the frequency or choice of methods accordingly.

Section 3 - Enforcement & Landowner Engagement

Achieving lasting pigeon control requires **cooperation from private landowners** in the townsite. The Shire will initially pursue a collaborative, supportive approach, escalating to enforcement only when necessary. This section details how we will engage stakeholders and ensure compliance under the Shire's legal powers as the local health authority.

- **Voluntary Participation Phase (Year 1 and 2):** The program will launch with a strong emphasis on **voluntary landowner participation**. The Shire will invite owners of identified pigeon roost sites (e.g., buildings where pigeons nest in the roof or ledges) to join the initiative willingly. This involves one-on-one outreach to key building owners (initial site visits by the Shire's Environmental Health Officer or Ranger to point out pigeon issues and discuss solutions), community information sessions for CBD businesses, and offering **incentives** such as free or subsidised OvoControl baiting on their property for the first year. The rationale—that a coordinated effort benefits everyone—will be stressed. By showing early success (for instance, if the Town Hall and a few shops see noticeable drops in pigeons), we anticipate more owners will voluntarily come on board in Year 2, creating a snowball effect.
- **Stakeholder Engagement Strategy:** A specific engagement plan will target *critical stakeholders* such as owners of large heritage buildings (e.g., Hordern Hotel or prominent Federal Street buildings), supermarkets or grain storage (which attract pigeons), and public institutions. The Shire will form a small **"Pigeon Action Group"** or roundtable including Shire representatives and a few major landowners/tenants. This group (meeting approximately twice per annum) will share updates, advise on problem spots, and champion the cause to peers. Additionally, the Shire will work closely with the **Narrogin CBD business association or Narrogin Chamber of Commerce** to get buy-in from multiple businesses through their network. The tone will be cooperative: the Shire's role is to help and coordinate, not to immediately punish. By the end of Year 2, the goal is to have **majority of CBD property owners implementing at least one control measure** (be it allowing Shire baiting on their roof, installing their own spikes, or keeping areas clean).
- **Use of Notices and Warnings:** From Year 2 onward, if certain property owners remain uncooperative *and* their properties continue to harbor significant pigeon breeding (thus undermining the town-wide effort), the Shire will begin issuing formal **"Control Notices."** Under clause 7.14 of the Health Local Law 2022, the Shire's authorised officers can issue a written notice to an owner/occupier **requiring them to take steps to prevent pigeons from nesting or perching** on their premises if it's causing a nuisance ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#)). Such a notice will outline the observed problem (e.g., "pigeons nesting in your roof void causing foul droppings on sidewalk"), the required action (e.g., "install bird-proof mesh over eaves within 30 days" or "permit the Shire to undertake baiting on your roof"), and the timeframe for compliance. Initially, these notices will serve as strong warnings with an offer of Shire assistance to comply, rather than immediate punitive action. The **benefits of compliance** (less damage, potential cost savings, improved amenity) will be highlighted alongside the legal requirement, to encourage a cooperative rather than adversarial response.
- **Fines as Last Resort:** Only after repeated failure to engage or comply will the Shire consider **issuing infringements or fines**. The Health Local Law 2022 provides for penalties if a person fails to obey a notice or if they directly cause a public health nuisance (for example, continued **feeding of pigeons** which is explicitly prohibited when it causes a nuisance ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#))). In practice, if a landowner ignores a control notice

and pigeons remain a nuisance, the Shire may issue a fine (per the Local Law's penalties) and/or carry out the required works at the owner's cost. This step will likely only be needed in intransigent cases by Year 3 or beyond. Our strategy goal is **zero fines issued** – meaning we succeeded through voluntary compliance and education – but the enforcement mechanism will be ready to ensure the overall program's success is not jeopardised by a few holdouts.

