



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



**SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT
THREATENED FAUNA RECOVERY TEAM**

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team name		Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team
Reporting Period (Financial / Calendar Year)		Calendar year 2009
Current membership		
Member		Representing
1. Chair	David Mitchell	DEC, Swan Region
2. EXEC OFFICER	Geoff Barrett	DEC, Swan Region
3.	Alison Doley	Community/landowner, Koobabbie, Coorow
4.	Peter Mawson	DEC Species & Communities Branch
5.	Rick Dawson	DEC, Nature Protection Branch
6.	Ron Johnstone	WA Museum
7.	Brad Barton	DEC, Warren Region
8.	Kath Howard	WWF
9.	Kim Williams	DEC, South West Region
10.	Cheryl Gole	Birds Australia WA (BAWA)
11.	Rob Davis	BAWA
12.	Sarah Comer	DEC, South Coast Region
13.	Brett Beecham	DEC, Wheatbelt Region
14.	Stephen Davies	Murdoch University & Curtin University

15.	Ann Biasol	DEC, Midwest Region
16.	John Ingram	CSIRO
17.	Raana Scott	BAWA South Coast Project Officer
Dates meetings were held		3 rd June and 2 nd December 2009
One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for WATSNU		<p>The Recovery Team endorsed the Strategic Framework arising from the symposium and workshop on the recovery of Carnaby's black cockatoo (CBC), held in December 2008. This framework, developed in partnership with Birds Australia WA and WWF, identifies priority recovery actions for the species, and has been used as a framework for the re-writing of the new recovery plan. Funding has been received for the re-write of the CBC recovery plan with the final due by June 2010.</p> <p>All trials of radio transmitters on captured Carnaby's Cockatoos were successful (harnesses and radio-transmitters staying on). Trailing of satellite transmitters will commence so that large-scale movements can be tracked. To date there have been no trials of on wild birds.</p> <p>A collaborative project was begun between DEC and Birds Australia to monitor Carnaby's Cockatoos at their night roost sites across the greater Swan Region.</p> <p>DEC has received State NRM funding for a number of projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-write of the recovery plan ○ Critical Habitat Mapping ○ Pilot Revegetation Project on Swan Coastal Plain ○ Mapping and assessment of habitat on Swan Coastal Plain (feeding, roosting, breeding) ○ Mapping and assessment of habitat in Wheatbelt ○ Direct assistance to private landowners for nesting habitat conservation ○ Nest boxes: Survey of artificial Hollows ○ Planting guidelines for Swan Coastal Plain: production of guidelines for street plantings
List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team (from actions in Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (<i>Calyptrorhynchus latirostris</i>) Recovery Plan 2002-2012)		
Action 1 Habitat management within priority areas.		<p>There has still not been any formal identification of priority areas in the recovery plan. Instead a range of actions are implemented to identify, protect and manage habitat. The location where these activities are carried out is often based on the level of landowner or 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by repair, removal of nest competitors), • retention and increase of feeding habitat near breeding areas • Monitoring and retention of nocturnal roost habitat in non-breeding areas. <p>In 2009 members of the recovery team were involved in:</p> <p>The ongoing Birds Australia (WA) “South Coast Project” which includes a program of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing on 3 properties (covered by VMAs) to protect breeding and feeding habitat. • Monitoring and repair of nest hollows. • Monitoring breeding success • Continued focus on eastern populations • Further negotiating with landholders, looking at fencing off nesting and associated feeding habitat • Signs have been placed along Chester Pass Road, near Albany, to draw driver attention to the risk posed by car strike to this threatened species • A training kit for feral bee control was produced by WWF (with \$30,000 funding) and a training program is underway. This program will include apiarists • A DEC project investigating methods of control of feral honey bees is underway. These control methods will be assist in reducing competition for nest hollows.
<p>Action 2 Management of feeding habitat within priority areas.</p>	<p>Gnangara Park Pines:</p> <p>On the Swan Coastal Plain a significant food source is now provided by pine plantations, most of which fall within the proposed Gnangara 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 Gnangara Sustainability Strategy (GSS) included a project funded by the Forest Products Commission to investigate aspects of CBC use of the pine plantations in the Gnangara area. The study looked at Carnabys Cockatoo use of feeding areas (both pines and natural vegetation), the 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>The main results are available in the following report: Valentine, L.E., Stock, W., 2008. Food Resources of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>) in the Gnangarra Sustainability Strategy study area. Edith Cowan University & WA Department of Environment and Conservation. The GSS reports can be accessed via: http://portal.water.wa.gov.au/portal/page/portal/gss/Reports</p> <p>The GSS Carnaby’s Cockatoo project is being continued by Will Stock and Hugh Finn from Edith Cowan University. The Recovery Team remain in contact with these researchers.</p> <p>Impacts of urban development:</p> <p>The number of development proposals (including large and complex</p>

