TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

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6 August 2025

Claire Norman
Senior Scientist
Coterra Environment
Level 1
98 Colin St
West Perth WA 6005

Re: **Black-Cockatoo tree assessment**

Dear Claire

Terrestrial Ecosystems is pleased to provide the results of the assessment of five tree hollows on Lot 107 Godel Rd, Nowergup.

Terrestrial Ecosystems zoologist Mitch Plozza used a Mavic Mini 1 drone (Plate 1) to inspect five tree hollows on 1 August 2025.

Plate 1. DJI Mavic mini drone

Each tree was given a ranking following Bamford's ranking methodology, as follows:

- Rank 1: Activity at hollow observed; adult (or immature) bird seen entering or emerging from hollow. Can also be used for a known nest tree active in the previous 12 months (although this should be noted in the description). Note that activity at a hollow does not absolutely mean that breeding is occurring unless a young bird in hollow is observed.
- Rank 2: Hollow of suitable size visible with chew marks around entrance. Record if chew-marks are recent or old.
- Rank 3: Potentially suitable hollow visible but no chew marks present at entrance; or potentially suitable hollow suspected to be present - as suggested by structure of tree, such as large, vertical trunk broken off at a height of >8m; but note that hollow height is contextual. Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo will nest in hollows < 5m so in a Wheatbelt breeding site a lower criterion may be more appropriate.
- Rank 4: Tree with large hollows or broken branches that might contain large hollows, but hollows or potential hollows (nest chamber) are not vertical or near-vertical; thus a tree with or likely to have hollows of sufficient size but not to have hollows of the angle preferred by Black-Cockatoos. Trees with low but otherwise suitable hollows can also be assigned a rank or 4, depending on the species of black-cockatoo likely to be present.
- Rank 5: Tree lacking large hollows or broken branches that might have large hollows; a tree with more or less intact branches and a spreading crown.

Tree number 157 (Plate 4) is ranked 2 based on old chew marks around the entrance to the hollow and is of suitable size (Plate 5). Tree number 147 (Plate 2) is ranked 4 based on the hollow chamber is not vertical and deep enough to support Carnaby cockatoo nesting (Plate 3). Tree number 173 (Plate 6) is ranked 4 because the hollow is filled with large organic pieces of matter (Plate 7). Trees 202 and 226 (Plates 8 and 10) are ranked 3, as both hollows have large pieces of organic matter inside the chamber (Plates 9 and11). A summary of the results is provided in Table 1.

A new hollow was found in a different marked tree, with results provided in Table 2. The hollow (Plates 12 and13) is ranked 3 based on a large entrance and chamber into the trunk. It is likely that the hollow is newly formed from a fallen limb, exposing the entrance, and not enough time has passed for cockatoos to occupy the hollow, and they have not yet chewed around the hollow entrance. The tree supports nesting Galahs in an obscured hollow (Plates 14 and 15). The occupied hollow is not suitable for Carnaby Cockatoos, so data were not recorded.

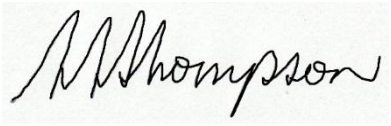
Table 1. Summary of results

Tree #	Ranking	Notes
T147	Rank 4	Hollow chamber not vertical and shallow. Unlikely to support Carnaby's Cockatoo.
T157	Rank 2	Old chew marks around entrance.
T173	Rank 4	Hollow filled with large organic matter pieces and shallow chamber.
T202	Rank 3	Large organic matter pieces.
T226	Rank 3	Large organic matter pieces.

Table 2. New hollow recorded

Tree Number	Ent size (cm)	Orientation	Height above ground (m)	Type	Ranking	Notes
T119	25	North	15	Trunk	3	Nesting galahs in the same tree, but occupying a different hollow that is not suitable for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo

Yours sincerely



Dr Scott Thompson
Director and Principal Zoologist

Plate 2. Tree 147

Plate 3. Tree 147 hollow chamber

Plate 4. Tree 157

Plate 5. Tree 157 hollow chamber

Plate 6. Tree 173

Plate 7. Tree 173 hollow chamber

Plate 8. Tree 202

Plate 9. Tree 202 hollow chamber

Plate 10. Tree 226

Plate 11. Tree 226 hollow chamber

Plate 12. Tree 199 hollow

Plate 13. Tree 199 hollow chamber

Plate 14. Tree 199 Galah's near nest hollow

Plate 15. Galah nest hollow (obscured entrance)

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