

## Urban living for black cockatoos: hazards and solutions

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Flocks of threatened Carnaby's cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus latirostris*, Baudin's cockatoo, *C. baudinii* and Forest red-tailed black-cockatoo, *C. banksii naso*, are seen regularly in the suburbs of Perth. They feed on many native and exotic species in home gardens, road verges and parks, and roost at night in both native and planted tree species. Their proximity to humans, traffic and other hazards has meant that 2,195 black cockatoos were admitted to Perth Zoo for treatment between 2006 and 2018. Around one third of all cockatoos admitted to the Perth Zoo veterinary department had injuries directly related with human activities (i.e. vehicle strike, gunshot, collision with fixed objects, tree felling). The cockatoos are slow to gain height when taking flight meaning that food resources and drinking opportunities close to or on roads pose a significant hazard. Injured birds were reported from some suburbs more than others suggesting that there were attributes about the habitat in these suburbs that made them more attractive or hazardous to black cockatoos. Solutions to the problem include improved traffic management, providing advice on optimal choice of suitable roost tree and cockatoo food species, planting situations for providing safe foraging and advice on engineering and reticulation strategies to reduce the incidence of ponded water on or near roadways. Example projects aiming to provide safe foraging solutions for black cockatoos will be described.



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