

BLACK COCKATOO SURVEY, BINDOON HILL GRAVEL SUPPLY

The purpose of the survey was to locate breeding habitat suitable for use by black cockatoos *Calyptorhynchus* spp. at the proposed Bindoon Hill Gravel Supply extension as outlined on Plan 5843/1 a.

Three species of black cockatoo occur in the south west of Western Australia – Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *C. banksii naso*, Carnaby's Cockatoo *C. latirostris* and Baudin's Cockatoo *C. baudinii*. Two of these species, Forest red-tailed Black Cockatoo and Carnaby's Cockatoo occur in the Bindoon area. Forest red-tailed Black Cockatoo is a recent wanderer to the area and Carnaby's Cockatoo is known to breed throughout the Bindoon district. Baudin's Cockatoo is not known from the Bindoon area and the nearest reliable records are from Hoddy Well which lies 40km to the south east.

Tree species at the site suitable to provide a hollow for black cockatoos are Jarrah *Eucalyptus marginata*, Wandoo *E. wandoo* and Marri *Corymbia calophylla*. Both Jarrah and Marri need to be at least 50cm diameter at breast height (DBH) and Wandoo 30cm DBH in order to have possibly formed a suitable hollow.

Black cockatoo breeding hollows can be identified by entrance size, aspect and chewing and wear marks at the hollow entrance.

Methods

All trees above the required DBH were inspected from ground level using binoculars and picked up with a Garmin handheld GPS set to GDA94, Zone 50, Eastings and Northings (see spreadsheet). The survey area was extended approximately ten metres at each edge to allow for inaccuracies of handheld GPS.

Hollows suspected of being used by a black cockatoos were raked with a pole to flush any females which may be either incubating an egg or brooding a small chick. Given the time of year this is unlikely as Carnaby's Cockatoo egg laying dates are between late July and mid December.

Timing and results

The area was surveyed on the 30th January 2014 and the following observations were made:-

The entire area surveyed contains 95 Marri, 5 Wandoo and 16 Jarrah in excess of 50cm DBH, though 32 of these appear to be outside the proposed clearing area.

Only a single tree has a hollow suitable for black cockatoos and which shows any evidence of being used. This tree is a Marri located at 418081E - 6533496N and appears to be on the edge of the proposed clearing area and can possibly be retained.

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