

Kondinin Black Cockatoo Memo

This assessment has been prepared to support the clearing permit application for the Kondinin Substation.

1.0 Breeding Tree Analysis

A total of 45 trees were recorded within the Kondinin Substation project boundary comprising of:

- *Eucalyptus kondininensis*
- *Eucalyptus longicornis*
- *Eucalyptus salubris*
- *Eucalyptus myriadena*
- *Eucalyptus loxophleba subsp. supralaevis*.

Following EPA (2019) Technical Guidance, supported by DAWE (2022) and Bamford (2024), trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) over 500 mm were targeted as potential Black Cockatoo nesting trees, consistent with their preference for larger-diameter hollows. A lower threshold of 300 mm DBH generally applies only to Salmon Gum or Wandoo woodlands, which do not occur within the Kondinin Substation footprint.

Of the 45 trees surveyed:

- 15 exceeded 500 mm DBH and were considered potential nesting trees under DAWE guidelines, with the largest recorded DBH being 810 mm (*Eucalyptus longicornis*).
- 30 were below 500 mm DBH and excluded as potential breeding habitat, given the absence of smaller hollow forming species, such as Wandoo and Salmon Gum. These were not previously reported on in the AECOM (2024) Kondinin Substation – Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Assessment as they do not meet the threshold to be considered breeding habitat.
- No suitable hollows or roosting activity were identified in any tree.
- All trees were assigned a BCE (2024) nest ranking of 5, the lowest rating, reflecting the lack of large hollows or broken branches suitable for nesting.

All trees are represented in Table 1, below.

A rank of '5' is the lowest ranking on the BCE nest ranking system and therefore lacks the suitable qualities to be considered potential breeding habitat. Trees with a rank of '5' lack large hollows or broken branches suitable for nesting. All trees were spatially recorded and are mapped in **Error! Reference source not found.**

No trees within the Kondinin Substation clearing footprint meet the current EPA or DAWE criteria for known or suitable Black Cockatoo breeding habitat.

Table 1 Recorded Tree Species Black Cockatoo Breeding Habitat Value

Species	Individuals recorded	Number of trees over DBH >500 mm	Nest ranking system for potential black-cockatoo nest trees (BCE, 2024)
<i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> (Gimlet)	22	9	5
<i>Eucalyptus kondininensis</i> (Kondinin Blackbutt)	9	1	5
<i>Eucalyptus myriadena</i> (Broad-leaved Mallee)	6	1	5
<i>Eucalyptus longicornis</i> (Red Morrell)	5	4	5

Species	Individuals recorded	Number of trees over DBH >500 mm	Nest ranking system for potential black-cockatoo nest trees (BCE, 2024)
<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>supralaevis</i> (York Gum)	2	0	5
<i>Eucalyptus neutra</i> (Newdegate Mallee)	2	0	5

These results align with best-practice survey methods, confirming the absence of suitable hollows or significant foraging resources within the proposed clearing area.

2.0 Distribution Range

The Kondinin Substation is situated within the current distribution of Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*), as described in DAWE (2022). This reference supersedes older mapping provided in the EPA documentation, which has been deemed outdated by Black Cockatoo expert Tony Kirkby (pers. comm., 2025).

The outdated EPA distribution included areas, such as Merredin and Bruce Rock, where Carnaby’s Black Cockatoos are no longer known to occur, while omitting areas such as Collie, which is a known breeding location. The current DAWE (2022) guidance maps the Kondinin district within the species’ distribution, with known breeding habitat concentrated in remnant Wheatbelt woodlands.

Although the site lies within the broader distribution of Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo, no breeding trees or active roosting sites were recorded within the project area. The nearest confirmed breeding record is approximately 40 km southwest of the site, with additional sites east of the boundary in the Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve (DBCA Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites, DBCA–063 dataset).

3.0 Conclusion

No trees within the clearing area provide known or potential breeding habitat, with all ranked 5 under the BCE (2024) assessment. The 15 trees over 500 mm DBH by federal definition, represent potential nesting trees, as per the DAWE (2022) referral guidelines. The survey boundary is located within the current distribution of Carnaby’s Black Cockatoo as per DAWE (2022), but does not contain the habitat features to be considered significant for breeding, roosting, or foraging.

4.0 References

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