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# Western Wildlife

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Lundstrom Environmental Consultants

Date: 12 – 03 – 2020

**RE: Donningtons Quarry, Chittering – black-cockatoo habitat tree survey on part Lot 41 Great Northern Hwy.**

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## Introduction

The Donningtons Gravel Quarry is located on the Great Northern Hwy, Chittering. It is proposed to extend the existing quarry onto Lot 41, and the proposed clearing area is about 11.4ha. The proposed clearing area is open paddock with scattered remnant native trees, regrowth native trees and planted non-native trees. On behalf of B & J Catalano, Lundstrom Environmental Consultants commissioned Western Wildlife to conduct a targeted black-cockatoo habitat tree survey in the proposed clearing area (Figure 1). The main aim of the survey was to search for habitat trees that maybe used for breeding by the following Threatened species:

- Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) - Vulnerable
- Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) - Endangered

Baudin's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) may occur as a foraging visitor to the region, but only breeds further to the south.

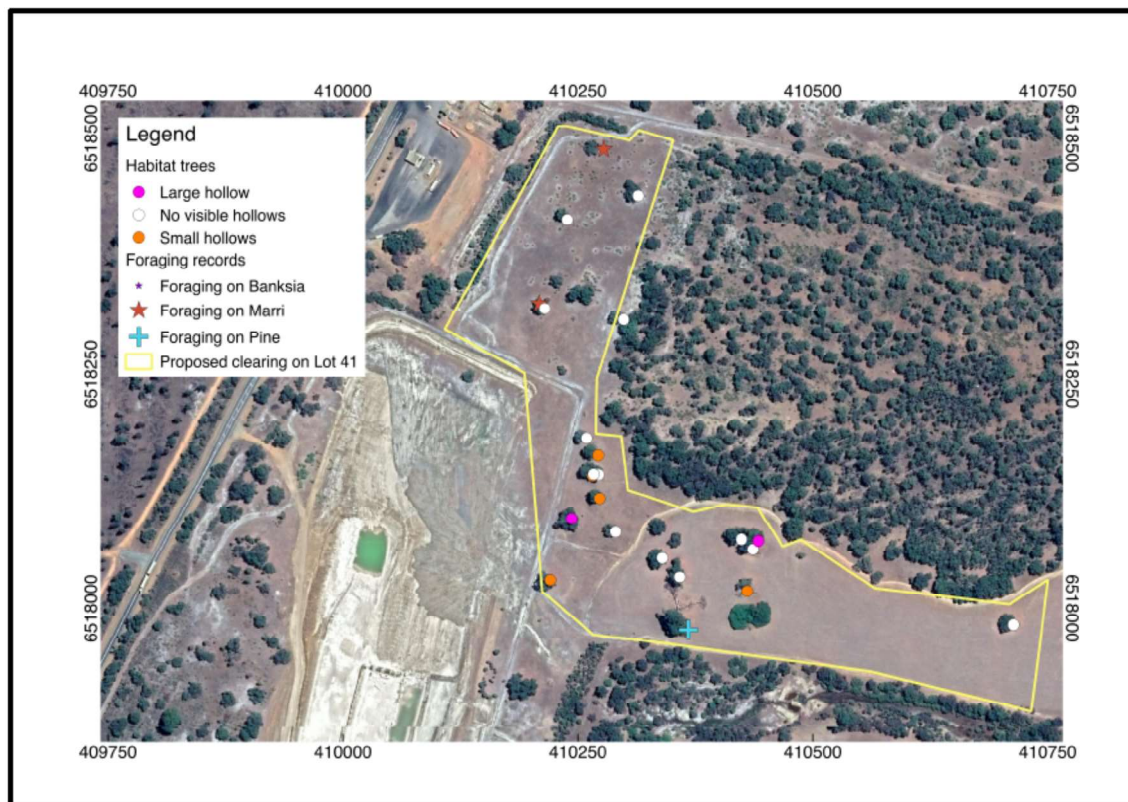
## Methods

The proposed clearing area was visited by Ms Jenny Wilcox on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The diameter at breast height (DBH) was recorded for all Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) trees with a DBH  $\geq$  50cm and all Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) with a DBH  $\geq$  30cm. Trees were examined from the ground for the presence of existing hollows. Hollows were classified as 'large' if they had some potential to support black-cockatoo breeding and 'small' if considered too small for black-cockatoos, but of potential use for other bird species such as parrots and pardalotes, or by bats or arboreal reptiles. All trees identified were recorded with a GPS location. Any evidence of hollow use by cockatoos, the presence of feral bees (*Apis mellifera*) in hollows, signs of foraging or sightings of black-cockatoos were also noted.

