



Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo **ENDANGERED**

PROTECTION OF RED TAIL NEST TREES

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Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos nest only in hollows in both live and dead eucalypts; however they prefer dead trees with over 80% of known nests recorded in dead trees. These cockatoos have specific nest hollow requirements which are only found in relatively few dead trees. They require large hollows with an entrance which is preferably facing upwards but which can be vertical, but cannot face towards the ground. The branch/trunk itself must be less than 45° off vertical. This is because the birds enter the hollow tail first and descend tail first to the floor of the hollow where they make their nest. Nest hollows tend to be in vertical or near vertical 'spouts', but can also be in the trunk.

- The Glenelg and the West Wimmera Shires in Victoria have recently introduced laws to protect dead trees with hollows suitable as nests for Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos. These laws are called 'Environmental Significance Overlays'. These laws apply to areas where cockatoos are known or suspected to breed.
- Whilst it is only the dead trees with hollows which are suitable for Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos that are protected by these laws, it should be noted that other dead trees with hollows have very significant value for other wildlife and we encourage you to protect them as well wherever possible.

IDENTIFYING DEAD TREES WITH HOLLOWES

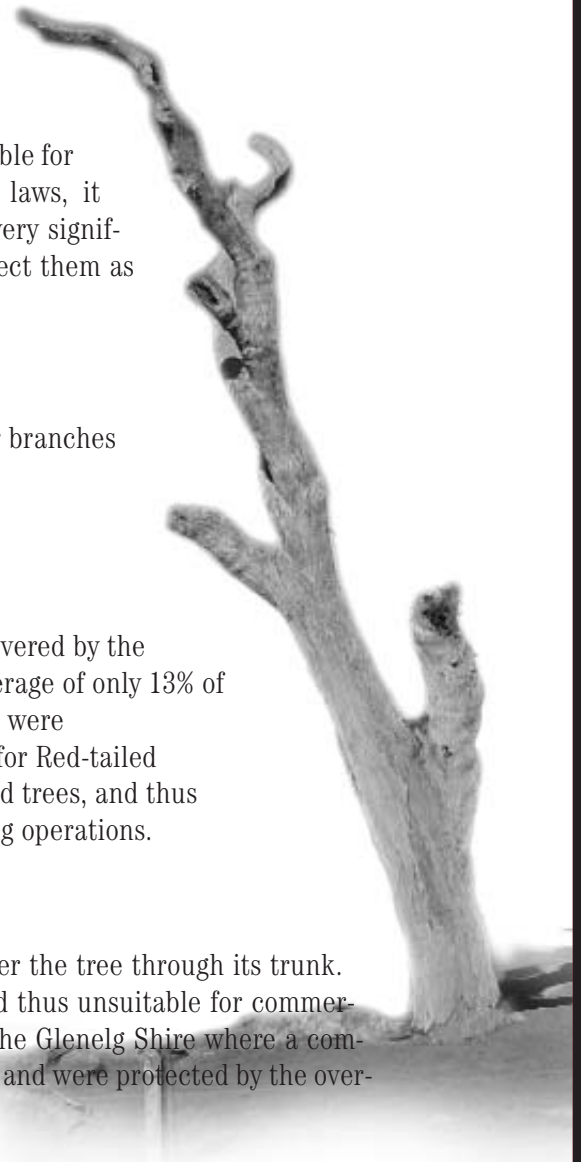
- Dead trees with hollows tend to have dropped most smaller branches
- If shed branches on the ground have hollows then the standing tree probably does also.

PROPORTION OF TREES PROTECTED BY THE OVERLAYS

From our inspections of farms where the landholder in an area covered by the overlay has wanted to clear dead trees, we have found that an average of only 13% of all dead trees were potentially suitable as Red Tail nests and thus were protected. These results show that dead trees which are suitable for Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos to nest in form only a small proportion of all dead trees, and thus the decision to protect them has relatively little impact on farming operations.

IMPACT ON FIREWOOD HARVESTING

Hollows are formed in eucalypts, primarily by termites which enter the tree through its trunk. Consequently trees with hollows tend to be rotten in the butt and thus unsuitable for commercial firewood. Firewood cutters prefer solid trees. At one site in the Glenelg Shire where a commercial woodcutter operates, 25% of the dead trees fit the criteria and were protected by the overlay, but only 2 out of 17 would have been suitable for firewood.



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.