

South West NRM / Lotterywest Funding Application

Black Cockatoo Conservation Project



Component Project Name: Communities Connecting with Carnaby's (Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Wagin and Woodanilling)

Project Brief

Proponents: South West Natural Resource Management and Katanning Landcare

Partners / Locations: Shires of Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Wagin and Woodanilling.

Duration: 2 years – 2025 and 2026

Overview: Katanning has one known Carnaby's black cockatoo breeding site in a 322-hectare reserve of remnant native vegetation. But there may be other breeding sites in Katanning, Kent (Nyabing), Kojonup, Wagin and Woodanilling shires which have not been identified yet. Birdlife Australia WA and the Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) have limited, dated and inconsistent historical data about these endangered birds in these shires.

The Katanning and surrounding communities' knowledge about black cockatoos is also limited but there's a growing passion to learn more and take action to help bring them back from the brink of extinction. This was discovered when 40 local residents saw the Black Cockatoo Crisis film in Katanning in October 2023 and were keen to take conservation action.

That's why we would like to activate a Citizen Science project to connect local residents with our beloved Carnaby's black cockatoos. This will improve local knowledge, allow people to get involved in conservation activities and expand data collection in conjunction with Birdlife Australia, DBCA and Indigenous groups.

Plan: We will fund a Carnaby's Project Officer for 0.4 FTE (15 hours / 2 days per week) for 2 years. The officer would work with local residents and project partners to:-

- Run introductory information / training workshops with new Citizen Science groups in Katanning, Kent (Nyabing), Kojonup, Wagin and Woodanilling. This will give community members the skills to formally report sightings of black cockatoos (and other native fauna) which will fill gaps and inconsistencies in black cockatoo data, eg. DBCA fauna report forms and Birdlife Australia WA (Birdata database on website).
- Undertake field activities to connect passionate local residents with these endangered birds in Katanning, Kent (Nyabing), Kojonup, Wagin and Woodanilling. We will work with residents, community groups, Indigenous peoples and rangers, Birdlife Australia, DBCA, school students and shire council staff to:
 - Monitor existing and historical black cockatoo sites;
 - Search for new breeding, feeding and roosting sites in conjunction with Birdlife Australia staff under their animal ethics licence;
 - Build 15 artificial nesting tubes with Dean Arthurell of Carnaby's Crusaders and local Men's Shed members. Community members would also be invited to watch the tubes being installed at breeding sites by Dean Arthurell.
 - Download and analyse data from monitoring cameras.
 - Perform maintenance checks on the bird watering station and other installations.
 - Share information about black cockatoo conservation project by attending local shows, community events and community group meetings.

Outcomes

- Establish long-term Black Cockatoo Citizen Science Groups in the communities of Katanning, Kent (Nyabing), Kojonup, Wagin and Woodanilling. This will help build relationships between community members, Traditional Owners, Birdlife Australia staff and DBCA staff. These groups will help improve the quantity, quality and consistency of black cockatoo data in our region.
- Install 1 x elevated bird watering station at known Carnaby's black cockatoo breeding site in Katanning, thereby encouraging more black cockatoos to breed there. This will be the first elevated bird watering station installed in rural Western Australia.



- Install 7 x solar monitoring cameras to improve data and share with Birdlife Australia and DBCA. Three at existing Katanning breeding site - one each on the watering station, a natural breeding hollow and an artificial nesting tube. One monitoring camera will also be installed with an artificial nesting tube at selected breeding sites in Kent, Kojonup, Wagin and Woodanilling.



- Build and install 15 artificial nesting tubes at or near existing and newly-identified breeding sites in conjunction with partners, landowners and conservation groups, thereby encouraging more opportunities for black cockatoos to breed there.
 - ✓ 5 tubes at Katanning and Kent sites.
 - ✓ 5 tubes at Wagin and Woodanilling sites.
 - ✓ 5 tubes at Kojonup sites.



Installing the artificial nesting tubes



Two Carnaby's perched on nesting tube



Two Carnaby's chicks in nesting tube

Connecting Communities with Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Conservation Project 2025 and 2026

Budget items

Infrastructure Item Details	Unit cost ex-GST	Qty	Total ex-GST	Cash
Artificial nesting tube - fully installed	\$ 500.00	5	\$ 2,500.00	
Solar monitoring camera - Option 1				
- Campark CT17 Monitoring Camera	\$ 400.00	1	\$ 400.00	
- Telstra 12 month 230GB Sim Card	\$ 290.00	1	\$ 290.00	
- 75x75x5m galvanised steel pole	\$ 275.00	1	\$ 275.00	
			\$ 965.00	
Solar monitoring camera - Option 2				
- SCSA Gate Commander camera	\$ 4,363.00	1	\$ 4,363.00	
- Telstra 12 month 230GB Sim Card	\$ 290.00	1	\$ 290.00	
- 75x75x5m galvanised steel pole	\$ 275.00	1	\$ 275.00	
- 4G directional antenna - optional	\$ 181.00	1	\$ 181.00	
			\$ 5,109.00	

Other costs	Unit cost ex-GST	Qty	Total ex-GST	Cash	In-kind
Venue for initial Citizen Science information and training workshop in 2025 and follow up meeting in 2026.		2			
Catering for above workshop / meeting.					
Catering for artificial nesting tube building workshop at Men's Shed venue.					
Fee for promotional stand at local show / event.					
Advertising in local newspaper or community publication.					
Project Officer's wages including overheads.	\$80 per hour				
Contractor's travel from Perth per km	\$ 0.45				
Contractor's accommodation per night	\$ 165.00				