



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



ANNUAL REPORT
THREATENED SPECIES OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Name	Forest black-cockatoo (Baudin's cockatoo and the forest red-tail black-cockatoo) recovery team.
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Reporting Period (Financial/Calendar Year)	Calendar year, 2008
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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.	Mary-Anne Clunies - Ross	Water Corporation
5.	Sarah Comer	DEC South Coast Region
6.	Christine Cooper	Birds Australia WA
7.	Rick Dawson	DEC Nature Protection
8.	Ron Johnstone	WA Museum
9.	Gary Martin	Dept. Agriculture and Food
10.	Peter Mawson	DEC Species and Communities Branch
11.	Kim Williams	DEC South West Region
12.	Ian Wilson	DEC Warren Region
13.	Michael Roach	WWF
14.	Di Fry	WA Fruit Grower's Association

Dates meetings were held	07 June 2008, 07 November 2008
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Changes to Team Members	Mark Garkaklis (Chair) resigned from DEC and Brad Barton accepted nomination as Chair. Geoff Barrett replaces Mark Garkaklis as DEC Swan Region representative. Michael Roach joined the recovery team as a representative from WWF. Dianne Fry was invited to join the Recovery Team as WAFGA representative.
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Status of Plan	The public comment period on the recovery plan closed on 14 Feb 2008. Tamra Chapman emailed Alan Hill and Diane Fry on 04 Jan 2008 alerting them that the recovery plan was open to public comment and suggesting that they might consider a note in the <i>WA Fruit Grower</i> . One public submission was received by DEC on 15 Feb 2008 and a response was prepared and forwarded to DEWHA on 19 Feb 2008. Tamra responded to comments and queries by the TSSC on 23 April 2008.
Aim	To stop further decline in the breeding populations of Baudin's Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and to ensure their persistence throughout their range in the south-west of Western Australia.
Assessment of Aim	No detectable decline in breeding populations in Western Australia.

TASKS CARRIED OUT AGAINST ACTIONS				
Action	Participants	Funding	Date	Task (include project report)
1. Seek the funding required to implement future recovery actions.	Recovery team, DEC, WWF, NRM, Birds Australia	N/A	Ongoing	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 have submitted a significant bid for Caring for Country funds in March 2009.
2. Determine and promote non-lethal means of mitigating fruit damage by Baudin's Cockatoo in orchards.	DEC, WAFGA	DEC, WAFGA, Southern Forests Landcare (NRM)	Ongoing	DEC and Warren Catchment Council continue to liaise with fruit growers in DEC's Warren Region.
			DEC 2008	Additional information in the Western Australian Fruit Growers Association news letter and further request re
			2008	Joint submission to NRM from WWF and DEC seeking funding for promotion and installation of netting to prevent impacts from Baudins on fruit orchards.
			2008	Tamra Chapman emailed information on the effects of culling and calculating the costs of netting to Teagan Johnston on 28 Dec 2007. DEC collated information on the effects of culling and calculating the costs of netting and prepared briefing for the Ministers requesting support for low cost loans for netting on behalf of the BCTAC. The report is due for completion by end May 2008 (refer to Task 7 below). Information on growers that had netted their orchard had not been collected.
3. Eliminate illegal shooting.	DEC, WAFGA, Southern Forests	In kind	DEC 2008	Successful prosecution of Bridgetown fruit grower for shooting Baudins.

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	Landcare (NRM)		Ongoing	Reports of illegal shooting were investigated by DEC Wildlife Officers.
4. Develop and implement strategies to allow for the use of noise emitting devices in orchards.	DEC, DAFWA, TAC	In kind	Ongoing	Trials with newly developed noise emitting devices continue in various areas (Casuarina Valley Orchard)
5. Determine and implement ways to remove feral Honeybees from nesting hollows.	DEC, WA Museum, WWF, TAFE	DEC, WA Museum	ongoing	<p>DEC and WA Museum to investigate a suitable field site to trial operation use of Fipronil.</p> <p>DEC has been negotiating with WWF for them to fund the development of a 2-3 day nationally accredited training course that will facilitate the roll out of the methodologies developed as part of the bee research. WWF reported that Challenger TAFE is undertaking the required course development. The course will not be run until the APVMA has approved the use of the target toxin for use against bees. The course managers plan to build capacity for NRM groups to eradicate bees on private land and in reserves.</p>
6. Identify factors	DEC, WA Museum		Ongoing	WA Museum staff study number of breeding attempts, breeding success and make recommendations to increase recruitment

