



REGIONAL GOALS

People P3, P4

Biophysical B4

Knowledge K3

Connecting local communities with Cockatoos

The Black Cockatoo Monitoring and Evaluation Project

A four-year partnership project between Birdlife WA and the PHCC has increased community awareness of south-west Australia's three iconic, endemic species of Black Cockatoo and the necessity for landscape scale restoration. Under the partnership, 20 Cockatoo Workshops were organised by the PHCC and 400 people participated in the Great Cocky Count across the Catchment. Cultural workshops were held in the Lower Murray raising awareness of the Karak (Red-tailed Black Cockatoo) and its place in Noongar cultural story-telling. By partnering with Birdlife WA and the Great Cocky Count program, the PHCC was able to increase the number of Cockatoo roosting sites monitored by community members and increase community awareness of the plight

of Black Cockatoos. The Project formed part of PHCC's Rivers to Ramsar initiative and was linked to significant on-ground works to connect, protect and restore Cockatoo habitat across the Catchment. The Project led to the implementation of 6 actions in the official Recovery Plans for the Cockatoos and has added 15 new Great Cocky Count sites since the Project's first community workshops in 2014.

PHOTO: The project used Black Cockatoos as an iconic species that traverse much of the Catchment, with Carnaby's Black Cockatoo breeding in the western wheatbelt and feeding and roosting on the Swan Coastal Plain. This brought home to the community the importance of maintaining ecological links across landscapes.

FUNDING PROGRAM

Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund

PHCC PROGRAM

Rivers 2 Ramsar

PHCC PROJECT

The Black Cockatoo Monitoring and Evaluation Project

FUNDING

Biodiversity Fund \$110,400

REGIONAL COVERAGE

Whole Catchment



PROJECT MANAGER

Thelma Crook

STEERING COMMITTEE

Mike Schultz, Peter Hick, Bob Pond, John Allert

STAKEHOLDERS

Landholders, Landcare SJ, Harvey River Restoration Taskforce, City of Mandurah, Shire of Murray, Shire of Waroona, Shire of Boddington, Murray Districts Aboriginal Association, Local schools, Other community groups

BENEFICIARIES

Landholders, State Government, Australian Government



PHOTO: Cultural knowledge sharing Karak (Black Cockatoo)

Over 4 years, this partnership has enabled us to provide practical information on the conservation of cockatoo habitat and ecological linkages applicable to the local area, such as appropriate cockatoo habitat plant species. It has also provided increased opportunities to encourage community members to volunteer for the annual Great Cocky Count, our citizen science project which provides essential Black-Cockatoo population and distribution information across the catchment.”

~ Helen Bryant CEO Birdlife WA ~

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Delivery of 20 community Workshops on Black Cockatoos
- Over 400 participants, including school groups, in Great Cocky Counts
- 15 new Great Cocky Count sites added within the Peel-Harvey Catchment since 2014
- Construction and installation of eight (8) Black Cockatoo nesting tubes (Cockatubes®)
- Project linked to significant on-ground works to restore and enhance habitat for Black Cockatoos.
- Increased exposure and uptake in use of Cockatubes® (artificial nesting boxes).
- Increased community awareness of linkages across the Peel-Harvey Catchment, from the western Wheatbelt to the Coastal Plain



PHOTOS: Installation of Cockatubes for breeding