TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Ref: 2026-0062-001-sp

17 March 2026

[redacted]

Re: Tree inspection for Black Cockatoo tree assessment, Helena Valley Lifestyle Village

[redacted]

Terrestrial Ecosystems is pleased to provide a report on a tree assessment at Helena Valley Lifestyle Village, Helena Valley.

[redacted](Terrestrial Ecosystems Senior Zoologist) assessed the tree on 16 and 17 March 2026. The Jarrah tree (*Eucalyptus marginata*; Plates 1 and 2) was assessed for its potential to provide a nesting hollow for Black Cockatoos. The visit on 16 March was between 1530-1600hrs, and on 17 March between 0845hrs -0945hrs.

The Jarah tree had previously been assessed by Paperbark Technologies Arboricultural Consultants (2025). The earlier assessment did not discuss any hollows, although it was more focused on the tree's health and its roots. The Terrestrial Ecosystems zoologist used a drone to assess the upper canopy for potential tree hollows, but weather and vegetation prevented obtaining clear images of the hollow. A camera with a long zoom lens was used to photograph potential hollow entrances.

The tree contains one hollow (Plate 3) on the northern side of the tree. The removal of the bark in the entrance to the hollow is not typical of how Black-Cockatoos would chew the bark around the entrance, and there were no bird droppings around the base of the tree (Plate 4), which is typically found around a nesting tree. The hollow entrance (Plates 5 and 6) showed what appeared to be down feathers around the entrance, indicating recent use by a nesting bird.

Breeding requirements for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*)

Johnstone et al. (2011) and Johnstone and Storr (1998) indicate that breeding occurs mainly from early July to mid-December, mostly in top entrance hollows, 2.5–12m above the ground, with an entrance 23-30cm and a hollow depth of 1-2.5m.

Breeding requirements for Baudin's Black-Cockatoo (*Zanda baudinii*)

Johnstone et al. (2011) and Johnstone and Storr (1998) indicate that breeding occurs mainly from August to December, with little else known about its breeding behaviour.

Breeding requirements for Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*)

Johnstone et al. (2011) and Johnstone and Storr (1998) indicate that breeding occurs mainly from February to December, but mostly in October and November, mostly in top entrance hollows, 2.5–12m above the ground, with an entrance 12-41cm and a depth of 1-5m.

Conclusion

March is outside the primary nesting season for all three Black-Cockatoos, the loss of bark at the hollow entrance is not typical of how Black-Cockatoos chew around the entrance of a hollow, and no female came to the hollow entrance when the tree trunk was knocked, or a drone was used to investigate the hollow. So, based on this information, it is improbable that the hollow is currently an active nesting site for a Black-Cockatoo.

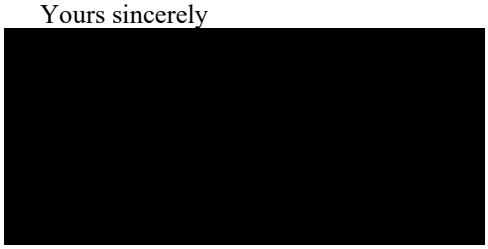
23 Strickland Street, Mt Claremont, Western Australia, Australia 6010
ph: 0407 385 239, email: info@terrestrialecosystems.com

If the client wanted to be certain that the hollow is not currently in use as a Black-Cockatoo nest, an elevated work platform would be required to allow a closer inspection.

It is recommended that a zoologist be present when the tree is removed to manage potential fauna resident in the hollow.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned (0407 385 239), if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



References

Johnstone, R. E., Johnstone, C., & Kirkby, T. (2011). *Carnaby's Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus latirostris), Baudin's Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus baudinii) and the Forest Red-tail Black Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus banksii naso) on the Swan Coastal Plain (Lancelin-Dunsborough), Western Australia. Studies on distribution, status, breeding, food, movement and historical changes*. W. A. Unpublished report for the Department of Planning.

Johnstone, R. E., & Storr, G. M. (1998). *Handbook of Western Australian Birds. Volume I - Non-Passerines (Emu to Dollarbird)*. Western Australian Museum.

