

Why the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo shouldn't be held/bred/traded in captivity

Current regulations require a specialist permit to keep RTBCs because of the threatened status of two sub-species.

Arguments for retaining a specialist permit for the SERTBC include:

- It can be difficult to distinguish between the sub-species; requiring specialist permits makes it more difficult to own/keep/sell sub-species that are threatened
- A specialist permit enables governance around keeping/trading of RTBCs
- Specialist permits create a tighter market as birds are less accessible
- Specialist permits mean that total numbers and trade in SERTBC can be monitored. Limiting the number of specialist permits held for SERTBC reduces/minimises the risk of hybridisation in captivity and the risk of spreading disease from captive to wild populations, through birds escaping (or being released) from aviaries.
- The risk of black market trade in this endangered subspecies may be limited if specialist permits continue to restrict keeping and trade to those with the demonstrated passion and responsibility for maintaining appropriate facilities, husbandry and record-keeping – ie. to those who satisfy conditions for obtaining a specialist permit endorsed for one, or more, of the RTBC subspecies.



A pair of South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos.

Photo Bob McPherson