- **Shire Leading by Example:** As a major property owner, the Shire will ensure all Shire-managed buildings are models of compliance. The Town Hall complex, Railway Station, Goods Shed, and Shire-owned premises at 39-45 Federal Street will all undergo prompt pigeon-proofing and inclusion in the ovo-control program. By quickly addressing pigeons on its own properties in Year 1, the Shire not only reduces a significant portion of the problem (since these sites are known roosts) but also demonstrates to other owners what measures work. We will document and share the success on Shire properties (e.g., "Town Hall: pigeons reduced from ~50 to <5 after netting and OvoControl") to build confidence in the methods and show that the Shire is treating this as a community-wide partnership.
- **Reporting and Follow-Up:** The Shire will maintain a reporting system for pigeon issues. Community members or business owners can report properties where pigeons are nesting unchecked. These reports will trigger a site inspection and a friendly notice to the owner about available assistance or required action. Persistent reports about the same property will escalate to formal enforcement as described. Progress of each engaged property will be tracked (e.g., a simple register of which buildings have been treated, proofed, or remain problematic). By tracking this, the Shire can focus engagement efforts where they are most needed and show quantitatively that each year more sites are pigeon-free.

Section 4 - Education & Community Awareness

Broad community understanding of the pigeon problem and the solutions is essential. Many residents and business owners may not realise the extent of the damage or their role in either exacerbating or solving the issue. The Shire will roll out a multi-faceted education and awareness campaign to inform, encourage participation, and sustain public support for pigeon control efforts.

- **Dedicated Webpage:** The Shire's official website will host a comprehensive "**Pigeon Control Program**" page. This page (to go live in the first quarter of Year 1) will detail why pigeon control is needed – highlighting issues like health risks and building damage from pigeon droppings ([Feral pigeon control](#)) ([Feral pigeon control](#)) – and outline the Shire's strategy and what community members can do. It will include resources such as: the *do's and don'ts* (e.g. do secure your garbage, **don't feed the pigeons** as it's prohibited and counterproductive ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#))), an FAQ section (covering common questions about OvoControl safety, etc.), and contact information for the Shire's Environmental Health team to report pigeon hotspots. The page will be kept updated with progress reports (e.g., "50 pigeons trapped and removed this month" or "OvoControl feeding in progress on X Street roof") to maintain transparency. Web analytics (views, downloads) will help gauge reach.
- **Educational Pamphlet/Brochure:** In tandem with the webpage, a **pamphlet** will be developed in digital and printed formats. This brochure, titled for example "Managing Pigeons in Narrogin – A Guide for Property Owners," will concisely explain the importance of pigeon control and each stakeholder's responsibilities. Contents will include: the problems pigeons cause, an overview of control methods (with an emphasis on humane methods like OvoControl and proofing), what the Shire is doing (our program outline), and what property owners should do (e.g., "ensure any disused lofts are closed off, fix broken eaves, consider installing spikes on ledges, clean up food scraps" etc.). It will also reference the legal angle – politely noting that under Shire local laws owners must prevent pigeon nuisance on their property – but will focus on positive encouragement and resources available. **Distribution:** Printed copies will be mailed or hand-delivered to all commercial property owners in the CBD and other known problem areas in Year 1. They will also be available at the Shire Office. The digital PDF will be downloadable from the Shire website and shared via email networks (e.g., Chamber of Commerce mailing list). We will refresh the pamphlet as needed (for example, if new methods are introduced or if we want to showcase success stories by Year 3).
- **Social Media and Facebook Promotions:** The Shire will leverage its Facebook page and other social media to reach the community in a more engaging, immediate way. A series of **Facebook posts** will be scheduled around key milestones: an initial announcement of the program ("Shire launches new pigeon control initiative – here's what you need to know"), educational snippets (e.g., a post showing a photo of pigeons roosting and explaining how droppings damage heritage stone), and calls to action ("See pigeons nesting under your roof? Contact us for advice!"). We will also share progress updates ("Thanks to community efforts, pigeon numbers around Federal Street are down this year") to reinforce that collective action is yielding results. Facebook **promotions** (paid boosts) may be used for important posts to ensure wide reach in the local community. Engagement metrics (likes, shares, comments) will be monitored to tailor messages – for instance, if a post about not feeding birds gains traction, we'll do follow-ups on that theme. The tone on social media will remain positive and community-oriented, celebrating cooperation and reminding people that pigeons, while part of urban wildlife, need management for the greater good.

- **Direct Notices to Landowners:** Where specific properties are identified as pigeon breeding sites (either by Shire inspection or public reports), the Shire will send **Control Notice letters** to those owners. Initially (Year 1), these letters will be framed as *educational notices* – essentially personalised letters that 1) inform the owner of the observed pigeon issue on their property, 2) outline what actions are required or recommended (e.g., “Please remove nesting material and seal openings in your roof”), and 3) explain the benefits of doing so and how the Shire can assist. Enclosed with the letter will be a copy of the pamphlet and an offer to meet on-site to discuss solutions. By providing this tailored education, we aim to prompt action without immediately invoking enforcement. If by Year 2–3 these polite notices are ignored, they will transition to the formal notices under the law as described in the Enforcement section. Every notice, whether friendly or formal, will educate the owner on how pigeon control will save them money in the long run (less clean-up, less property damage) and contribute to a healthier town environment.
- **Community Workshops or Info Sessions:** As part of raising awareness, the Shire will consider hosting a **workshop or open invite meeting** on pest bird management. This could involve a presentation by the Shire’s pest control contractor or an Environmental Health Officer, demonstrating the use of OvoControl, showing examples of netting installations, and answering questions from the public. Such an event can generate local media coverage as well, further spreading the message. Hands-on advice can be given to interested residents (even those outside the CBD who might have pigeon coops or hobby pigeons, ensuring they manage them responsibly). If in-person turnout is low, we will share a recording or key points via the website and social channels.
- **Ongoing Awareness and Reminders:** Education is not a one-off effort. The Shire will incorporate pigeon control reminders into its regular communications. For example, seasonal reminders in spring (breeding season) to “be vigilant and report any pigeon nests early” or a summer reminder about cleaning gutters (to remove pigeon debris that could be a fire hazard or breeding source for flies). Over time, the aim is to normalise the idea that controlling pigeons is part of property maintenance – just like controlling weeds or rats. By Year 3, we hope to see community-driven reporting (people promptly alerting neighbours or the Shire to pigeon issues) and self-help (owners taking initiative to proof their buildings) thanks to the increased awareness.

Section 5 - Licensed Controllers & Safe Disposal

All pigeon control actions under this strategy will be conducted with strict adherence to safety, legality, and humane practices. The Shire will only engage **appropriately licensed professionals** for any control method involving traps, chemicals, or firearms, and ensure that any handling or disposal of pigeons meets environmental and health regulations.