	<p>proposals) that may impact on CBC is increasing. This emphasises 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 has received State NRM funding for a number of projects that will involve data consolidation between DEC, Department of Planning, WA Museum, Birds Australia WA and WWF. The NRM projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-write of the recovery plan (Kristen Bleby) ○ Dept. of Planning Critical Habitat Mapping (all threatened species, including CBC). ○ Pilot Revegetation Project on Swan Coastal Plain: aims to create 4ha demonstration site to show that restored habitat will provide food for CBC. ○ Mapping and assessment of habitat on Swan Coastal Plain (feeding, roosting, breeding) (BAWA, Raana Scott and Quinton Burnham, Geoff Barrett, Mark Blythman) ○ Mapping and assessment of habitat in Wheatbelt ○ Direct assistance to private landowners for nesting habitat conservation: restoration (fencing), working through Land for Wildlife (Peter Mawson, RS). ○ Nest boxes: Survey of artificial Hollows (Christine Groom) ○ Planting guidelines for Swan Coastal Plain: production of guidelines for street plantings (Christine Groom)
<p>Action 3 Monitoring of populations.</p>	<p>The Recovery Team has been 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. A data sharing agreement has been negotiated between DEC and Birds Australia. Data exchanges have also occurred between DEC and the WA Museum (roost locations, breeding sites and artificial nest box locations).</p> <p>The Recovery Team supported Birds Australia and Edith Cowan University in setting up a research projects concerned with the use of satellite transmitters to track large-scale movements of Carnaby's Cockatoos, and the use of vocalization to identify flock movements in the southwest.</p> <p>Birds Australia has received new funding to assist in aviary trials of radio and satellite transmitters for CBC. All trials of radio transmitters on captured Carnaby's Cockatoos were successful. The harnesses and radio-transmitters are staying on (About 30 trials of harnesses, collars and tail mounts, after 12 months, none have fallen off). To date there have been no trials of tags on wild birds, and there are still concerns that harnesses may trap birds in hollows.</p> <p>An agreement was reached between DEC and Birds Australia to set up a community survey of Carnaby's Black-cockatoos at their night roost sites. A pilot study was carried out in the summer of 2009</p>

	<p>which formalized the counting procedures and identified 82 likely/potential roost sites in the Greater Perth Region (51 of these had some level of monitoring by the end of 2009).</p> <p>WWF/BAWA have completed their identification of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) for CBC, based on Birdlife International criteria (and using a 12km foraging range and 1% threshold of breeding population). The Recovery Team supports this approach but notes that the IBA is not a statutory decision making tool. IBAs in the southwest WA include: Fitzgerald river, Peel-Harvey Estuary, Strirling Range, Lake McLarty, Rottnest Island, Yalgorup. For details, see website: http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/our-projects/important-bird-areas.html). The IBA for the Gnamptarea region occurs between Moore River and Perth Metro.</p>
Action 4 Community involvement.	<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 surveys.</p> <p>Carnaby's black cockatoo is a charismatic visitor to the Perth metropolitan area and promotes significant public interest. Around 40 volunteers assisted with the summer 2009 roost counts on the Swan Coastal Plain, and the ground work was laid for a continuation of the roost monitoring project into 2010.</p> <p>The recovery team members deal with many queries about the species and Nature Protection Branch staff and wildlife carers also deal with injured birds. Also, the presence of Carnaby's black cockatoo in areas proposed for development is of increasing interest to the community.</p>
Action 5 Captive-breeding programs.	<p>The program of management and rehabilitation of injured and 'derelict' birds was continued by staff from DEC, Perth Zoo, and licensed aviculturists. There was a release to the wild of 21 rehabilitated Carnabys Cockatoos at Yanchep National Park</p> <p>Nicole White, 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>
Other Activity.	<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, and implement research programs for the recovery of the CBC.</p>
High Priority Actions Requiring Funding	
Task	Amount needed and what for

	<p>From the draft Recovery Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protection and Management of Critical Habitat• Confirm distribution and status of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo.• Confirm knowledge of the biology and ecology of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo• Confirm knowledge of the threats of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo• Monitor breeding success of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo• Monitor Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo at nocturnal roost sites• Monitor feeding activity of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo
--	---