



Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos and Fire Management

The **South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo** is one of five subspecies in Australia. The South-eastern subspecies is critically endangered.

Distribution

It occurs as a single population in a small area of south-eastern Australia straddling the Victorian and South Australian border.

About half of all suitable habitat has been cleared within the bird's current range. It is widespread but rare within this range.

Limited Food Resources

The Red Tail feeds only on the seeds of Desert Stringybark *Eucalyptus arenacea* and Brown Stringybark *E. baxteri* and when available on Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii*.

Effects of Fire

The amount of seed produced by stringybark trees is substantially reduced for up to 10 years following a fuel reduction burn or wildfire.

In order to maximise the amount of seed available for Red Tails in stringybark forests on public land the Department of Sustainability and Environment will limit fuel reduction burning in stringybark forests within the range of the Red Tail to ensure that no more than 15% of these forests are burnt within the last 10 year period.

DSE is also investigating low intensity fuel reduction burning techniques to reduce the impact on stringybark seed production.

Fuel reduction burns will be timed to avoid years in which stringybark forests are carrying heavy crops of newly matured seed capsules.



The Red Tail has been chosen as the mascot for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Karak visited the brown stringybark forest west of Casterton earlier this year and is pictured here with local field naturalist Dick Cooper, RTBC Recovery Team Extension Officer, Tania Rajic and Recovery Team Scientist Richard Hill.

More Information

For more information please contact Richard Hill at the DSE Casterton Office on 03 55542302.