TASKS CARRIED OUT AGAINST ACTIONS				
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affecting the number of breeding attempts and breeding success and manage nest hollows to increase recruitment.				e.g. control of feral bees and avian nest competitors.
7. Determine and implement ways to minimise the effects of mining on habitat loss.	Murdoch University, DEC, private mining companies.	Australian Research Council, DEC and mining companies		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).
8. Determine and implement ways to manage forests for the conservation of Forest Black Cockatoos.	DEC	In-kind	Ongoing	<p>The recovery team contacted DEC forest Management Branch and discussions are ongoing. The recovery team has also monitored media articles.</p> <p>DEC was part way through the mid-term audit of the Forest Management Plan. This is a mid-term audit of key performance indicators, and the report was in preparation. The report will go to the EPA by 24 December 2008 and it may be available for public comment</p>
9. Identify and manage important groups of each species and protect from threatening processes.	WA Museum, DEC, DEWHA	DEWHA	Ongoing	<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>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</p>

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Action	Participants	Funding	Date	Task (include project report)
				mapping from the WA Museum and this work is ongoing.
10. Map feeding and breeding habitat critical to survival and important populations, and prepare management guidelines for these habitats.	WA Museum, DEC, Birds Australia WA		Ongoing	Western Australian Museum staff continued studies into distribution, flocking, breeding, feeding, social organisation and movements. Maps will also be produced under the Important Bird Areas project. A paper on the Distribution, status, social organisation, movements and conservation of Baudin's Cockatoo has been published in the records of the WA Museum
	DEC, WWF		Feb 2008	DEC met with WWF to discuss means of mapping important habitats. Criteria were finalised and a project outline prepared to request assistance from Forest Management Branch. Data were obtained from WA Museum and arrangements made to begin a habitat modelling project.
			2008	Nominations for listing of the Forest Red-tailed Cockatoo as vulnerable and Baudin's Cockatoo as critically endangered were prepared by Tamra Chapman and presented to the WA TSSC for assessment at the March 2008 meeting. The status of the species remained unchanged.
11. Determine population numbers and distribution.	DEC, Birds Australia, WA Museum, WWF		September 2007	Total population numbers were estimated by WA Museum staff, based on flock counts for Birds Australia's Important Bird Areas. Important roosting sites for Baudin's Cockatoo were identified in the paper submitted to <i>Records of the Western Australian Museum</i> (refer to Action 10).
12. Determine the patterns and	DEC, Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Foundation, Curtin	NRM, in kind	Ongoing	Rescued birds are rehabilitated, banded and released where possible. Banded birds may glean information of large-scale movements.

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significance of movement.	University, SCNRM, WWF, Birds Australia		2008	SCNRM / Birds Australia project investigated both Baudins and Carnaby cockatoo usage of habitat along the South Coast.
13. Maintain the Cockatoo Care program and use other opportunities to promote the recovery of Forest Black Cockatoos.	WA Museum	WA Museum, Water Corporation (in kind)		The Water Corporation ceased operation of Cockatoo Care. However, the website and program was in the process of being transferred to the WA Museum.
	Perth Zoo		2008	Perth Zoo are hosting a masters student conducting 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.

GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR		
Reporting Period (Financial/Calendar Year)	2008 Calendar Year	
Goal	Priority	Participants
Seek funding for recovery actions	M	DEC, NRM Groups, Universities, WWF, Birds Australia
Promote non-lethal methods of crop protection, including the benefits of netting	H	DEC, WAFGA, WWF
Inform growers and the public that killing black cockatoos is illegal. Investigate reports of illegal killing and lay charges.	H	DEC
Monitor the use of noise management plans in orchards adjacent to residential areas.	M	TAC
Examine opportunities to deploy the feral bee control strategy using Fipronil.	M	DEC
Monitor nests, identify and minimise factors limiting breeding success	M	WA Museum
Conduct the research and management needed to minimise the effects of mining and logging on habitat loss.	M	Universities, DEC
Identify and manage important groups	H	WA Museum, DEC
Map important habitats and model potentially important habitat.	M	DEC, WA Museum, Birds Australia WA, Universities, WWF, SCNRM.
Study the ecology, breeding biology, social organisation and movements of selected groups	H	WA Museum

GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR

Reporting Period (Financial/Calendar Year)	2008 Calendar Year	
Goal	Priority	Participants
of cockatoos.		
Establish the Cockatoo Care website at WA Museum	L	WA Museum