



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



**SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT
THREATENED SPECIES OR COMMUNITY RECOVERY TEAM**

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team name	Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team
Reporting Period (Calendar Financial Year)	Calendar Year 2008
Current membership	
Member	Representing
David Mitchell (Chair)	DEC, Swan Region
Geoff Barrett (Exec.Officer)	DEC, Swan Region
Ron Johnstone	WA Museum
Rick Dawson	DEC Nature Protection Branch
Dr Peter Mawson	DEC, Species and Communities Branch
Stephen Davies	Adjunct Professor, Murdoch University & Curtin University
Rob Davis Dejan Stojanovic Raana Scott	Birds Australia, WA Birds Australia, WA Project Officer Birds Australia, WA Project Officer
Alison Doley	Community/Landowner member - Koobabbie, Coorow
Cheryl Gole Michael Roach	WWF WWF, Threatened Species Network Coordinator
Brad Barton	DEC Warren Region (Chair of Forest Black Cockatoo Recovery Team)
Renee Hartley	DEC, Midwest Region
Brett Beecham	DEC, Wheatbelt Region
Sarah Comer	DEC, South Coast
Dates meetings were held	19 March 2008, 18 June 2008, 3 December 2008.
One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for WATSNU	A wing tag from one of Denis Saunders' birds from Manmanning was found (without bird) 40 km east of Jurien Bay. This is a significant find and only the second wing tag ever recovered. It provides important information on longevity (the bird had the wing tag affixed when a chick in December 1974 – ie 34 years in the wild) and movements of birds.

	<p>The Recovery Team, with Birds Australia WA and WWF hosted a major symposium and workshop on the recovery of Carnaby's black cockatoo on the 1st and 2nd December 2008. Seventy six experts and stakeholders discussed research and conservation activities related to Carnaby's black cockatoo and on the following day 30 delegates participated in a workshop to develop a list of prioritized recovery actions for the species, as a framework for a new recovery plan, future projects and to raise awareness about the plight of Carnaby's black cockatoo.</p>
<p align="center">List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team (from actions in Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>) Recovery Plan 2002-2012)</p>	
<p>Action 1 Habitat management within priority areas.</p>	<p>There has still not been any formal identification of priority area in the context proposed in the recovery plan. Instead a range of actions are implemented across the breeding range of the species to identify, protect and manage habitat that supports breeding. The locations where this activity is carried out is often based on the level of landowner or local community support.</p> <p>The actions of DEC regional and Nature Conservation Division staff and of the partner organisations in the recovery of CBC focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protection of individual birds and of chicks in nests • retention of existing nesting trees, and retention of hollows (eg by repair, removal of nest competitors), • retain and increase feeding habitat near breeding areas <p>In 2008 members of the recovery team have: Produced draft information sheets on the design and use of artificial hollows. When completed the docs will be placed on DEC website.</p> <p>The Birds Australia (WA) "Cross Region Project" carried out field works including fencing of vegetation on covenanted property, and installation of nest boxes on another covenanted property.</p> <p>The Birds Australia (WA) "South Coast Project" field works included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 km of fencing on 3 properties (covered by VMAs) protecting 350 ha of breeding and feeding habitat. • Establishment of artificial hollows and monitoring of hollows. • monitoring of areas burnt in the Tenterten wildfire. • During 2008 the Project Officer relocated to Esperance and has increased focus on eastern populations. • Gained a TSN Grant for on-ground works (fencing, re-vegetation and artificial hollows) and community capacity building. • Two volunteer campouts carried out- 10 sites monitored. • Seventeen sites in total monitored, five previously un-recorded nesting sites recorded. • Further negotiating with landholders, looking at fencing off 200ha+ nesting and associated feeding habitat. <p>A Masters Student started on a project to assess impact of CBCs on canola crops. Initial findings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crops close to shelter trees were more vulnerable to CBC damage • CBC damage was less than 0.005% of crop
<p>Action 2 Management of feeding habitat within</p>	<p>Gnangara Park Pines: On the Swan Coastal Plain a significant food source is now provided</p>

