

Solution to a myna problem

By EDITH BEVIN

THE suburban stronghold of the introduced Indian myna may soon be broken, with the launch of a trap that can capture 300 birds a day.

The Native Bird Rescue Unit can also double as a mobile collection unit picking up captured birds from smaller backyard traps to be put down.

The 3.6m by 1.5m trap is awaiting final patent approval but its creator Gary Cunich said several councils both here and interstate had already expressed interest.

"It's all very well to get them in your backyard but what about the ones in the parks, shopping centres and roadsides?" Mr Cunich, who spent the past 15 months and his own savings designing the trap, said.

"We've got to get rid of them because they're killing the native birds... and they're doing it in a very organised fashion."

Baulkham Hills Shire Council has expressed interest in the traps, Ryde Council is already using traps and Penrith Council has begun a trial.

Kuring-gai Council has bought 10 traps and has also begun a trial.

A spokesman said there had been "some positive results" but it was too early to say if the trial would be extended to a permanent program.

The Local Government Association said the State Government and Rural Lands Protection Boards need to work with councils to fight the Indian myna problem.