



102 Bathurst Street
Hobart TAS 7000
Phone: 03 6234 3552
Fax: 03 6231 2491
Email: tct@southcom.com.au
www.tct.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

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Indian Mynah bird discovery alarming

Tasmania's peak conservation group has described the discovery of an invasive species in the form of the Indian Mynah bird at Launceston Airport as alarming.

TCT Director Craig Woodfield says that the Mynah is known to be aggressive and intelligent, and could easily become established in Tasmanian cities and towns.

"This would be more bad news for Tasmania's native species, which are far less secure than most people would believe."

Mr. Woodfield said that Tasmania's biosecurity cordon was sub-standard, and presented a major risk to the State.

"There are far too many entry points into Tasmania, and far too few quarantine staff and resources to give a reasonable coverage of these entry points. There is also too little attention given to Tasmanian-bound traffic at mainland airports and ports."

"It is a credit to the quarantine staff that they identified this animal and dealt with it. But there would also seem to be a large element of luck involved in this particular situation.

"That luck cannot last forever."

For comment call Craig Woodfield on 6234 3552 or 0417 160 751