<p>priority areas.</p>	<p>by pine plantations, most of which fall within the proposed Gngangara Park, and will be removed within the next 15 years. Current knowledge of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo use of non-breeding feeding areas is limited.</p> <p>DEC Gngangara Sustainability Strategy (GSS) commenced a project funded by the Forest Products Commission to investigate aspects of CBC use of the pine plantations in the Gngangara area. The study is looking at Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo use of feeding areas (both pines and natural vegetation), the different food/energy values of different food types, and production of food in different parts of the landscape, as well as how fire impacts on food value of areas and use by CBC.</p> <p>Impacts of urban development:</p> <p>The number of development proposals (including large and complex proposals) that may impact on CBC is increasing. This further underlines the need for development of guidance for decision makers as well as a review and re-writing of the CBC recovery plan.</p> <p>DEC commenced a project (co-funded by DEC, DEWHA and Landcorp) to investigate how development on the Perth metropolitan area may impact CBC focusing on two major parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of proposed development areas for the next 5 years against mapping of remnant vegetation that supports food habitat for CBC. Interim results indicate that in the next 5 years 1,050ha of CBC feeding habitat will be cleared for urban development. • A review and proposal of mechanisms to manage, audit and report on an "offset banking" process that could be applied under the EP Act, EPBC Act and statutory land use planning. <p>A separate project is to use development offset money directed to two projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify key areas/habitat resources, and • estimate total food energy budget on Swan Coastal Plain. <p>Commonwealth DEWHA have recently drafted (with input from DEC and WAM) a draft Policy Statement under the EPBC Act for both Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo and Baudin's Black-Cockatoo on the Southern Swan Coastal Plain Region. DEWHA commenced a similar policy for the rest of the Swan Coastal Plain, again with significant input from the Recovery Team.</p>
<p>Action 3 Monitoring of populations.</p>	<p>Birds Australia's monitoring program involves volunteer surveys, which are followed up by BA project staff to climb and check reported nest hollows. This would provide a measure of the accuracy of "from-ground" volunteer survey, and can be used retrospectively to assist analysis of previous surveys.</p> <p>Birds Australia has received new funding to assist in aviary trials of radio and satellite transmitters for CBC. This will develop methodology for later field application to track movement of CBC.</p> <p>The WA Museum has carried out a study of distribution of CBC on the swan coastal plain including review of records and survey work looking at distribution, status breeding and food etc. - focussing on Southern Swan Coastal Plain Region between Bunbury and Dunsborough and inland to the Whicher Range and secondly the Northern Swan coastal Plain in the Lancelin - Perth Region.</p>

	<p>WA Museum is also working on the impact of fire on cockatoos. This will deal with the impact of the Perth Hills fire in January 2005, the Mt Cooke fire in January 2003 and the Wungong -Bungendore fire in December 1994</p> <p>The Recovery Team also working towards a more centralised repository for data on CBC (known nesting sites, monitoring sites and potentially population genetic relationship maps) for the recovery team to utilise. Issues of data custodianship, outputs and delivery issues still need to be resolved.</p> <p>WWF/BAWA have a project to identify Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for CBC. Based on 12km foraging range and 1% threshold of breeding population.</p>
<p>Action 4 Community involvement.</p>	<p>A significant amount of the Recovery Team's community involvement is delivered through the Birds Australia (WA) "Cross Region Project" and "South Coast Project". Both of these projects are predicated on participation by private landowners in conservation of CBC on their own property, and some of the works involve volunteers travelling to CBC areas to carrying out works such as survey.</p> <p>Carnaby's black cockatoo is a charismatic visitor to the Perth metropolitan area and promotes significant public interest. The recovery team members are involved in many queries about the species and Nature Protection Branch staff and wildlife carers also deal with injured birds.</p> <p>Also the presence of Carnaby's black cockatoo in areas proposed for development is of increasing interest to the community.</p> <p>The Recovery Team, with Birds Australia WA and WWF hosted a major symposium and workshop on the recovery of Carnaby's black cockatoo on the 1st and 2nd December 2008. This was primarily aimed at providing a forum to discuss and plan research and conservation of Carnaby's black cockatoo but also was an opportunity to raise awareness about the plight of Carnaby's black cockatoo.</p>
<p>Action 5 Captive-breeding programs.</p>	<p>The program of management and rehabilitation of injured and 'derelict' birds continued staff from DEC, Perth Zoo, and licensed aviculturists.</p> <p>There was a release to the wild of 21 rehabilitated Carnabys Cockatoos at Yanchep National Park</p> <p>A PhD student from Murdoch University continued a study on the genetics of Carnabys Cockatoos. This work was initially aimed at assisting the management and policing of captive birds and policing the illegal taking of wild birds, but is providing important outcomes for planning conservation of the species and monitoring of recovery.</p>
<p>Other Activity.</p>	<p>It was clear that there is support in State and Commonwealth government for the Recovery Team's desire to review and redraft the Recovery Plan for CBC. The Recovery Team commenced seeking funding for this.</p>