

# Bread no good for ducks

WHILE it may be a family favourite pastime, feeding bread to wildlife could be causing more harm than good.

Concerned Springfield Lakes residents want Ipswich City Council to erect signs to discourage the behaviour because they say it disrupts the local ecosystem.

Springfield Lakes Nature Care Group president Luise Manning said she was worried the issue could cause irreversible damage.

"From what I can gather, more people are feeding the ducks or fish bread and then throwing the bread bags into the lake," Mrs Manning said.

"Putting those nutrients into



the lake is not good for native animals and also encourages bad behaviour.

"One woman told me because people had been feeding water dragons near the local restaurant, one of them jumped off the railing into her baby's pram."

Ipswich local and retired en-

vironmental officer Mark Panter said feeding bread to animals had no benefits.

"From the perspective of the fish, the yeast from the bread constipates them. For something that has to constantly fight off predators, it makes them vulnerable, Mr Panter said.

"Then there is the issue of bringing in certain species like the white ibis or crows which can develop into plague proportions and cause issues with smell and noise.

"That hasn't been a huge issue in Ipswich yet, but it's not something we want to be encouraging - feeding bread to animals can start that off."

Q T I M E

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