

Fauna

In respect to Alcoa's Proposed mining expansion

Clearing of the Jarrah forest can **kill animals and destroy habitat**, including the destruction of large habitat trees. After an area is cleared there is little food or shelter, and predators and disease are likely to increase.

OUR CONCERNS

1. Habitat destruction affects many different types of animals

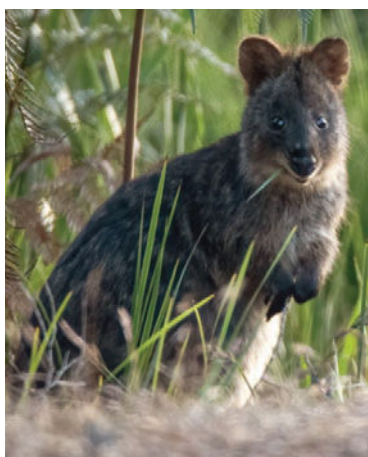
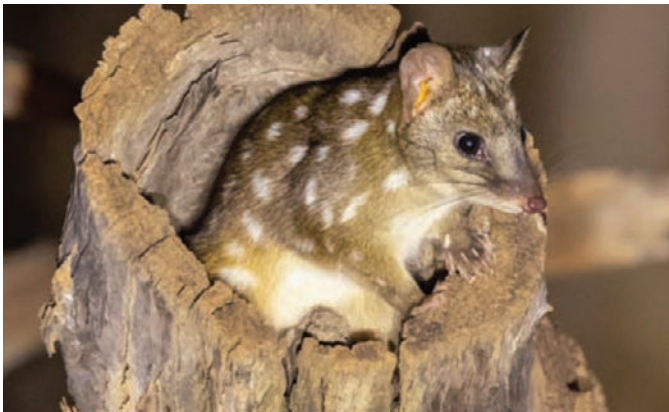
- a. Mammals - possums, quendas, chuditch, quokkas, phascogales
- b. Birds - including endangered black cockatoo species (Carnaby's, Baudin's, and the Red-tailed black cockatoos)
- c. Invertebrates - e.g insects, worms, spiders
- d. Reptiles - snakes and lizards
- e. Amphibians - frogs
- f. Fish - due to decrease in river water quality e.g black bream.



Carnaby's black cockatoos using nest hollow.
(Photo: Philippa Beckerling)

2. Clearing destroys food/shelter/breeding sites

- a. The long-term loss of tree hollows and hollows in logs on the ground means that **birds and animals are not able to compete** for the limited feeding, roosting and breeding places.
- b. The **number of potential habitat logs** replaced on the ground after mining is **very low**, currently at a rate of approximately 1 every 2 hectares.
- c. Loss of large tree hollows will impact on Black cockatoos, already endangered, and showing declining breeding success in the Northern Jarrah forest.
- d. Habitat trees have been left marooned as individuals in cleared mining area. Alcoa claim they are now leaving a larger zone around these habitat trees.
- e. **Red-tailed black cockatoos**, found in the Dwellingup area, **prefer mature forest** and **do not use rehabilitated forest** for food until trees are at least 4 years old.
- f. **Tree hollows for nesting do not form** until a tree is at least **150 years old**.



Chuditch. (Photo: Clarissa Human) | Brush tailed phascogale
(Photo: Shaun A Welsh) | Mainland Quokka (Photo: Philippa Beckerling)



"Habitat tree" marked for preservation of breeding hollows for birds and mammals. This isolated tree is in a 200 hectare clearing near Jarrahdale/Karnet Prison.

- 3. Roadkill increases-** Increased machinery movements on mine roads can kill or injure wildlife.
- 4. Fragmentation of habitat** occurs as there is a lack of ecosystem corridors for land animals to allow them to move safely through the forest.
- 5. Artificial tree hollows or Cockatubes are not currently used by Alcoa** in their rehabilitation, and although logs on the ground are sometimes used, there are not enough old, large tree hollows that cockatoos can use for breeding.



Example of fragmented Jarrah forest as a result of bauxite mining.

For these reasons the DDFD believes that Alcoa's mining proposal for expansion of mine sites (Holyoake, Myara and O'Neil) and Pinjarra refinery should be rejected by the EPA.

Have your say by signing on to WA Forest Alliance's submission with a quick and simple form or find out more about writing your own at endforestmining.org.au/alcoa. The comment period is now open and closes on 21 August 2025.

Bibliography

1. Garnett ST & Baker GB (Eds) (2021) The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.
2. Australian Government Species Profile and Threats Database http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=59523 (Carnaby's cockatoo), https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=769 (Baudin's cockatoo), and http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=67034 (Forest red-tailed black cockatoo).