- **Use of Licensed Pest Control Operators:** The Shire will contract licensed pest management technicians for executing the OvoControl baiting, trapping programs, and any shooting operations. These contractors hold Department of Health pest control licenses (and firearms licenses where applicable), ensuring they are trained in safe handling of toxins (like nicarbazin bait or narcotising agents) and in the humane culling of birds. By using professionals, the Shire mitigates risks to the public – for example, a licensed operator knows how to place bait so only pigeons eat it, how to live-trap birds without causing undue stress, and how to safely discharge a firearm in an urban environment if needed ([Feral pigeon control](#)). All contractors will be required to provide proof of licensing and insurances (public liability, workers comp) before commencing work. Additionally, they will operate under permits or permissions as required (e.g. if any Department of Biodiversity or other approval is needed for bird culling or for using particular drugs like alpha-chloralose, the contractor will ensure those are in place ([Feral pigeon control](#))).
- **Compliance with Health Regulations:** As the local health authority, the Shire must ensure the program complies with relevant regulations, including its own Local Laws and state legislation. Section 7.14 and 7.15 of the Health Local Law 2022 (cited earlier) provide the Shire authority to mandate pigeon control on private properties ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#)) ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#)). All actions taken will align with these provisions. For instance, any **destruction of pigeons** will be done in a way that does not create further public health issues (no leaving of carcasses, no use of poisons that could harm people/pets). The Shire will also check for any requirements under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act or Animal Welfare Act to ensure methods like poisoning or shooting are done legally and ethically. Licensed contractors are generally well-versed in these, but the Shire's contract will explicitly require compliance with all laws and best practices (e.g. **Code of Practice for Pigeon Keeping and Racing in WA** ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#)) in case any overlap with domestic pigeon owners, ensuring no conflict).
- **Disposal of Carcasses:** Proper disposal of any pigeon remains is paramount for environmental health and to avoid secondary pests or odours. **Any pigeons that are killed (through trapping culls or shooting)** will be collected promptly by the pest controller. They will be disposed of in accordance with Shire health regulations – typically meaning double-bagged and taken to an **approved disposal site** (such as the licensed local landfill) ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#)). The Shire's Health Local Law 2022 explicitly requires that animal carcasses be removed *without delay* and disposed of properly ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#)), which will be followed to the letter. If a large number of pigeons are culled at once (for example, if a big trapping event occurred), the contractor may use cold storage (freezer) temporarily and arrange a bulk disposal or incineration if available. Records of how many birds are destroyed and confirmation of disposal method will be kept. *Note:* Should any poisoned bait ever be used (not currently planned except OvoControl which does not kill directly), we will ensure no carcasses are left that could poison scavengers – this is another reason for using contraceptive bait over lethal poison.

- **Protection of Non-Target Wildlife and Public:** Licensed professionals will help guarantee that control methods do not inadvertently harm other wildlife or the public. For example, if alpha-chloralose (a sedative agent) were ever considered to round up pigeons, only a licensed operator would apply it in bait, and they would closely monitor to retrieve any affected birds before they fly off ([Feral pigeon control](#)). Similarly, in the rare event of shooting, only frangible or low-power pellets would be used to avoid ricochet, and only when the area is secured. All these precautions and expert oversight mean the program is conducted safely. The Shire will also ensure that **appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)** is used by anyone cleaning pigeon droppings or nesting sites, as dried droppings can carry diseases and pose inhalation risks ([Feral pigeon control](#)). This might involve the Shire's own staff or contractors wearing respirators and gloves when doing clean-up on Shire properties. Guidance will be given to private owners on safe clean-up as part of education (and the Shire can provide disposable PPE kits if needed during inspections).
- **Record-Keeping and Monitoring by Licensed Operators:** Every control action by contractors will be logged. We will require the pest control contractor to provide a brief report after each major activity (e.g., "August 2023 – 5 rooftop feeders deployed with OvoControl at Sites A, B, C; approx. 100 pigeons observed feeding"; or "Oct 2023 – 20 pigeons trapped at Site X; carcasses disposed at Narrogin landfill receipt #123"). These records help the Shire track progress and also ensure accountability that all materials (like bait or carcasses) were handled correctly. It creates a paper trail showing compliance with environmental regulations (useful should any queries arise from the public or Department of Health).

By relying on licensed professionals and stringent disposal practices, the Shire upholds its duty of care to the community and environment throughout the pigeon control program. This instils public confidence that the eradication is being handled responsibly, lawfully, and humanely, thereby maintaining support for the initiative.

Section 6 - Implementation Timeline and Measurable Outcomes

To ensure this strategy is actionable, the following timeline outlines key steps and assigns timeframes. Progress will be measured against clear indicators to evaluate success and guide adjustments.

