

Dear resident,

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

A net that you can poke a finger through is not safe for wildlife as they easily become entangled and trapped in the net. Most birds and animals (mainly flying foxes) trapped in these nets will need to be euthanized as the injuries can be very severe. Animals that survive can take weeks or months of costly rehabilitation before they can be released back into the wild.

We are a small charity depending on volunteers to rescue sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. You can help us and wildlife by removing this unsafe net. Happily, there are safer alternatives that allow you to protect your fruit without endangering wildlife.

Wildlife Safe Netting is any netting that you cannot poke a finger through. You should still ensure that the net is tightly installed and tied around the tree trunk. Mesh bags are even better as you can avoid the risk of falls from a ladder and the fruit is easier to get when you want to pick it. Just bag the bunches or branches of fruit you want to protect.



Thank you for your assistance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Megan Davidson'.

Dr Megan Davidson

Chief Executive Officer

ceo@wildlifelifevictoria.org.au

THE LAW IS CHANGING

From September 2021 it will be illegal to sell or use netting on domestic fruit trees unless it has an aperture no bigger than 5 x 5 mm fully stretched.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2010