

## Audible Bird Scaring Device

Bird damage to orchards and vineyards can substantially affect the profitability of primary production. Audible bird scaring devices can be used to limit crop damage. However, the use of such devices becomes inappropriate when they impact upon the quality of life of nearby residents, create a fire risk or are overused and become ineffective.

Adhering to the following guidelines will help protect amenity for the surrounding community, protect against fires and preserve the effectiveness of the devices.

### Noise Control

The operation of audible bird scaring devices should comply with any conditions attached to a development approval, as well as the [‘Audible Bird Scaring Devices Environmental Noise Guidelines 2007’](#) prepared by the EPA.



### Guidelines for noise control include:

- Audible bird scaring devices, where gas-fired or electronic, **must not** be used on any night between the hours of 8:00 pm and 7:00 am, unless the maximum noise level, when measured at any nearby noise sensitive premises, is less than 45dB(A)
- At other times, noise levels should not exceed the maximum noise levels set out in the [‘Audible Bird Scaring Devices Environmental Noise Guidelines 2007’](#)
- There should not be more than 6 shots per hour from a gas gun
- Bird scaring devices should not be used within 300 metres of a dwelling on an adjoining property in a rural area, or within 500 metres of a dwelling on an adjoining property in a residential or rural living zone
- An audible bird scaring device should, where possible, be directed away from the nearest noise sensitive receiver to minimise the impact of any noise
- An audible bird scaring device should only be used in conjunction with other methods of bird control. Primary producers should have a written bird management plan that outlines the various methods of bird control being implemented on the property

### Fire Risk

Most audible bird scaring devices detonate a flammable gas to create a noise to scare birds. Precautions must be taken to ensure that the operation of such devices does not create a fire risk, especially during the fire danger season.

A person must not, during the fire danger season, use a gas-fired device as a bird scarer unless:

- The space immediately around & above the device is cleared of all flammable material to distance of at least 4m
- The device is constructed to prevent the escape of fire or burning material, and is clean and in good working order, to avoid a malfunction that could cause a fire
- The person using the bird scarer takes all reasonable precautions to ensure the bird scarer cannot fall over or be knocked over or otherwise interfered with by animals

If these guidelines are not met, an offence may occur under the *Local Nuisance and Litter Act 2016* and penalties apply.