Year 1 – Initiation (High-Intensity Effort)

- **Q1:** Finalise budget allocation of \$10,000. Engage a licensed pest control contractor through a tender or quote process. Develop educational materials: launch the pigeon control webpage and distribute the pamphlet to all target landowners. Announce the program via local media and Facebook (initial promotion). **Measure:** Materials produced; # of landowners contacted (aim >20 in CBD).
- **Q2:** Install bird netting and spikes on **all Shire-owned problem buildings** (Town Hall, Goods Shed, Railway Station, Federal St properties) – complete by end of Q2. Begin **OvoControl feeding program** at key sites during spring (start mid-to-late Q2, continue daily/weekly for 3-4 months as needed). **Measures:** Netting installed at X sites (target 100% of identified Shire sites); OvoControl deployed at Y sites (target 5+ feeders covering major flocks).
- **Q3:** Conduct a **baseline pigeon population survey** at end of breeding season (count pigeons at dusk roost in CBD and note active nest sites) to quantify the starting point. Continue community outreach – hold a stakeholder meeting with CBD owners to share progress. Address any immediate issues with supplementary trapping or shooting if a particular site needs quick action (e.g., if one building's pigeons are not taking bait). **Measures:** Baseline count completed (e.g., X pigeons); at least 1 stakeholder meeting held; any emergency actions logged (# of pigeons removed).
- **Q4:** Review Year 1 results. Evaluate reduction (if any) in pigeon numbers and any feedback from landowners. Adjust strategy for Year 2 (e.g., identify which additional private sites need netting or greater focus). Issue **friendly reminder notices** to any landowners who did not participate and still have pigeons, urging them to join next year. **Measures:** Pigeon count comparison (pre- vs post-breeding season – expecting stabilisation or slight drop); # of properties now pigeon-proofed (target: at least 5 private properties plus all Shire ones).

Year 2 – Expansion and Enforcement Beginnings

- **Q1:** Allocate \$5,000 annual budget. Update educational content (share Year 1 successes via website/Facebook). Re-engage landowners: send out letters thanking cooperative participants and gently notifying uncooperative ones of impending enforcement if no action. Possibly host a second community info session. **Measure:** % of CBD properties participating voluntarily (target: increase from Year 1, e.g., from 50% to 70%).
- **Q2:** Repeat **OvoControl baiting program** in breeding season, expanding to any new sites where pigeons shifted. Continue maintenance of nets/spikes and install additional ones on remaining problem areas (the Shire may cost-share installation on a few private buildings that were major pigeon refuges if owners agree). Start **issuing official notices** (under Health Local Law) to owners who after multiple offers of help still have uncontrolled infestations – this will likely be a small number of cases. **Measures:** OvoControl coverage extended (target: all major flocks covered); perhaps 2–3 Notices issued if needed (with compliance timeframes tracked).
- **Q3:** Conduct another pigeon count at end of season. By now, juvenile recruitment should be noticeably lower thanks to two seasons of OvoControl. Evaluate population trend – aim for a **20–**

30% reduction from the Year 1 baseline. Follow up on notices issued: if compliance deadlines pass, consider applying fines or carrying out works (e.g., Shire arranges to net a building and bills the owner). Recognise cooperative landowners publicly (e.g., a thank-you on Facebook or a letter of appreciation) to reinforce positive behaviour. **Measures:** Pigeon count (target: 20% drop from baseline); # of enforcement actions resolved (e.g., out of 3 notices, 2 complied, 1 escalated).

- **Q4:** Review Year 2 outcomes and refine plans for Year 3. By now, the “hard core” of resistance should be reduced and most stakeholders engaged. Assess infrastructure – most needed netting/spikes should be in place; further OvoControl will yield diminishing but continued results. Plan any special mopping-up operations (maybe one more targeted cull if population is stubborn in one spot). **Measure:** Reduction in pigeon-related complaints received by Shire (target: e.g., 50% fewer complaints than before program started).

