



Innovative Solutions for Urban Pigeon Problems

Case Study

HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL

Administration Building

It seems that every city or town has them - 'flying rodents'.
No, not bats, but feral pigeons.

In Wellington they were most noticeable around the Parliament - Old Government Building - Railway station 'triangle' and, in their various 'pigeon parks'. In Oamaru, it's 'historic precinct' and some of their fabulous white-stone heritage buildings are popular with pigeons. While at Auckland's Sylvia Park Shopping Centre, it was the pigeons they 'inherited' when the old American forces WW2 buildings were demolished, and so on through the country.

But in Hamilton, the buildings surrounding the city's Garden Place were the centre of attention. Having previously fitted Ace BirdNet down the east and west faces of the adjacent Telecom building and, the external alcoves of the 14 level Tower building, good homes for our feral friends were becoming scarce.

Little wonder then, that the pigeon population on the Hamilton City administration building soared. That was, until the Council's property team sought assistance to help resolve potential health issues and limit maintenance costs on their 'flagship' building.

Council's Considerations: *

"Hamilton City Council has tried various pigeon control methods with only limited success. The council Tower Block architecture lends itself rather well to roosting. Unfortunately, the local pigeon population were also finding it's deep set window ledges ideal for nesting and chick rearing. The result was an ever growing pigeon population and accelerated fouling with all of its associated health & safety risks, building deterioration, maintenance and cleaning cost.

"Ace Birdproofing offered a proven control method already used on buildings adjacent to the HCC Tower Block. A competitive tendering exercise demonstrated that lowest price was another advantage in favour of Ace Birdproofing and the contract was awarded in their favour."



Each level separately pigeon proofed.

Safety & the BirdNet System:

When surveying the site, it became obvious that normal fall restraint safety gear needed to be enhanced with additional safety measures. A specially designed 'man barrier' was made for protection of the installers. This frame was movable. When working behind the barrier it allowed the installers to reach above and beyond the balcony railing for all elevated work while still wearing their fall restraint gear.

This BirdNet pigeon proofing project comprised imported black knotted industrial polyethylene bird net (50mm mesh) fitted at every mesh to proprietary 2mm braided 306 grade stainless wire and fittings. This needed to be done with care so that the stretched net pattern was consistently neat on both building faces and, provided total pigeon exclusion to all netted areas.

The Result: *

"HCC are pleased to note that Ace acquitted themselves very well throughout the contract works. Suffering delays due to the interface with other contracts, Ace continued their commitment to the works and completed well within their allotted man hours. The workmanship is first class and the final product well received by all inspectors.

"As well as providing a good quality job, HCC were especially impressed by Ace's genuine commitment to health and safety. This extended to all areas of their work and in particular to the special problem of 'working at heights' which was a major safety concern for this project."

* The comments in italics are those of the client



BirdNet viewed on Level 5 balcony.

