

Our Ref: 3483AA



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Dear Tim,

## **York Black Cockatoo Habitat Assessment**

### **1. Introduction**

CBH Group commissioned 360 Environmental Pty Ltd (360 Environmental) to undertake a Black Cockatoo Habitat Assessment of roadside verge trees along Knotts Road in York, adjacent the northwest side of the CBH York site, approximately 800 m south of the York town centre. The Survey Area is approximately 200 m in length and occupies approximately 0.23 hectares (Figure 1).

### **2. Methods**

The Black Cockatoo Habitat Assessment was undertaken by Ecologist Evan Webb on 27 August 2019 and was conducted in accordance with the EPBC referral guidelines (Department of Sustainability Environment Water Population and Communities 2012).

#### **2.1. Breeding Habitat**

Any trees meeting the following criteria for potential breeding were recorded using the Fulcrum mobile data-collection application:

- Native trees (e.g. Jarrah, Tuart, Marri, Wandoo and Salmon Gum)
- Diameter at breast height (DBH) of greater than 500 mm (greater than 300 mm for Wandoo and Salmon Gum) regardless of the presence or absence of hollows (DBH is measured approximately 1.3 metres from the ground)
- Any trees containing hollows (observed from the ground), which were then categorised as:

- Hollows with an estimated opening diameter of less than 120 mm
- Hollows with an estimated opening diameter of greater than 120 mm and therefore have the potential to be used by Black Cockatoos for breeding.

Trees with multiple stems, swellings or forking/branching at breast height were measured separately. In these instances, the diameter was measured just above breast height to gain a more accurate measurement of diameter.

## 2.2. Foraging Habitat

Tree and shrub species known to be important dietary items for Black Cockatoos e.g. Marri and *Banksia* sp. as outlined within the referral guidelines were recorded if observed. Additionally, any of the following observations were recorded:

- Evidence of feeding (chewed cones, seed and nut material)
- Opportunistic observations of Black Cockatoos foraging or using the Survey Area.

## 2.3. Roosting Habitat

While undertaking the assessment any evidence of roosting or areas identified as having high roosting potential were identified and recorded.

