

## RECOVERY OUTLINE

# Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (south-eastern)

1	Family	Cacatuidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne</i> Schodde, Saunders & Homberger, 1989
3	Common name	Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (south-eastern)
4	Conservation status	Endangered: C2b

### 5 Reasons for listing

There are between 250 and 2,500 mature individuals of this subspecies in a single sub-population that is probably declining (Endangered: C2b).

	Estimate	Reliability
Extent of occurrence	20,000 km <sup>2</sup>	high
trend	stable	medium
Area of occupancy	2,500 km <sup>2</sup>	medium
trend	stable	low
No. of breeding birds	560	medium
trend	decreasing	low
No. of sub-populations	1	medium
Generation time	20 years	low

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

*C. b. naso* (south-west Western Australia) is Near Threatened. *C. b. macrorhynchus* (northern Australia, west of Cape York Peninsula), *C. b. banksii* (eastern Australia, from Cape York Peninsula to Darling Downs) and *C. b. samueli* (arid Australia) are Least Concern, as is global status of species.

### 7 Past range and abundance

South-eastern South Australia and south-western Victoria, between Lucindale and Bangham, S. A., Dimboola, Ballarat, Tyrendarra and Nelson, Vic., possibly extending as far east as Melbourne (Joseph, 1982, Joseph *et al.*, 1991).

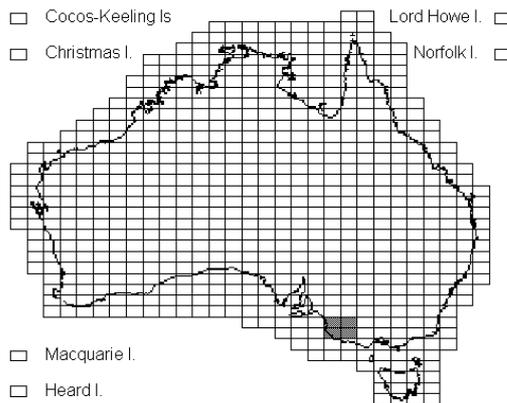
### 8 Present range and abundance

Range severely contracted. Now found between Mt Gambier and Bangham, S. A., Little Desert and Nelson, Vic. (Joseph, 1982, Joseph *et al.*, 1991, Hill, 1998), with birds most frequently in the north in autumn (Joseph *et al.*, 1991). Population estimated to be 500-1,000 in 1989 (Joseph *et al.*, 1991), with a minimum of 700 in 2000 (F. A. R. Hill). As 40% of these are mature males (F. A. R. Hill), number of breeding birds estimated at 560.

### 9 Ecology

The south-eastern subspecies of Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo nests in woodland and forest dominated by River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, Yellow Gum *E. leucoxyton* and other large eucalypts. Most nests are in dead trees no more than 2 km from remnant stands of Brown Stringybark *E. baxteri*/ *E. arenacea* that are at least 5 ha in size (F. A. R. Hill). Clutch size is one. The

cockatoos feed on the seeds of Brown Stringybark throughout the year. When available, seeds of Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii* are taken in late summer and autumn (Joseph, 1982, F. A. R. Hill).



### 10 Threats

The principal threat is widespread clearance for agriculture and grazing. Apart from removing both food and nest trees, it appears to have favoured species that thrive in forest fragments rather than continuous forest, such as the Common Brush-tail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula* and Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*. These two species are thought to be responsible for increasing the rate of nest failure early in the breeding season (F. A. R. Hill). Although nest site availability is not currently limiting, there is concern it will become so as nest trees, most of which were ring-barked over 70 years ago, deteriorate and fall, or are felled for firewood (Joseph *et al.*, 1991) or timber plantations, particularly those of Blue Gum *Eucalyptus globulus*. Regeneration of River Red Gums has been prevented by grazing by either sheep or rabbits. Even with an active tree planting program it will be at least 150 years before the new trees develop hollows suitable for nesting. The shortage may be exacerbated by competition with Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos *Calyptorhynchus funereus*, Long-billed Corellas and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos *Cacatua galerita* (Joseph *et al.*, 1991). The role of fire in Brown Stringybark communities is not yet understood but, if too frequent, fire may limit food supply (Garnett and Crowley, 1996).



<i>Facilitation of community involvement</i>	\$60,000	\$50,000	\$110,000
<i>Managing the recovery process through a Recovery Team</i>	\$9,000	\$20,000	\$29,000
<i>Total</i>	\$554,000	\$425,000	<b>\$979,000</b>

## 18 Bibliography

Garnett, S.T. and Crowley, G. M. 1996. Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Plan *Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne* (south-eastern subspecies). Birds Australia, Melbourne.

Hill, F. A. R. 1998. The south-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Plan. *Eclectus* 4:9-12.

Joseph, L. 1982. The Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo in south-east Australia. *Emu* 82:42-46.

Joseph, L., Emison, W. B. and Bren, W. M. 1991. Critical assessment of the conservation status of the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos in South-eastern Australia with special reference to nesting requirements. *Emu* 91:46-50.

### Comments received from

Gary Backhouse, Mick Fendley, Richard Hill, Barry Traill, Mike Weston.