Year 3 and Beyond – Maintenance and Eradication Goal

- Continue annual OvoControl treatments with the \$5k budget each year for as long as pigeon activity persists. We anticipate that by Year 3 or 4, pigeon numbers will be low enough that they are no longer a prominent issue (possibly only small residual flocks, if not fully eradicated).
- **Metrics:** Target a **50+% reduction by end of Year 3** (as evidenced by counts ([Use of Fertility Control \(Nicarbazin\) in Barcelona: An Effective yet Respectful Method towards Animal Welfare for the Management of Conflictive Feral Pigeon Colonies - PMC](#)) and lack of new nests on buildings). Aim for **100% of major building owners participating** voluntarily by Year 3 – any outliers would be under enforcement.
- **Ongoing Actions:** Maintain all exclusion devices (nets, spikes) indefinitely – these are passive and will continue to deter new pigeons from recolonising. Keep educating new property owners or tenants (integrate pigeon control info into welcome packets for new businesses, etc.).
- **Measurable Outcomes Over Time:** Key performance indicators include:
 - *Pigeon population size* – measured via annual counts or observations (goal: near zero pigeons nesting in townsites by Year 5, if not sooner).
 - *Number of properties with active pigeon nests* – aim to reduce this to zero in townsites through proofing and maintenance.
 - *Reduction in clean-up costs* – track Shire’s expenditures on cleaning droppings or repairing pigeon damage on its buildings year to year (this should decrease as pigeons are controlled).
 - *Community feedback* – fewer complaints and positive feedback from business owners about improved conditions.
 - *Compliance rate* – by Year 3, expect that enforcement actions are rarely needed because community norms have shifted to proactive control; success if >90% of targeted owners have complied voluntarily.

Regular reports will be provided to the Council on the strategy’s progress (for example, an annual “Pigeon Control Report” summarising that year’s activities, money spent, and results). These will be used to determine if the strategy needs any major changes or if/when the program can be scaled down once objectives are met.

Section 7 - Conclusion

The Shire of Narrogin's Pigeon Control and Eradication Strategy is a coordinated, humane, and proactive plan designed to protect our town's health, aesthetics, and heritage buildings from the impacts of feral pigeons. By investing upfront in effective measures like OvoControl and netting, and by fostering a cooperative spirit with local landowners, the Shire aims to achieve lasting reduction in pigeon numbers without heavy-handed enforcement. This strategy also underscores the Shire's dual role – **leading by example** on its properties and **upholding public health laws** – to ensure a clean and safe environment for all. Through ongoing education, community engagement, and measured use of enforcement, Narrogin's pigeon problem will be brought under control in a way that is sustainable and supported by the community. The success of this program will serve as a model for managing pest issues collaboratively and will contribute to the conservation of Narrogin's valued buildings and the amenity of our town for years to come.

Section 8 - Sources

1. Healthy WA – *Feral pigeon control*: Problems caused by pigeons and effective control techniques ([Feral pigeon control](#)) ([Feral pigeon control](#)).
2. Shire of Narrogin Health Local Law 2022 – provisions on pigeon nuisances and enforcement ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#)) ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#)).
3. Research study (Barcelona City Council) – effectiveness of nicarbazin fertility control reducing urban pigeon populations by ~55% over 3 years ([Use of Fertility Control \(Nicarbazin\) in Barcelona: An Effective yet Respectful Method towards Animal Welfare for the Management of Conflictive Feral Pigeon Colonies - PMC](#)).
4. City of Vincent (WA) – *Feral Pigeon Control Guide*: notes on non-lethal vs lethal methods and importance of removing food sources ([Microsoft Word - Pigeon Brochure 28 may.doc](#)) ([Microsoft Word - Pigeon Brochure 28 may.doc](#)).
5. Wakefield Regional Council (SA) – example of integrated pigeon control with netting and controlled shooting at a town hall ([Pigeon controls for Balaklava Town Hall | Wakefield Regional Council](#)).
6. WA Health Department guidance – humane shooting by licensed operators and safety measures in pigeon control ([Feral pigeon control](#)).
7. Shire of Narrogin Health Local Law 2022 – requirement for proper disposal of dead animals (applicable to pigeon carcasses) ([Health-Local-Law-2022-\(consolidated-4-November-2022\).pdf](#)).