# 3. Results

## 3.1. Breeding Habitat

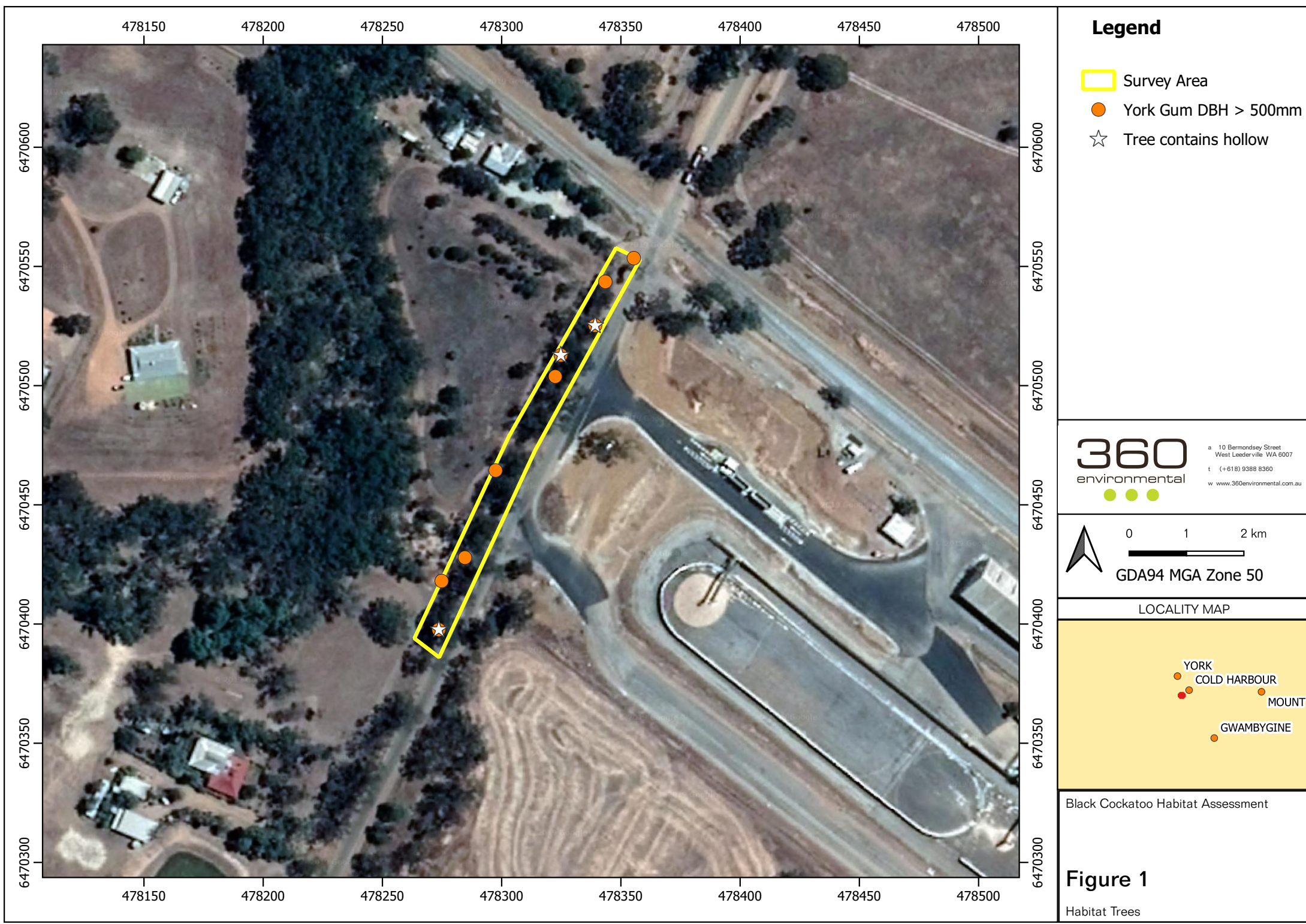
Nine York Gums (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*) were recorded with a DBH of greater than 500 mm (Figure 1). Three York Gums were found to contain hollows; however these hollows are not suitable for Black Cockatoo breeding due to opening diameters being less than recommended 120 mm (Figure 1). The northernmost hollow is a small, side opening hollow that is currently occupied by feral bees (*Apis mellifera*).

## 3.2. Foraging Habitat

Evidence of Black Cockatoo foraging was not recorded. Carnaby's Black Cockatoos (*Calyptrorhynchus latirostris*) can forage on York Gum blossoms, however York Gum is not considered a high value foraging species for Black Cockatoos.

## 3.3. Roosting Habitat

The York Gums recorded within the Survey Area have the potential to be used for roosting by Black Cockatoos, however no evidence of roosting was observed.





## 4. Discussion and Conclusion

The Survey Area occurs within the known distribution of the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*C. latirostris*) and is near the eastern extremity of the modelled distribution of Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*C. banksii naso*) (Department of Sustainability Environment Water Population and Communities 2012); however the Survey Area does not contain any suitable hollows for Black Cockatoo breeding. Furthermore, the Survey Area does not contain valuable Black Cockatoo foraging habitat or evidence of roosting, therefore Black Cockatoos are unlikely to be impacted by disturbance within the Survey Area.

We trust this meets your requirements at this time. Should you have any questions or require further action please do not hesitate to contact Evan Webb or the undersigned on (08) 9388 8360. We look forward to hearing from you.

For and on behalf of

360 Environmental Pty Ltd



Scott Walker – Ecology Group Leader

## 5. References

Department of Sustainability Environment Water Population and Communities 2012, *EPBC Act Referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo*, Canberra, Australia. Available from: [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au).

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