



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



**SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT
THREATENED FAUNA RECOVERY TEAM**

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team name	Forest Black Cockatoo Recovery Team	
Reporting Period (Financial / Calendar Year)	Calendar year 2009	
Current membership		
	Member	Representing
1. CHAIR	Brad Barton	DEC Warren Region
2. EXEC OFFICER	Tamra Chapman	DEC Species and Communities Branch
3.	Geoff Barrett	DEC Swan Region
4.	Sarah Comer	DEC South Coast Region
5.	Christine Cooper	Birds Australia WA
6.	Rick Dawson	DEC Nature Protection
7.	Ron Johnstone	WA Museum
8.	Gary Martin	Dept. Agriculture and Food
9.	Peter Mawson	DEC Species and Communities Branch
10.	Kim Williams	DEC South West Region
11.	Ian Wilson	DEC Warren Region
12.	?	WA Fruit Grower's Association
Dates meetings were held	10 Jun 2009 and 02 Decr 2009	
One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for		

WATSNU	
List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team (from the actions in your Recovery Plan)	
1. Seek the funding required to implement future recovery actions.	<p>The recovery team discussed sources of funding for various projects and funding had been obtained from DEC (both monetary and in kind), Water Corporation, South West Catchment Council, WAFGA, Swan Catchment Council, DEWHA, SCNRM. WWF, Birds Australia and DEC submitted a significant bid for Caring for Country funds in March 2009 which was not successful.</p> <p>SWCC provided funding for some survey work across the Lower south West in April - July 2009. WWF committed \$30,000 to the development of a feral bee control course at Challenger TAFE. DEWHA has offered to fund a \$65,000 research program which will involve feral bee hive eradication at Minulo, Cataby, key sites in the northern Jarrah forest.</p>
2. Determine and promote non-lethal means of mitigating fruit damage by Baudin's Cockatoo in orchards.	<p>DEC and Warren Catchment Council continue to liaise with fruit growers in DEC's Warren Region.</p> <p>An article relating to benefits of netting and survey relating to low cost loans was published in WA Fruit Grower Jan 2009.</p> <p>Brad Barton reported on a case study at Newton's orchard where part of the orchard had been netted and part remains exposed to the cockatoos.</p> <p>The Black Cockatoo Technical Advisory Committee prepared a submission to the Minister's for Environment and Agriculture on damage, excessive noise issues and low cost loan schemes for netting of orchards. The report was provided to the Minister for the Environment's office for the Minister's consideration. The Minister requested a briefing on the report from Peter Mawson, and this was provided on 08 Dec 2009.</p> <p>WWF have approached supermarkets to determine if they are aware that orchards may be shooting cockatoos to protect crops. Further work is required with the supermarkets to promote "cockatoo friendly" marketing.</p>
3. Eliminate illegal shooting.	<p>Rick Dawson and Leighton De Barros produced a DVD of an illegal shooting operation on 26 Jun 2009. Tamra Chapman forwarded a manuscript and PowerPoint presentation on the modelling on the effects of shooting on the population to Rick on 25 Jun 2009. Rick is preparing a presentation and will make arrangements to present to DEC's: Director General, Deputy Director General, Director of Nature Conservation and Director of Parks and Conservation.</p> <p>Members discussed a means of accreditation for growers who netted their orchards. While stickers on fruit or 'cockatoo friendly apples' was not considered ideal, all agreed that it would be beneficial to devise a scheme to reward growers who produce fruit without killing cockatoos, or a least, investigate purchasing policies</p> <p>On 6 Aug 2009, Brad Barton forwarded a request from Newton's orchard, seeking an endangered species report to allow export to Europe. Kath Howard reported that WWF plans to meet with key retail grocery industry personnel in Feb / Mar 2010</p>
4. Develop and implement strategies to allow for the use of noise emitting devices	<p>Horticulture Australia Limited has reports available at: http://www.horticulture.com.au/Project_Result/project_result.asp (Task 4 arising). The following reports (summaries below) were emailed to key government officers (copyright restricts wider</p>