Paperbark Technologies Arboricultural Consultants. (2025). *Arboricultural Advice - Talbot Road - Scott Street, Hazelmere*. Unpublished report for Georgio Constructions.

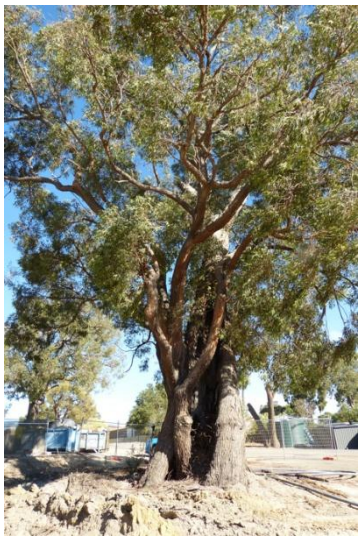


Plate 1. Jarrah tree

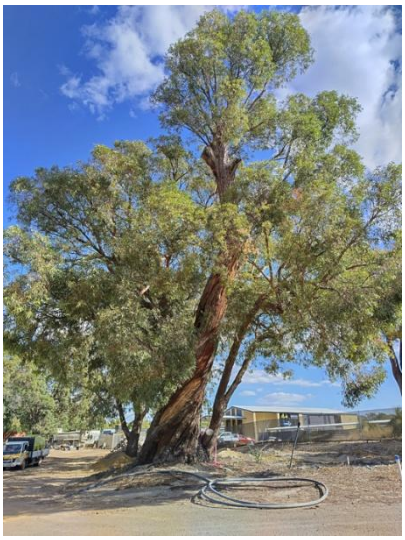


Plate 2. Jarrah tree

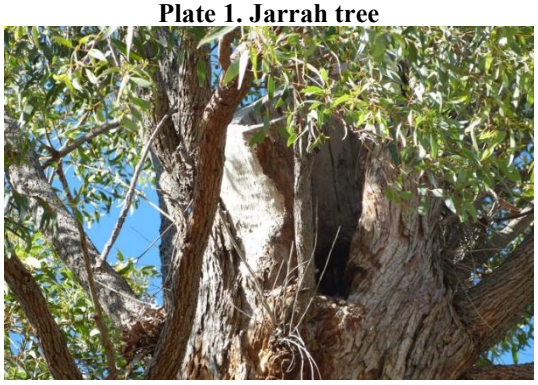


Plate 3. Tree hollow

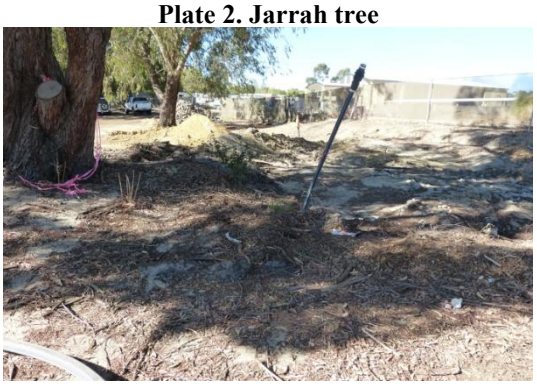


Plate 4. Tree base

Plate 5. Hollow entrance showing either fur or down feathers

Plate 6. Hollow entrance showing either fur or down feathers

Disclaimer

This document is prepared in accordance with and subject to an agreement between Terrestrial Ecosystems and the client, Helena Valley Lifestyle Village. It has been prepared and is restricted to those issues that have been raised by the client in its engagement of Terrestrial Ecosystems and prepared using the standard of skill and care ordinarily exercised by environmental scientists in the preparation of such reports.

Persons or agencies that rely on or use this document for purposes or reasons other than those agreed by Terrestrial Ecosystems and its client without first obtaining prior consent, do so at their own risk and Terrestrial Ecosystems denies all liability in tort, contract or otherwise for any loss, damage or injury of any kind whatsoever (whether in negligence or otherwise) that may be suffered as a consequence.