



South West  
NRM



# Case Study

2020 – 2023

Protecting WA Black Cockatoos  
South West

## South West NRM is committed to halting the decline of the region's iconic and endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo, *Zanda latirostris*.

The primary threat to this species is a reduction in breeding success resulting from the ongoing loss of breeding habitat. The species nests in eucalypt tree hollows in the Wheatbelt area of Western Australia, where land clearing and remnant vegetation decline have resulted in shortages of both suitable nesting hollows and foraging habitat near remaining hollows.

South West NRM worked with five local landcare groups, as well as Birdlife Australia and Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation's Ngoolark Rangers, to undertake extensive surveys of Carnaby's cockatoo nesting areas.

Nine local landholders worked with the Shire of Kent to undertake on-ground habitat improvement works including fencing of remnants, revegetation and weed control.

All on-ground conservation works were completed within 12km of known Carnaby's breeding sites to ensure they can be used by the birds during their breeding season.

*Land clearing and remnant vegetation decline have resulted in shortages of both suitable nesting hollows...*

### Funding program

This project was delivered by South West NRM, through funding from the Australian Government.

### Funding

Environment Restoration Fund - \$400,000

### Regional coverage

Upper Blackwood Catchment

### Stakeholders

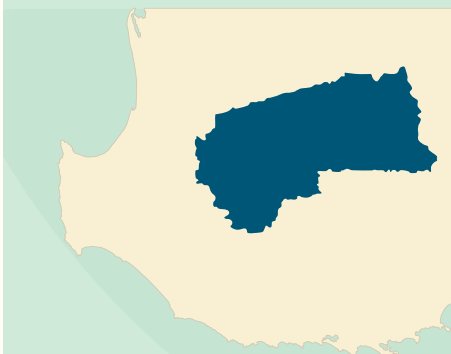
Birdlife Australia, Shire of Kent, Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation, local landcare groups, landholders, local community.

### Project manager

Derani Sullivan

### Program manager

Dr Brian Chambers



Australian Government

National  
Landcare  
Program



## Key achievements

- Landholders and community were encouraged to report current and historical black cockatoo sightings via an online system produced by South West NRM. 176 survey responses reported 238 cockatoo sightings.
- Citizen science training events were provided by Birdlife Australia staff to teach community members, natural resource management officers and rangers how to undertake cockatoo nesting surveys.
- A total of 29 cockatoo surveys were undertaken covering 3,617 ha of remnant vegetation.
- Two previously unknown breeding areas for Carnaby's cockatoos were recorded bringing the total in the South West NRM Region to four. Across these four sites, 76 potential nesting hollows were monitored in 2022–23. 16 of these were found to be used by a breeding pair of cockatoos compared to five in 2021–22. The relatively low proportion of hollows used suggests that a lack of foraging resources in close proximity is likely to be the primary limiting factor for these breeding sites.
- Four farm management plans were developed for private landholders to assist in the conservation of Carnaby's cockatoo habitat on their properties.
- 23km of fencing installed to exclude livestock from 176 ha of remnant vegetation on nine properties to protect cockatoo habitat.
- 20ha of revegetation undertaken on six properties that will provide food for nesting Carnaby's cockatoos.



Image Credit: Keith Lightbody



## Potential future activities

Further funding will allow South West NRM to build on this project to:

- Undertake further surveys to locate additional nesting sites.
- Provide further protection of Carnaby's habitat through fencing and revegetation.
- Install cockatoo nesting boxes at suitable locations where tree hollows are lacking.