<p>in orchards.</p>	<p>distribution) on 14 Sep 2009:</p> <p>AP320 Hail netting to increase apple orchard productivity</p> <p>Hail netting reduces hail damage to apples in prone areas. This final report of a 1993-96 study outlines other benefits, which can include less wind damage, reduced sunburn, better skin finish, and reduced hand-thinning. It also discusses the management factors that need to be considered for trees under hail netting. These factors include pruning, irrigation, crop load and pollination strategies to maximise yields, fruit size and quality.</p> <p>AP96014 Maximising apple orchard productivity under hail netting</p> <p>Data from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne markets showed that netting to protect against hail damage was profitable for high value apple varieties such as Gala, Red Fuji and Pink Lady, irrespective of hailstorm incidence. Hail netting reduces fruit set, sunburn, wind-rub, fruit russet and bird damage, while influencing yield, fruit size, fruit colour and maturity. This research, between 1997-99, found that light winter pruning and light or chunk summer pruning was needed to control excessive tree vigour under netting and adequate space between the netting and treetops was needed for optimum bee movement (for pollination).</p> <p>Trials with newly developed noise emitting devices continue in various areas (Casuarina Valley Orchard). Orchards are trialling various forms of netting to protect from bird damage as well as hail and sun damage.</p>
<p>5. Determine and implement ways to remove feral Honeybees from nesting hollows.</p>	<p>WWF committed \$30,000 to the development of a feral bee control course at Challenger TAFE. The contract for conducting the feral bee control course has been signed by Challenger TAFE and the course will be developed by late 2009.</p> <p>DEWHA has offered to fund a \$65,000 research program which will involve feral bee hive eradication at Minulo, Cataby, key sites in the northern Jarrah forest and the private property of Bessell Hanekamp. There may also be an opportunity for an officer to re-visit sites where hives were previously removed to record long-term effectiveness.</p> <p>A new project officer, Mark Blythman, commenced work on 12th October and the APVMA licence renewal (to use fipronil) is being sought. Previously treated sites (Yellagonga Regional Park and Woodvale Research Centre) have been revisited and it has been confirmed that all old hives have been repopulated after 1 year, but before 2 years since treatment.</p>
<p>6. Identify factors affecting the number of breeding attempts and breeding success and manage nest hollows to increase recruitment.</p>	<p>WA Museum staff continue to study a number of breeding attempts, breeding success and make recommendations to increase recruitment e.g. control of feral bees and avian nest competitors. . Ron Johnstone stated that around 20 pairs of forest red-tails black cockatoos were breeding in the Wungong area this year, where no breeding has been recorded last year.</p> <p>Perth Zoo is hosting a Master of Science study on injuries to black cockatoos and rehabilitation outcomes. Baudin's Cockatoo is often admitted with shooting wounds. The zoo is recording the demography of the birds admitted for examination and will also test the use of transmitters in the aviary soon. The tests will determine the efficacy of collar, harness and tail mount transmitters.</p>

<p>7. Determine and implement ways to minimise the effects of mining on habitat loss.</p>	<p>Murdoch University planning to apply for ARC funding for up to 5 students to study Conservation of black cockatoos within production landscapes in the jarrah forest (specifically minimise the impacts of mining and facilitate land rehabilitation after mining).</p>
<p>8. Determine and implement ways to manage forests for the conservation of Forest Black Cockatoos.</p>	<p>Peter Mawson, Tamra Chapman and a range of regional staff (including Brad Barton) provided advice and comment on assessments relating to the mid-term audit of key performance indicators for sustainable forest management on 5 December and 22 December 2008 respectively. This included an assessment for impacts on the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.</p>
<p>9. Identify and manage important groups of each species and protect from threatening processes.</p>	<p>Cheryl Gole reported progress via email on 07 Jul 2009 and the summary was emailed to all members for comment on 14 Jul 2009. Geoff Barrett emailed the Important Bird Area summary for Baudin's Cockatoo to interested parties on 20 Aug 2009.</p> <p>Maps will be prepared as part of Action 10. Detailed maps were produced for the Bunbury to Busselton region as part of EPBC Act policy statement.</p>
<p>10. Map feeding and breeding habitat critical to survival and important populations, and prepare management guidelines for these habitats.</p>	<p>Strategic policy for matters in federal hotspots for developments and assessment of 'significant impacts' on threatened species (Forest Black Cockatoos). DEC co-ordinated response from staff and returned a major review on 31 Jul 2008. Since that time DEWHA had requested some additional information and mapping from the WA Museum and this work is ongoing.</p>
<p>11. Determine population numbers and distribution.</p>	<p>Western Australian Museum staff continued studies into distribution, flocking, breeding, feeding, social organisation and movements. Additional survey work by the WA Museum took place in April – July 2009 with funding from SWCC recording sightings and nesting locations of the three species of Black Cockatoos from Lake Muir to the SW Capes area.</p> <p>Total population numbers were estimated by WA Museum staff, based on flock counts for Birds Australia's Important Bird Areas.</p> <p>Important roosting sites for Baudin's Cockatoo were identified in the paper submitted to Records of the Western Australian Museum (refer to Action 10).</p>
<p>12. Determine the patterns and significance of movement.</p>	<p>Nicole While, a PhD candidate, conservation genetics for black cockatoos – primarily Carnaby's Cockatoo. Nicole explained how genetic studies can be applied to extinction risk and management needed to reduce the risk. Her study will examine speciation, nesting gene flow, isolation and movements. She has also been able to assist in analyses for investigations into illegal take (shooting) of black cockatoos.</p>
<p>13. Maintain the Cockatoo Care program and use other opportunities to</p>	<p>Cockatoo Care website and program was transferred to the WA Museum and migration is in progress.</p>

promote the recovery of Forest Black Cockatoos.	
High Priority Actions Requiring Funding	
Task	Amount needed and what for
Feral competitors	Ecological research, feral bee control and corella control.
Surveys, roost monitoring and mapping	\$65,000 p.a. for staff.