

Summary of Ornithologist Assessment

The breeding season for the Carnaby's (Short-billed) Black Cockatoo species may commence in July, and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo indeed has a breeding cycle with peaks in autumn and/or spring, also overlapping with June and July.

However, these facts are applicable to data collected from right across the species' range (ie the entire south-west bioregion) and are not necessarily relevant to Jorgensen Park, or other parts within the City of Kalamunda.

Baudin's Cockatoo:

This species is not known to breed north of Armadale so its breeding season overlapping with July is not relevant.

Carnaby's Cockatoo:

Not aware of any data indicating this species commences breeding in the City of Kalamunda before August (have collected data on laying dates in the City, as well as collaborating with other researchers including the WA Museum). Most breeding pairs that nest in the Perth Hills lay in September and October, with some late nesters laying in November-early Dec, and an exceptionally late case of a mid January lay date. Birds that commence laying in June or July are normally those whose breeding sites are situated much farther inland (e.g. Hyden, Badgingarra).

From approximately January - June, Carnaby's Cockatoo is present in the region (including Jorgensen Park) primarily as a non-breeding bird that exists in small to large flocks (numbering up to 300 birds or more). Such flocks forage widely throughout the Jarrah / Marri forest and it is evident from the roosts checked nearby that the species is definitely present in the landscape and feeding now. This statement:

Birds do not usually 'disappear and not return' unless widespread habitat clearance removes all the resources that support them.

However, if flocks are disturbed while feeding, they will move away from the source of disturbance and return when the disturbance has finished, but the extent of impact really depends on the type of disturbance. For example, high volumes of walkers moving through forest when cockatoos are foraging on mid- and understorey shrubs are likely to cause birds to fly up from the ground / mid-storey and wait until the walkers are gone before returning to feed. But the same walkers passing through forest when cockatoos are feeding in the canopy may not disturb them at all. Given they forage during the daytime and the exhibition is only being conducted at night, it is unlikely that the natural foraging behaviour will be interrupted at all by the type of setup currently at the park.

The greatest concern is not with disturbance to CC nesting, but to roosting sites. (NOTE: These are areas in the landscape, usually clusters of tall trees in gullies / valleys, into which flocks of cockatoos contract and gather to 'sleep' overnight (roosts are not used during the day). Birds normally begin building up at roosts about 5-6pm at present, and commence leaving roosts about 630am before 'expanding' out into the wider landscape to feed during the day. EG - the same flock of 100 cockatoos roosting in a relatively small area of a few hundred square metres may spread widely across the forest and forage over 100 square kilometres or more. This same flock may return to the same roost on consecutive nights, or move to another roost several kilometres away, depending on where they end up feeding, or where they plan to feed the next day.

If large flocks of cockatoos are occupying roosts (clusters of tall trees) that become artificially lit and frequented by high volumes of human traffic, birds may well leave the roost in darkness during a single disturbance event. Ongoing disturbances may well cause birds to abandon roosts and seek alternative sites elsewhere, which is not ideal. The significance of any disturbances associated with the Harry Potter event depends upon: 1) the proximity of the event to known roost sites, and 2) whether or not known roosts are occupied or not during the event.

The maps in the EIA report show the event does not overlap with any known cockatoo roosts, the latter occurring several hundred metres to the west. Preliminary investigation suggests that none of the known roosts are occupied at present, but rather, an unmarked roost located along Hummerston and Croxton Roads, ~500m to the south-east of the event site, is being used by at least 200 and perhaps as many as 500 white-tailed black cockatoos (a mixture of Carnaby's and Baudin's Cockatoos). This distance should place roosting cockatoos well out of the disturbance zone and fieldwork so far suggests birds are roosting nocturnally and commencing diurnal activities from first light as one would expect if things were 'normal', ie., if the birds are undisturbed.

However, further observations of roosting cockatoos will be carried out prior to event operation to gain more information about the birds behaviour so that 'adaptive management' can be recommended should the need arise. Observations at this stage, however, is that these large flocks of white-tailed black cockatoos are completely unfazed by any human activities in Jorgensen Park. It is also important to point out that such numbers are unlikely to remain in the region for consecutive months. As food resources diminish, and as wet weather escalates simulating some members of these non-breeding flocks (especially Carnaby's Cockatoos) to leave the area and move to breeding locations (sometimes far inland), flocks may reduce over time.

Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (FRTBC)

As mentioned above, this species may breed during autumn and/or spring. Further, the species is currently (April-May 2026) breeding in the Perth Hills, with known nests in

Mundaring having incubating females and nests located elsewhere in the south-west containing small nestlings. It is also non-migratory and individuals (breeding and non-breeding) use local roost sites year round.

Important to collect site-specific data and carry out ongoing field observations to document breeding and roosting behaviour. Three potential nest trees, all with evidence suggesting use by cockatoos in recent years, were located and inspected with a pole camera. None were active at the time (one contained a roosting Boobook Owl *Ninox boobook*), but given the above (ie that the species is breeding now), these require more regular inspection to ensure that any nesting by FRTBC is detected and documented.

Further inspections of potential nests will continue to be carried out.

Regarding roosting, I wasn't able to confirm use of any known roosts by FRTBC, but they are likely to use several in the area and the known ones (ie documented in the EIA report) may not be current. Further inspections will yield more data on this aspect of FRTBC ecology in the area.