

# CAMDEN COUNCIL

## Media Release

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21 September 2015

### BE WARY OF SWOOPING BIRDS THIS SEASON

With the arrival of spring, Council is reminding residents that it is also breeding season for the Australian Magpie and Masked Lapwing (Plover).

Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak said it is important for the community to be wary of swooping Magpies and Plovers.

“Spring is a beautiful time of year, but it is also the time of year that Magpies and Plovers swoop to protect their young, which is their natural behaviour.

“Being swooped by a magpie can be unsettling and it is important to be mindful of nesting birds and take relevant precautions.” Cr Symkowiak said.

Luckily the breeding season only lasts around six to eight weeks. There are some steps you can take to avoid being swooped including:

- Attempt to avoid the area for six to eight weeks while the birds are nesting
- Travel in groups as most birds won't swoop large groups of people
- Protect your head and eyes by wearing a hat and sunglasses
- Carry an open umbrella, but do not wave the umbrella around
- Get off your bike and walk – sometimes birds are more likely to swoop people that are cycling
- If you are being swooped, leave the area promptly but do not run

The Australian Magpie and the Masked Lapwing are protected native species and it is against the law to kill these birds, remove their eggs or harm their young.

Further information can be found on Council's website [www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)

**ENDS**

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