



Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo **ENDANGERED**

**DEGRADED WOODLAND
PROTECTION
JULY 2002**

WHY PROTECT DEGRADED WOODLAND?

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos feed almost exclusively on seeds from stringybark (*Eucalyptus arenacea/E. baxteri*) and Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*) trees. Some of the remaining stringybark and most of the Buloke is in farmed paddocks. Grazing stock and cropping will damage the trees until they eventually die. The best way to assist the Red Tail recovery is to protect the existing food source namely the stringybark and Buloke trees.

WHAT IS DEGRADED WOODLAND?

In terms of environment and biodiversity, degraded woodland refers to land, which has some intact tree species such as stringybark and Buloke, but little or no understory. Larger trees like the stringybark and buloke that exist in this type of environment are often in poor health due to the effects of grazing. A typical degraded woodland may be a paddock with trees up to 50 meters apart.

This sheet offers suggestions on how to improve the health of stringybark and Buloke so they can continue to provide a food source for the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

1 - FENCE OFF AND CONTROL GRAZING IN THE Paddock.

This is by far the most preferred option to allow full regeneration of the area to occur. In some cases this may not be an option as the area is seen as an integral part of the farming operation, but many farmers are now concentrating their efforts on the more profitable soil types and in the case of stringybark which grows in the lighter sandy soils, it is often good farm management practice to fence these areas, thereby leaving areas for revegetation. It is often useful to run stock in these areas at certain times of the year to provide shelter to lambing ewes for example, reduce fire risk or as part of a weed management plan, but as long as stock are removed prior to damaging revegetation, then these sites will improve through better tree health and new regeneration.



2 - FENCE INDIVIDUAL TREES

This will protect trees from rubbing and ringbarking by stock, but due to the work involved, will not be possible unless there are only a few trees to be protected. A good option is to link several trees together in one small fenced off area. This will allow some regeneration in the new area.

3 - DENY STOCK ACCESS TO TREES

If fencing is too much cost/work another option is to stack fallen limbs around the base of the tree. Many farmers stack and burn this wood to tidy the paddock; however, by stacking it around the base of the tree it will deny access to the trunk by stock and eliminate ringbarking/rubbing. By stacking the timber rather than burning it, this will also have a more positive biodiversity effect. This is because many ground feeding birds need fallen timber for feeding and nesting and removing all fallen timber will lead to their disappearance.

Because the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo is an endangered species and Buloke Woodlands are also endangered, there is currently money available to assist with fencing. The money available is usually enough to at least cover all material costs. Contact your local Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Environment and Heritage, Catchment Management Authority, or Landcare officer for more details or call the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team on 1800 262 062

The Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Recovery Team is a joint project involving Birds Australia, Environment Australia, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and Department of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs.