

RECOVERY OUTLINE

Glossy Black-Cockatoo (Kangaroo Island)

1	Family	Cacatuidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus</i> Mathews, 1912
3	Common name	Glossy Black-Cockatoo (Kangaroo Island)
4	Conservation status	Endangered: D

5 Reasons for listing

There are about 140 breeding birds (Endangered: D). As a result of vigorous and effective conservation management, the population is at least stable, and probably increasing.

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	4,400 km ²	high
trend	stable	high
Area of occupancy	100 km ²	medium
trend	stable	high
No. of breeding birds	140	high
trend	increasing	high
No. of sub-populations	1	high
Generation time	15 years	low

6 Intraspecific taxa

C. l. lathami (eastern Australia, from east Gippsland, Vic., to Gympie-Mitchell, Qld) is Near Threatened. *C. l. erebus* (Dawson-Mackenzie basin to Paluma, Qld) is Least Concern, as is the species.

7 Past range and abundance

Kangaroo I. and southern Fleurieu Peninsula, S. A., possibly extending to south-eastern South Australia/western Victoria and Eyre Peninsula (Joseph, 1982, 1989, Baird, 1986, Schodde *et al.*, 1993). Population estimates before management actions began in 1995 were of 150-180 birds (Joseph, 1982, Pedler, 1996, Pepper, 1997).

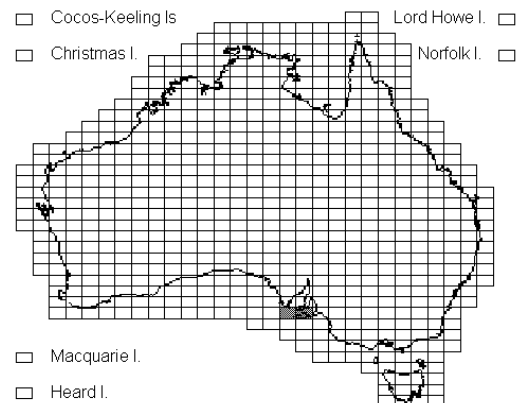
8 Present range and abundance

Breeding now confined to Kangaroo I. at a range of sites on the western two-thirds of the island (Pepper, 1997, Garnett *et al.*, 1999). After protection of nests, successful juvenile recruitment led to population increases to about 188 in 1996 (60 breeding females; Garnett *et al.*, 1996), 204 in 1997 (Prime *et al.*, 1997) and 250 in 1998 (Pedler and Prime, 1998). The current number of breeding females is unknown but is probably at least 70. This sustained increase in numbers justifies the subspecies' down-listing from Critically Endangered to Endangered. In 1999, there was a record from Deep Creek Conservation Park on the mainland adjacent to Kangaroo I. (V. Scholz).

9 Ecology

The Kangaroo Island subspecies of Glossy Black-Cockatoo feeds almost exclusively on the seeds of

Drooping Sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata* growing on rocky hills and valleys, where the acid soils are rich in iron and aluminium. Drooping Sheoak covers 4,800 ha on the island and nests are all within 12 km of existing Drooping Sheoak stands (Crowley *et al.*, 1998a). The cockatoos lay a single egg in hollows in tall trees, particularly Sugar Gum *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (Garnett *et al.*, 1999). The cockatoos use both intact habitat and isolated Drooping Sheoak and tall gums within the semi-cleared agricultural land (Joseph, 1982). They must forage for long hours each day to gain sufficient food, particularly during the breeding season (Pepper *et al.*, 2000, T. F. Chapman and S. T. Garnett), and not all apparently suitable habitat provides adequate food value to support the cockatoos (Crowley *et al.*, 1999, Crowley and Garnett, in press).



10 Threats

Clearance of Drooping Sheoak and grazing of regenerating plants by stock and rabbits have eliminated much of the habitat on the mainland (Joseph, 1989). However, the greatest threat to the population is the low recruitment of juveniles as a result of invasion of nesting hollows, and often predation of cockatoo eggs or young, by Common Brushtail Possums *Trichosurus vulpecula*, Little Corellas *Cacatua sanguinea*, Galahs *Eolophus roseicapillus* and honeybees (Garnett *et al.*, 1999). Numbers of possums and open country cockatoos are thought to have increased as a result of partial clearing of the Kangaroo Island. Nest sites are now being protected to prohibit entry by possums, Little Corella numbers are being controlled, and bees poisoned. Most suitable habitat has been cleared on the mainland. There is no indication that possum numbers have ever been a

problem there. However, most known hollows on the lower Fleurieu Peninsula are occupied by Galahs, Little Corellas or Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos *Calyptorhynchus funereus* (V. Scholz). Although existing stands of Drooping Sheoak on the island could support many more birds, revegetation should ensure maintenance of a larger, more viable population (Crowley *et al.*, 1998a,b).

11 Information required

None.

12 Recovery objectives

- 12.1 Ensure persistence of a viable wild breeding population in S. A.
- 12.2 Increase the population of to 400 birds (at least 125 mature females) by 2009, and thus ensure down-listing to Vulnerable.

13 Actions completed or under way

- 13.1 Nests are found, protected and monitored, and nests boxes have been erected at many sites.
- 13.2 Conservation reserves have been gazetted specifically for the cockatoos.
- 13.3 The population is censused annually.

- 13.4 Habitat requirements have been investigated and has been protected or re-established.
- 13.5 Community involvement has been facilitated through formation of Glossy Black-Cockatoo Rescue Fund, interpretation, extension and training for volunteers.
- 13.6 The recovery process is being managed through a Recovery Team.

14 Management actions required

None.

15 Organisations responsible for conservation

South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage.

16 Other organisations involved

Glossy Black-Cockatoo Rescue Fund, Greening Australia, Kangaroo Island Council, Kangaroo Island Parks and Wildlife Consultative Committee, Landcare groups, Primary Industries South Australia Landcare, South Australian State Emergency Service, University of Adelaide, bird-watching societies.

17 Staff and financial resources required for recovery to be carried out

Staff resources required 2001-2005

	0.25	<i>Project Officer</i>
	0.5	<i>Volunteers Coordinator</i>

Financial resources required 2001-2005

<i>Action</i>	<i>Conservation agencies</i>	<i>Other funding sources</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Identification, protection and monitoring of nests</i>	\$313,000	\$300,000	\$613,000
<i>Annual population surveys</i>	\$95,500	\$125,000	\$220,500
<i>Protection and re-establishment of habitat</i>	\$87,500	\$125,000	\$212,500
<i>Promote and facilitate community participation</i>	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$97,500
<i>Manage the recovery process through a Recovery Team</i>	\$40,000	\$8,500	\$48,500
<i>Total</i>	\$601,000	\$591,000	\$1,192,000

† Costs derived from Garnett *et al.* (1998)

18 Bibliography

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Comments received from

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