



**Wildlife Victoria Inc.**

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[wildlifelifevictoria.org.au](http://wildlifelifevictoria.org.au)

[facebook.com/wildlifelifevictoria](https://facebook.com/wildlifelifevictoria)

ABN 27 753 478 012

Dear Resident,

A concerned local has delivered this letter to you because they have noticed that you have a fruit-tree net that is dangerous to wildlife.

**As of September 2021, it became illegal to sell or use netting on domestic fruit trees unless it has holes no bigger than 5mm by 5mm fully stretched.**

A net that you can poke a finger through is not safe for wildlife as they easily become entangled and trapped in it. Most birds and animals (including the threatened grey-headed flying fox) trapped in these nets will need to be put to sleep as their injuries can be very severe. Animals that survive can take weeks or months of costly care before they can be released back into the wild.

**The use of fruit tree netting that does not meet the legal requirements of less than 5mm by 5mm holes can result in a fine.**

Wildlife Victoria is a small charity relying on volunteers to rescue sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. You can help us and native wildlife by removing your unsafe net. To avoid fines, dispose of illegal netting by placing it in a sealed bag and putting it in your garbage bin.

Happily, there are safer nets that allow you to protect your fruit without endangering wildlife.

Wildlife-safe netting is any netting that you cannot poke a finger through. When using netting, it needs to be installed tightly and tied around the tree trunk. Mesh bags are even better for wildlife and are easier for picking fruit. Just bag the bunches or branches of fruit you want to protect.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about wildlife-safe netting, please call Wildlife Victoria Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm on 03 9445 0310 or email [office@wildlifelifevictoria.org.au](mailto:office@wildlifelifevictoria.org.au)

Regards,

The Wildlife Victoria Team