## Results

### Habitat trees

A total of 20 trees with a DBH  $\geq$  50cm were recorded in, or on the boundary of, the proposed clearing area (Figure 1, Table 1). Two trees with large existing hollows were recorded, but no evidence of chewing by cockatoos was present (Plate 1). The remaining trees had small hollows or no visible hollows. The trees in the northern section of the proposed clearing area were all regrowth Marri with low-branching multi-trunked stems and narrow upper branches.



**Figure 1: Habitat tree locations.**

### Foraging habitat

Most of the remnant trees are potential foraging habitat (Plate 2), and evidence of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo foraging on Marri and introduced pine trees was recorded in the proposed clearing area during the site visit. The key foraging plant species present were Marri and pine. Wandoo may be used for foraging but is of lesser importance. Marri was common, but only a single pair of pine trees was present.



**Plate 1. Mature trees bearing potential large (left) and small (right) hollows.**



**Plate 2. Evidence of cockatoo foraging on Marri (left) and pine (right).**

### **Roosting habitat**

The proposed clearing area is unlikely to be of particular importance for roosting, as it is not near water.

## Conclusions

Although Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo are known to breed in the region, the likelihood of these species currently breeding in the proposed clearing area is low, as only two large hollows were recorded, and no evidence of use by cockatoos was observed. Black-cockatoos may occur as foraging visitors to the proposed clearing area, and evidence of foraging by Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos were recorded during the site visit. It is likely that cockatoos breed nearby, and the foraging habitat in the proposed clearing area may potentially be used by breeding birds.

**Table 1. Trees with a DBH  $\geq$  50cm.**

Name	Easting	Northing	DBH (cm)	Tree Species	Hollows	Tree Status	Feral Bees	Notes
B001	410213	6518025	100	Marr	Small hollows	Live	No	
B002	410236	6518090	170	Marr	Large hollow	Live	No	
B003	410265	6518112	80	Wandoo	Small hollows	Live	No	
B004	410264	6518136	80	Marr	No visible hollows	Live	No	
B005	410264	6518157	80	Wandoo	Small hollows	Live	No	
B006	410251	6518175	110	Jarra	No visible hollows	Live	No	
B007	410258	6518135	75	Wandoo	Small hollows	Live	No	
B008	410259	6518137	35	Wandoo	No visible hollows	Live	No	Leaning tree
B009	410207	6518311	60	Marr	No visible hollows	Live	No	Tree branches low, upper branches small
B010	410290	6518299	35	Wandoo	No visible hollows	Live	No	Tree branches low, upper branches small
B011	410306	6518429	70	Marr	No visible hollows	Live	No	Tree branches low, upper branches small
B012	410231	6518404	65	Marr	No visible hollows	Live	No	Tree branches low, upper branches small
B013	410282	6518075	50	Marr	No visible hollows	Live	No	Tree branches low, upper branches small
B014	410331	6518048	115	Marr	No visible hollows	Live	No	Tree branches low, upper branches small
B015	410349	6518028	100	Marr	No visible hollows	Live	No	Tree branches low, upper branches small
B017	410426	6518057	100	Marr	No visible hollows	Live	No	
B018	410432	6518066	90	Wandoo	Large hollow	Live	No	Terminal hollow at about 6m.
B019	410414	6518067	45	Wandoo	No visible hollows	Live	No	
B020	410420	6518013	100	Jarra	Small hollows	Live	No	
B021	410700	6517978	70	Marr	No visible hollows	Live	No	