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Draft Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 million
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan.

I am extremely concerned about the impacts of the proposed plan on Perth's population of the Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo.

My name is Errol Harwood and I am a resident of Myalup and have been a full time resident for 8 years. Prior to that time I was a resident in Metropolitan Perth and grew up as child in Tuart Hill. I am also convener of the Myalup Bird Observers which is a branch of Birdlife Western Australia.

The Black Cockatoo has been a part of my life for my full 69 years. However in the past 20 at least years I have noticed, with concern, a significant decline in numbers of this landmark species. It is now a rare experience to observe a flock of Black Cockatoos of anything like the size that I had seen as a child and youth growing up in the city of Stirling. This has come about as a direct result of the clearing of their habitat along the Perth Coastal Plain and has been a matter of considerable concern over the past 10 years.

Now according to your own draft Strategic Impact Assessment Report (XVI), Carnaby's will lose 52% of their current known habitat in the Perth-Peel region if the current draft of the Plan is approved. This means that the already heavily depleted habitat will be halved. Who in your Department believes that this is an acceptable position? Surely it is obvious that, if the birds are currently under threat because of the loss of habitat over the past 70 years, the further decrease in that habitat by 50% is not acceptable. In addition it is not only the Carnaby's Cockatoo that is being threatened but the whole ecology of the region will be lost as well.

Your proposal will have a severe impact on a species that is already endangered, as well as all of the other species of fauna and flora which are dependent upon the habitat, and is clearly unacceptable.

It was my understanding that purpose of The Green Growth Plan was to ensure the maintenance of habitat within the region under consideration to ensure that, despite the increase in population of the area, there would be no further significant loss of wildlife habitat.

It is now obvious that I was wrong and that the term Green Growth Plans is a deceptive mis-description of the plans for the regions. If the plan were to truly be a Green Growth Plan it should outline a plan for protecting the current habitat for Perth's iconic Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo population as well as proposal for re-establishing a habitat to make up for what has been lost. To proceed with the plan as currently proposed will significantly increase the likelihood of extinction of this iconic species.

While there may be plans to re-establish depleted habitat any such activities will not be viable as suitable habitat for decades into the future. The need is now.

I urge the Government to use this as an opportunity to protect the habitat on which the Cockatoos rely. Without action to immediately halt the destruction of Carnaby's habitat, the Perth population will continue to decline and eventually be lost forever.

Please act to save this Endangered Perth population.

Yours sincerely

Errol Harwood