



RECOVERY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team Forest Black Cockatoo

Reporting Period Calendar year 2012

Current membership

	Member	Representing
1. Chair	Brad Barton	DEC Warren Region
2. Exec	Amy Mutton	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	Kim Williams	DEC South West Region
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Dates meetings were held

4 May 2012 and 9 November 2012

One to two paragraph summary of achievements

Amy Mutton is the temporary executive officer of the recovery team replacing Brianna Wingfield, who replaced Holly Raudino.

A number of funding applications were submitted to fund projects predominantly looking at critical habitat for Forest Black cockatoos. Collaborative work with Western Power and SEWPac over offset requirements for the Muja to Albany powerline upgrade. Project has yet to proceed. Two papers authored by Ron Johnston were published on Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.

Meetings held with WA fruit growers association and fruit growers from the Manjimup and Donnybrook area regarding the impacts of Baudin's on Orchards.

	<p>DEC continues to liaise with fruit growers in DEC's Warren Region and has engaged with Fruit West as the fruit growing representative body to provide information to growers.</p> <p>Reports of illegal shooting were investigated by DEC Wildlife Officers. DEC has continued to work with the fruit growing industry to look for methods to scare birds from orchards to prevent significant fruit loss and potential impacts on bird numbers.</p> <p>In planning for the next Forest Management Plan, members of the recovery team are providing advice and guidance regarding silviculture and forest practices to better facilitate forest black cockatoo conservation.</p>
List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team members	
<p>Recovery Action 1. Seek funding to implement Recovery Actions</p> <p>DEC, Murdoch University, Alcoa, Western Power, WA Museum and others have all sought funding to undertake a variety of work associated with implementing recovery actions.</p>	
<p>Recovery Action 2. Determine and promote non-lethal means of mitigating fruit damage by Baudin's Cockatoo in orchards</p> <p>DEC staff in the Warren Region met with Fruit West and fruit growers to discuss ongoing management of impacts from Baudin's. A number of orchards sought damage permits and there has been an increase in the use of netting to protect apple crops.</p>	
<p>Recovery Action 3. Eliminate illegal shooting</p> <p>DEC Nature Protection Branch undertook a number of investigations relating to reports of illegal shooting. No successful prosecutions were made but there is a heightened awareness amongst orchardists regarding the use of appropriate scaring techniques.</p> <p>Significant work is still required to reduce the impact of illegal shooting.</p>	
<p>Recovery Action 4. Develop and implement strategies to allow the use of noise emitting devices in orchards.</p> <p>Still remains an issue as urbanisation encroaches into former horticultural/agricultural lands.</p>	
<p>Recovery Action 5. Determine and implement ways to remove feral honeybees from nesting hollows.</p> <p>Technique and chemicals have been field tested, DEC is working to gain appropriate Commonwealth approval and conditions to implement an operational scale trial.</p>	
<p>Recovery Action 6. Identify factors affecting the number of breeding attempts and breeding success and manage nest hollows to increase recruitment</p> <p>Ron Johnston published two papers – 'Breeding behaviour and diet of Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (FRTBC)' and 'Characteristics of nest trees and hollows for FRTBC'.</p>	
<p>Recovery Action 7. Determine and implement ways to minimise the effects of mining and urban development on habitat loss.</p> <p>Meetings with Alcoa identified an area of critical habitat with a number of nest trees within a minesite footprint. Alcoa environmental staff have negotiated the area to be set aside due to the importance of the site for black cockatoos. They are liaising with DEC to have the area included as part of a fauna habitat zone.</p> <p>Observations of FRTBC breeding on the Swan Coastal Plain and utilising food resources in the metropolitan area.</p> <p>Continued input into development, mining and infrastructure proposals to limit the impact on black cockatoo habitat.</p>	
<p>Recovery Action 8. Determine and implement ways to manage forest for the conservation of forest black</p>	

cockatoos

Liaison and input by recovery team chair and other members into the rewrite of the Forest Management Plan, silvicultural prescriptions and protection of habitat trees for black cockatoos.

Recovery Action 9. Identify and manage important sites and protect from threatening processes.

Ongoing survey work and identification of sites across the birds range by DEC, WA Museum, Birds Australia, Universities and volunteers. See also Recovery action 6.

DEC and WA museum continue to manage known sites.

Recovery Action 10. Map feeding and breeding habitat critical to survival and important populations, and prepare management guidelines for these habitats

WA museum continues to contribute to this recovery action. Offset negotiation with Western Power for the Muja to Albany transmission line will see a 30km radius of the Collie area mapped for Black Cockatoo habitat – when the project commences. This offset is supported by SEWPaC.

Recovery Action 11. Monitor population numbers and distribution

WA museum, DEC and Birds Australia have in place monitoring programs for FBC. The great cocky count while initially focusing on Carnaby's Cockatoo is also picking up roost and breeding sites for FBC.

Recovery Action 12. Determine patterns and significance of movement.

Radio tacking trial of two Baudin's Cockatoos released in the metropolitan area has provided valuable information on movement and habitat use in the Perth Hills area.

Recovery Action 13. Maintain Cockatoo Care Program and use other opportunities to promote the recovery of Forest Black Cockatoos

WA Museum continues to maintain the cockatoo care program. DEC, Birds Australia, WA Museum, bird care and rehabilitation organisations all continue to promote recovery of FBC's.