



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future 

ANNUAL REPORT THREATENED SPECIES OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Name	Forest black-cockatoo (Baudin's cockatoo and the forest red-tail black-cockatoo) recovery team.
Reporting Period (Financial/Calendar Year)	Calendar year, 2007

Current membership

Member		Representing
1. Chair	Mark Garkaklis	DEC Swan Region
2. Exec. Officer	Tamra Chapman	DEC Species and Communities Branch
3.	Brad Barton	DEC Warren Region
4.	Mary-Anne Clunies - Ross	Water Corporation
5.	Sarah Comer	DEC South Coast Region
6.	Christine Cooper	Birds Australia WA
7.	Rick Dawson	DEC Nature Protection
8.	Ron Johnstone	WA Museum
9.	Gary Martin	Dept. Agriculture and Food
10.	Peter Mawson	DEC Species and Communities Branch
11.	Kim Williams	DEC South West Region
12.	Ian Wilson	DEC Warren Region
13.	?	WA Fruit Grower's Association

Dates meetings were held	07 June 2007, 07 November 2007
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Changes to Team Members	None
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Status of Plan	The recovery plan was placed on the DEWHA website for public comment by 14 February 2008.
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Aim	To stop further decline in the breeding populations of Baudin's Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and to ensure their persistence throughout their range in the south-west of Western Australia.
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Assessment of Aim	No detectable decline in breeding populations in Western Australia.
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TASKS CARRIED OUT AGAINST ACTIONS				
Action	Participants	Funding	Date	Task (include project report)
1. Seek the funding required to implement future recovery actions.	Recovery team, DEC	N/A	Ongoing	The recovery team discussed sources of funding for various projects and funding had been obtained from DEC (both monetary and in kind), Water Corporation, Southern Forests Landcare, WAFGA, Swan Catchment Council, DEWHA, SCRIPT
2. Determine and promote non-lethal means of mitigating fruit damage by Baudin's Cockatoo in orchards.	DEC, WAFGA	DEC, WAFGA, Southern Forests Landcare (NRM)	January 2007	Results of a grower survey of effective damage mitigation measures was presented in WATSNU Newsletter.
			January 2007	Presentation folder containing advice to growers produced, printed and distributed.
			Jan and Feb 2007	Southern Forest Landcare conducted field days to test the efficacy of using model aeroplanes and dogs to scare cockatoos.
			March 2007	A paper summarising the results of a grower survey to assess damage and damage mitigation measures was published in <i>The Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia</i> .
3. Eliminate illegal shooting.	DEC, WAFGA, Southern Forests Landcare (NRM)	In kind	29 Jan 2007 and 05 Feb 2007	Field days to inform growers that shooting is illegal and to promote non-lethal crop protection methods at Mundaring and Manjimup.
			Ongoing	Reports of illegal shooting were investigated by DEC Wildlife Officers.
			April 2007	An administrative instruction on how to issue damage licences over the phone was prepared and issued to all Wildlife Officers.
			Ongoing	DEC Manjimup project officer and Southern Forests Landcare made contact with and provided information to growers

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Action	Participants	Funding	Date	Task (include project report)
			December 2007	The Black Cockatoo Fruit Protection Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) presented a report on the issue of damage to orchards, seeking advice on the feasibility of low cost loans for netting to Ministers for Ag. And Environment.
4. Develop and implement strategies to allow for the use of noise emitting devices in orchards.	DEC, DAFWA, TAC	In kind	July-August 2007	The Black Cockatoo Fruit Protection Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) addressed difficulties associated with the use of noise emitting devices in residential areas.
			September 2007	Noise tests were conducted by DEC and the TAC arranged with the City of Armadale to mediate with growers who had a noise management plan in place.
5. Determine and implement ways to remove feral Honeybees from nesting hollows.	DEC, WA Museum	DEC, WA Museum	June 2007 / ongoing	<p>A standard operating procedure for eradication of feral bee hives using Fipronil was produced.</p> <p>WA Museum staff continues to remove hives from nest hollows.</p> <p>An article on the impact of feral bees on black cockatoos by Ron Johnstone and Tony Kirkby was published in the Western Australian Naturalist.</p>
6. Identify factors affecting the number of breeding attempts and breeding success and manage nest hollows to increase recruitment.	DEC, WA Museum		Ongoing	WA Museum staff study number of breeding attempts, breeding success and make recommendations to increase recruitment e.g. control of feral bees and avian nest competitors.
7. Determine and implement ways to	Murdoch University, DEC, private mining	Australian Research		Murdoch University planning to apply for ARC funding for up to 5 students to study Conservation of black cockatoos within

