

Black Cockatoo Habitat Tree Survey



Mungalup Road (SLK 0.07 to SLK 2.06) Collie

December 2018

Version 1

On behalf of:

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SUMMARY

This report details the results of a black cockatoo habitat tree survey carried out along a 2 kilometre section of Mungalup Road, Collie between SLK 0.07 and SLK 2.06.

The Shire of Collie (the Shire) are proposing to construct a dual use path along the road verge and as a consequence some trees will require removal. An initial inspection of the path route identified five trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of over 300mm within the works footprint (Figure 1).

None of the trees examined were found to contain hollows of any size. One tree (T1 in Figure 1) is a pine tree and therefore does not qualify as a “habitat tree”. One jarrah tree (T5 in Figure 1) was found to have a DBH of <500mm and therefore also does not qualify as a “habitat tree”.

The results of the assessment indicate that the planned removal of the trees in question will have no direct impact on black cockatoos and no specific management measures are recommended.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of a black cockatoo habitat tree survey carried out along a 2 kilometre section of Mungalup Road, Collie between SLK 0.07 and SLK 2.06.

The Shire of Collie (the Shire) are proposing to construct a dual use path along the road verge and as a consequence some trees will require removal. An initial inspection of the path route identified five trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of over 300mm within the works footprint (Figure 1).

The black cockatoo habitat tree survey detailed here has been carried out to determine if any of the identified trees represent “habitat trees” (a tree with a hollow suitable for black cockatoos to use for nesting purposes) so that appropriate management measures can be employed to ensure no impact occurs in accordance with anticipated requirements of regulatory authorities.

2. SCOPE OF WORKS

The scope of works was to inspect each of the previously identified trees with the aim of identifying any currently or likely to be in use by black cockatoos for the purpose of nesting.

Note: For the purposes of this report the term black cockatoo is in reference to Baudin's black cockatoo *Calyptrorhynchus baudinii*, Carnaby's black cockatoo *Calyptrorhynchus latirostris* and the forest red-tailed black cockatoo *Calyptrorhynchus banksii naso*. All three species are known to frequent the area.

3. METHODS

The black cockatoo habitat tree assessment has involved the inspection of the previously identified trees with the aim of identifying *habitat trees* (suitable species with a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of $\geq 500\text{mm}$) with the primary aim of locating any containing large hollows or potential large hollows which may be suitable for cockatoos to use for nesting purposes. The DBH of each tree was estimated using a pre-made 500mm “caliper”. Borderline trees (i.e. those of which the DBH was uncertain using this method) were measured with a DBH tape. (Note: a 300mm DBH is applied to wandoo or salmon gum only).

Details of each tree were recorded including DBH (i.e. under or over 500mm), tree species and the number and size of hollows (if any) noted.

Survey work was carried out by Greg Harewood (Zoologist) who has 15 years' experience carrying out fauna assessments, including black cockatoo habitat surveys, in south west Western Australia. The survey was undertaken on the 18 December 2018.

4. SURVEY CONSTRAINTS

No seasonal sampling has been carried out as part of this fauna assessment. The conclusions presented are based upon field data and the environmental monitoring and/or testing carried out over a limited period of time and are therefore merely indicative of the environmental condition of the site at the time of the field assessments. It should also be recognised that site conditions can change with time.

During the black cockatoo habitat survey trees with hollows were searched for. It should be noted that identifying hollows suitable for fauna species from ground level has limitations. Generally, the full characteristics of any hollow seen are not fully evident (e.g. internal dimensions). It is also difficult to locate all hollows within all trees as some are not observable from ground level.

5. RESULTS

A summary of the five trees examined from between SLK 0.07 to SLK 2.06 is provided in Table 1 below. A tree survey plan provided by the Shire is shown as Figure 1. Additional details of all habitat trees recorded are held in Appendix A.

Table 1: Summary of Trees Examined

Total Number of Trees Examined	Number of Trees with DBH < 500mm	Number of Trees with DBH ≥ 500mm	Number of Trees with No Apparent Hollows	Number of Trees with Hollows Considered <u>Possibly</u> Suitable for Nesting Black Cockatoos	Tree Species			
					Jarrah	Marri	Non-endemic Eucalypt	Pine
5	1	4	5	0	2	1	1	1

None of the trees examined were found to contain hollows of any size. One tree (T1 in Figure 1) is a pine tree and therefore does not qualify as a “habitat tree”. One jarrah tree (T5 in Figure 1) was found to have a DBH of <500mm and therefore also does not qualify as a “habitat tree”.

6. CONCLUSION

The assessment reported on here was undertaken to identify any potential black cockatoo habitat trees (i.e. DBH \geq 50cm) within the proposed works footprint. Five of the previously identified trees were examined. Two of the trees do not qualify as habitat trees (unsuitable tree species or too small). None of the other three trees were found to contain hollows of any size.

The results of the assessment indicate that the planned removal of the trees in question, to allow for the construction of the proposed dual use path, will have no direct impact on black cockatoos and no specific management measures are recommended.

APPENDIX A

TREE DETAILS

DISCLAIMER

This fauna assessment report ("the report") has been prepared in accordance with the scope of services set out in the contract, or as otherwise agreed, between the Client and Greg Harewood ("the Author"). In some circumstances the scope of services may have been limited by a range of factors such as time, budget, access and/or site disturbance constraints. In accordance with the scope of services, the Author has relied upon the data and has conducted environmental field monitoring and/or testing in the preparation of the report. The nature and extent of monitoring and/or testing conducted is described in the report.

The conclusions are based upon field data and the environmental monitoring and/or testing carried out over a limited period of time and are therefore merely indicative of the environmental condition of the site at the time of preparing the report. Also it should be recognised that site conditions, can change with time.

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In preparing the report, the Author has relied upon data, surveys, analyses, designs, plans and other information provided by the Client and other individuals and organisations, most of which are referred to in the report ("the data"). Except as otherwise stated in the report, the Author has not verified the accuracy or completeness of the data. To the extent that the statements, opinions, facts, information, conclusions and/or recommendations in the report ("conclusions") are based in whole or part on the data, those conclusions are contingent upon the accuracy and completeness of the data. The Author will not be liable in relation to incorrect conclusions should any data, information or condition be incorrect or have been concealed, withheld, misrepresented or otherwise not fully disclosed to the Author.

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The Author will not be liable to update or revise the report to take into account any events or emergent circumstances or facts occurring or becoming apparent after the date of the report.

Details of Trees Examined

ID	Zone	mE	mN	Tree Species	DBH (mm)	Hollows
T2	50H	420595	6307598	Pine	>500	0
T1	50H	420886	6307835	Non-endemic Eucalyptus	>500	0
T3	50H	420479	6307499	Marri	>500	0
T5	50H	419774	6307117	Jarrah	>500	0
T4	50H	419787	6307121	Jarrah	<500	0