

# Fauna and cockatoo surveys in the karri forests



## Background

The Forest Products Commission (FPC) undertakes fauna surveys in areas of karri forest available for timber harvesting. Surveys occur prior to harvest operations.

The likelihood of threatened and priority species being present in harvest areas is assessed through the Fauna Distribution Information system (FDIS). FDIS uses survey data and vegetation associations to predict where threatened and priority species may occur. Fauna surveys in areas that are scheduled for harvesting have the potential to complement FDIS by providing current information on fauna that are present in the area. The information can then be used to update FDIS and ensure appropriate management strategies are implemented.

## Method

### 1. Camera surveys

Camera images can be taken 24 hours a day. The following images were taken with the same camera.



Quokka



Feral cats



Fox

Cameras are set up within selected areas prior to harvesting. The location of the cameras is dependent on the topography and the number of cameras required (maximum of 20) is dependent on the size of the area that is proposed for harvesting. Each camera position is recorded via a global positioning system. Movement triggers the camera to take a photo (day or night). Data is collected over at least 20 days and images are sorted for identification of species.

### 2. Indirect monitoring



An active runnel (Photo: Karlene Bain)

Indirect monitoring is undertaken to identify indicators of presence of threatened and priority species. Indicators can include faecal material, tracks, diggings, runnels, burrows, nests, nesting hollows, dens, scratches on trees and skeletal material.

### 3. Call based surveys for threatened bird species

An assessment prior to survey is undertaken to determine potential threatened and priority species that may be in the site. These species include Baudin's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*), Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), barking owl (*Ninox connivens*), and/or masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*). Sample design is based on a number of factors including target species, forest density, size of proposed harvest area, listening conditions, weather conditions, and season (e.g. breeding season for cockatoos).

Surveys occur annually prior to harvest and annually in harvest areas operational for more than one year. The primary aim of call-based surveys is to determine the likelihood of breeding activity occurring within coupe areas and locate important nesting hollows, for protection as part of the habitat and element retention processes. Roosts and feeding habitat are also documented to allow assessment of habitat use over time and to allow management responses to reduce impacts. Roosts for most of these species are usually located in or near riparian environments or permanent water. These areas are already protected in informal reserve systems and buffer zones.

### 4. Senescent tree surveys for hollow identification

The position of senescent trees are identified using aerial photography and satellite imagery, and are targeted for inspection during pre-harvest fauna surveys. Any tree showing clear evidence of hollow use by fauna is retained.

## Training and reporting

The FPC has appointed a consultant ecologist to oversee the implementation of the fauna monitoring and train FPC staff. FPC Staff assisting with the surveys are required to complete training in:

- set up of cameras and retrieval of survey information;
- indirect fauna monitoring techniques; and
- identification of threatened bird species and implementation of call based surveys.

All survey results are recorded and information is reviewed by the FPC's forest managers. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions verifies survey results and provides advice on appropriate management actions.



Feral cat



Western Grey Kangaroo

## Results

The images to the right are some of the species that have been captured in the camera surveys after the first 10 days of one survey.

## Stakeholder feedback

Stakeholder feedback on the methodology and results of the fauna monitoring is important. We welcome feedback on our approach to the surveys. Further information about these surveys can be provided on request by contacting [certification@fpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:certification@fpc.wa.gov.au).

Although feedback by email is preferred, your feedback may also be received verbally by contacting (+618) 9363 4600.

Written feedback can also be sent to:  
Forest Products Commission,  
Locked Bag 888,  
Perth Business Centre,  
Western Australia, 6849.

[www.fpc.wa.gov.au](http://www.fpc.wa.gov.au)