

# Australia broadband network under attack from birds

6th November, 2017

Harder



Australia's highspeed, state-of-the-art broadband network is under attack from thousands of birds. The birds doing the damage are Australia's ubiquitous and colourful cockatoos. They have taken a liking for chewing the broadband cables that criss-cross Australian towns and cities. They are causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to the cables. The National Broadband Network (NBN) company that maintains the fibre optic cables reports that they need to spend around \$60,000 each time they are called out to fix

the cables. The birds' handiwork is also causing great frustration to Internet users across the country. Internet users have reported Internet outages and painfully slow speeds.

Cockatoos are a type of parrot which normally eats fruit nuts, wood and bark. A spokeswoman from NBN said she was at a loss as to why the birds had become partial to chewing the cables. She guessed that it was the colourful plastic that encased the power lines and broadband cables. She told reporters: "They are constantly sharpening their beaks and as a result will attack and tear apart anything they come across. Unfortunately, they've developed a liking to our cables." She joked: "You wouldn't think it was possible, but these birds are unstoppable when in a swarm. I guess that's Australia for you; if the spiders and snakes don't get you, the cockatoos will."



1. Australia's Internet is being attacked by thousands of birds.
2. The article said the birds have caused millions of dollars of damage.
3. An Internet company said she knew why birds are chewing cables.
4. The company said the birds sharpen their beaks on the cables.
5. The company said cockatoos will get you if spiders and snakes don't.



1. What does the last line of the article mean?
2. What damage can birds do to the things around us?
3. Is the Internet good value for money?
4. What frustrations do you have with the Internet?
5. What do you do when the Internet is very slow?