

## FIRE INFORMATION NOTE | BLACK COCKATOOS



Forest red-tailed black cockatoo  
*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* (Vulnerable)



Carnaby's cockatoo *Zanda latirostris*  
(Endangered)



Baudin's cockatoo *Zanda baudinii*  
(Endangered)

### Description

Black cockatoos are large, black birds with raucous calls. Forest red-tailed black cockatoos have red tail panels, and females have yellowish spots over their heads and bodies. Both Carnaby's cockatoo and Baudin's cockatoo have white cheeks and tail panels. Carnaby's cockatoo and Baudin's cockatoo can be distinguished by their calls and the shape of their bills (short and wide in Carnaby's cockatoo and long and thin in Baudin's cockatoo).

### Where are black cockatoos found?

Forest red-tailed black cockatoo, Carnaby's cockatoo and Baudin's cockatoo have similar and overlapping distributions across the south-west corner of WA, from Kalbarri to Esperance. Each species makes use of specific habitat types (where they occur) throughout this range. These include salmon gum and wandoo woodlands, jarrah, marri and karri forests, and proteaceous woodlands and shrublands on the Swan Coastal Plain, wheatbelt and south coast throughout their range.

### Ecology and biology

- Black cockatoos are highly mobile and move seasonally between feeding and nesting sites within their range and in response to the availability of their primary food, the seeds of jarrah, marri and shrubs such as banksias and hakeas.
- Black cockatoos nest in large tree hollows. Tree species that form large enough hollows for black cockatoos include jarrah, marri, karri, wandoo and salmon gum.
- Forest red-tailed black cockatoo breed mainly from October to February but may also breed from March to August if conditions are suitable. Carnaby's cockatoo breed from late July to December in the inland parts of their range. Baudin's cockatoo breed in the southern parts of their range between August and December.

### What should I consider when undertaking fire mitigation activities?

- Plan for low intensity burns in early spring or late autumn that create a mosaic of fuels and minimises mature canopy being burnt.
- Plan to maintain some feeding habitat within the planned burn or adjoining areas. Burn or undertake mechanical fuel reduction in successive small areas over time to maintain some feeding habitat each year.
- You can protect known nest or hollow-bearing trees by raking leaf litter and other fuel away from the base, and wetting trunks down prior to a burn. You can also protect trees with the potential to form hollows (trees that are more than 50cm in diameter) with the same actions.
- To assist in the regeneration of food plants/feeding habitat, consider controlling herbivores (e.g. pest control or fencing) after your fire management activities.
- Consider installing artificial hollows to supplement existing habitat.
- Appropriate fire management activities can help black cockatoos by protecting habitat from large, intense summer bushfires, promoting the development of tree hollows and regeneration of plant species that black cockatoos rely on for food.

### More information

**Threatened species management contact:** DBCA's Species and Communities Program:  
[speciesandcommunities@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:speciesandcommunities@dbca.wa.gov.au) or your local DBCA Regional or District office:  
[www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/locations](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/locations)

**Fuel management on your land:** [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning/](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning/)