

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANT HABITAT TREES AT CLOVERDALE AND ELGIN MINERAL SANDS PROJECT AREAS.

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The purpose of this survey was to assess the value of remnant vegetation in the proposed mining Disturbance areas at Cloverdale and Elgin to provide nesting and feeding sites for Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris*, Baudin's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*. The sites were visited on 30 March 2006. All trees with large hollows deemed 'significant' trees were inspected for signs of use by cockatoos e.g. wear around the hollow, chewing, scarring and scratch marks on trunks and branches. Two hollows were inspected using ladders. Trees with possible nest sites were scratched and raked with a pole to flush any sitting birds from hollows and we listened for any calls of chicks from within hollows and for breeding calls of any adults in the area. We also searched for any old or recent evidence of cockatoos feeding at these sites.

RESULTS

Cloverdale Site

Worn hollow in Marri suitable for cockatoos at 33. 37. 23.6 S, 115. 34. 57.5 E (368540 E, 6278717 N), checked and contained 2 hatched eggs of Wood Duck. No evidence of cockatoo use.

Suitable hollow in Tuart but no evidence of chewing, at 33. 37. 33.8 S, 115. 35. 15.9 E.

Old evidence of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos feeding on Marri (small paddock tree) at 33. 37. 18.8 S, 115. 35. 08.4 E.

Old evidence of Baudin's Cockatoos feeding on Marri at 33. 37. 38.4 S, 115. 35. 27.0 E, (369296 E, 6278275 N).

Elgin Site

Possible nest hollow of Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in dead Marri at 33. 21. 07.5 S, 115. 37. 03.7 E (Railway Road).

Recent evidence of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos feeding on Jarrah seed at 33. 31. 39.2 S, 115. 36. 27.7 E (Washers Road).

Recent evidence of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos feeding on Marri seeds at 33. 31. 22.2 S, 115. 26. 33.2 E (Washer Road).

Suitable nest hollow for cockatoos in main trunk of Marri at 33. 31. 19.4 S, 115. 35. 51.9 E, (369771 E, 6289966 N) Washers Road.

Evidence of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos feeding on Marri seeds at 33. 31. 24.4 S, 115. 35. 45.0 E, (369627 E, 6289799 N).

Recent evidence of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos feeding on Jarrah seeds at 33. 31. 31.6 S, 115. 36. 27.9 E; also a large ? chewed hollow in Marri.

Evidence of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos feeding on Marri seeds (grove of trees) at 33. 31. 23.8 S, 115. 36. 33.8 E.

Two nest hollows of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos both in dead Marri trees on Testers farm at 33. 31. 17.2 S, 115. 36. 43.3 E. Rowena Tester (pers.com.) flock of 10 resident in this area and two pairs bred here last year.

Evidence of white-tailed black cockatoos feeding on *Banksia attenuata* at 33. 31. 22.8 S, 115. 35. 48.5 E, (369693 E, 6289851 N).

Evidence of white-tailed black cockatoos feeding on *Banksia attenuata* at 33. 31. 23.6 S, 115. 35. 47.0 E, (369655 E, 6289825 N).

Evidence of white-tailed black cockatoos feeding on *Banksia ilicifolia* at 33. 31. 28.6 S, 115. 35. 36.1 E.

Evidence of white-tailed black cockatoos feeding on *Banksia attenuata* at 33. 31. 34.9 S, 115. 35. 24.7 E, (369083 E, 6289467 N).

Evidence of white-tailed black cockatoos feeding on *Banksia attenuata* at 33. 31. 19.4 S, 115. 36. 11.4 E.

Rowena Tester (pers.com.) has observed white-tailed black cockatoos feeding on pine cones in a tree that was recently cut down near the house. These were most probably Carnaby's Cockatoos (REJ).

COMMENTS

Cloverdale Site

Very little evidence of cockatoos feeding or breeding on this site.

Elgin Site

The small patches of remnant vegetation along the Railway Road (Railway Reserve area) and on Higgins Property provide food for Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and also both species of white-tailed black cockatoos. Several hollows suitable for cockatoos were also located in the Railway Reserve. The loss of these patches of vegetation could result in a reduction of cockatoos in the local area especially the small populations of Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Overall we found little evidence of cockatoo usage in the Yearly Road (Clapp Property ect.) and northern end of Malatesta Road.