



POSITION STATEMENT BLACK COCKATOOS

COUNCIL'S POSITION

The City recognises the critical importance of protecting black cockatoos and understands the threats they face. The City will improve and maintain its environmental assets to provide foraging, roosting and nesting habitats for black cockatoos, among other endemic species.

RELATION TO THE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

Strategic Priority 1: Environment – The environment is protected and enhanced.

Goal 1.1 Protect and improve our natural assets and, where possible, integrate them with community activity.

Goal 1.2 Encourage community action to protect the environment

BACKGROUND

Within the City of Gosnells, there are foraging, roosting and nesting habitats that attract three species of black cockatoo (Forest red-tailed black cockatoo, Baudin's black cockatoo and Carnaby's black cockatoo). These birds are significant to residents of the City of Gosnells and are iconic in Western Australia.

All three are listed as fauna that are "rare or likely to become extinct and therefore in need of special protection" according to the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The black cockatoo population is decreasing in response to threats such as a loss of habitat, lack of fresh drinking water, vehicle strikes, competition from other animals, poaching and shooting. Many of these threats are compounded by climate change.

Black cockatoos are one of the primary focus areas in the City's Greening Gosnells Strategy and there are multiple actions outlined in the strategy that aim to improve outcomes for black cockatoos. This includes planting trees that are suitable for black cockatoo foraging, roosting and nesting. The City planted over 12,500 trees in 2024, including almost 1,000 marri trees (a primary foraging resource for all three species of black cockatoo). The City also supports private land owners to create habitat for black cockatoos, including through a free annual native plant giveaway for residents, in an effort to improve habitat for black cockatoos on private land.

The City installed its first bird waterer at Mills Park in 2022 with subsequent installations at Mary Carroll Park and William Lane Reserve. These waterers provide a reliable, fresh water source, high off the ground to offer better protection from predators, people and vehicles. The City has plans to install waterers in additional locations in the future. Artificial nesting hollows have also been installed in three of the City's conservation areas in Huntingdale.

Further, the City actively manages invasive species, both flora and fauna, that impact the resilience of black cockatoos and their habitats and works proactively to reduce the risk of bushfires that destroy black cockatoo habitat.

The City also supports the work of the Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre, in Martin, which is situated on City managed land.