TASKS CARRIED OUT AGAINST ACTIONS				
Action	Participants	Funding	Date	Task (include project report)
minimise the effects of mining on habitat loss.	companies.	Council, DEC and mining companies		production landscapes in the jarrah forest (specifically minimise the impacts of mining and facilitate land rehabilitation after mining).
8. Determine and implement ways to manage forests for the conservation of Forest Black Cockatoos.	DEC	In-kind	Ongoing	The recovery team contacted DEC forest Management Branch and discussions are ongoing. The recovery team has also monitored media articles.
9. Identify and manage important groups of each species and protect from threatening processes.	WA Museum, DEC, DEWHA	DEWHA	February 2007	Maps will be prepared as part of Action 13.10. Detailed maps were produced for the Bunbury to Busselton region as part of EPBC Act policy statement.
10. Map feeding and breeding habitat critical to survival and important populations, and prepare management guidelines for these habitats.	WA Museum, DEC, Birds Australia WA		Ongoing	Western Australian Museum staff continued studies into distribution, flocking, breeding, feeding, social organisation and movements. Maps will also be produced under the Important Bird Areas project.
			October 2007	A paper on the distribution, status, social organisation, movements and conservation of Baudin's Cockatoo was submitted to <i>Records of the Western Australian Museum</i> .
11. Determine population numbers	DEC, Birds Australia, WA Museum		September 2007	Total population numbers were estimated by WA Museum staff, based on flock counts for Birds Australia's Important Bird Areas.

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Action	Participants	Funding	Date	Task (include project report)
and distribution.				Important roosting sites for Baudin's Cockatoo were identified in the paper submitted to <i>Records of the Western Australian Museum</i> (refer to Action 13.10).
12. Determine the patterns and significance of movement.	DEC, Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Foundation, Curtin University	NRM, in kind	May 2007	A Southern Forests Landcare / NRM project studied small-scale movements of Baudin's Cockatoo near orchards.
			November 2007	A study of the Energetics of apple seeds consumed by Baudins Cockatoos was completed by third year Curtin University student Robert Goodlich
			June 2007	The recovery team discussed the option for satellite tracking and discussions are ongoing.
			Ongoing	Rescued birds are rehabilitated, banded and released where possible. Branded birds may glean information of large-scale movements.
13. Maintain the Cockatoo Care program and use other opportunities to promote the recovery of Forest Black Cockatoos.	WA Museum	WA Museum, Water Corporation (in kind)		The Water Corporation ceased operation of Cockatoo Care. However, the website and program was in the process of being transferred to the WA Museum.

GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR			
Reporting Period (Financial/Calendar Year)		2008 Calendar Year	
Goal		Priority	Participants
Seek funding for recovery actions		M	DEC, NRM Groups, Universities
Promote non-lethal methods of crop protection, including the benefits of netting		H	DEC, WAFGA
Inform growers and the public that killing black cockatoos is illegal. Investigate reports of illegal killing and lay charges.		H	DEC
Monitor the use of noise management plans in orchards adjacent to residential areas.		M	TAC
Examine opportunities to deploy the feral bee control strategy using Fipronil.		M	DEC
Monitor nests, identify and minimise factors limiting breeding success		M	WA Museum
Conduct the research and management needed to minimise the effects of mining and logging on habitat loss.		M	Universities, DEC
Identify and manage important groups		H	WA Museum
Map important habitats and model potentially important habitat.		M	DEC, WA Museum, Birds Australia WA, Universities.
Study the ecology, breeding biology, social organisation and movements of selected groups of cockatoos.		H	WA Museum

GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR

Reporting Period (Financial/Calendar Year)	2008 Calendar Year		
Goal	Priority	Participants	
Establish the Cockatoo Care website at WA Museum	L	WA Museum	