

# Glossy Black- cockatoo Recovery Program

Funding prospectus 2017–20



**Natural Resources**  
Kangaroo Island



**AUTHENTIC  
KANGAROO  
ISLAND**



Government  
of South Australia





## Threats faced by glossy black-cockatoos on KI

Selective clearance for agriculture has reduced and fragmented:

- » critical drooping sheoak feeding habitat in some areas of Kangaroo Island
- » large, old, hollow-bearing trees, particularly in areas near feeding habitat.

These losses are compounded by:

- » competition for remaining tree hollows from introduced species, including feral honey bees, little corellas and galahs
- » many more common brushtail possums, a natural nest predator that eats eggs and nestlings.

This has significantly reduced breeding success.

## Recovery Program Team

The Glossy Black-cockatoo (GBC) Recovery Program is advised by the GBC Recovery Team, comprising ecological experts, wildlife specialists, community stakeholders and land managers. The recovery team brings a wealth of strategic, technical and local knowledge and experience to the program. All recovery program activities are guided by the GBC Recovery Plan, a strategic document that describes the objectives, strategies and performance targets of the recovery program.

The GBC Strategic Plan 2015–2020 outlines the three long-term aims of the recovery program:

1. Ensure a viable breeding population of the glossy black-cockatoo persists in South Australia.
2. Shift the status of the glossy black-cockatoo from Endangered to Vulnerable by 2030.
3. Expand the current distribution of the glossy black-cockatoo to include its former range on mainland Australia, on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

## Help save a species on the brink of extinction

Now extinct on mainland Australia, the endangered glossy black-cockatoo has its last refuge on Kangaroo Island.

Natural Resources Kangaroo Island\* began recovery efforts for the species in 1995 when the population was at a low of 158 individuals.

*The population has more than doubled to 373 birds but glossies still depend on habitat restoration and nest protection to survive.*

*The Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program is one of Australia's leading examples of how good governance, strategic planning, community commitment and appropriate resources can effectively reverse the decline of a critically endangered species.*

## Why glossies need your help

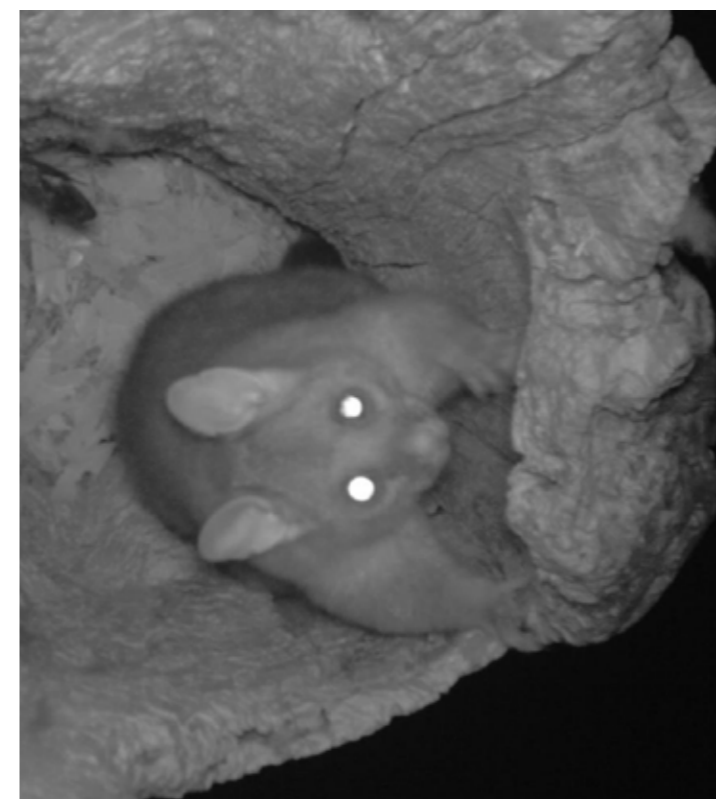
Glossy black-cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*) have a highly specialised diet, the seeds of the drooping sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*). These trees once covered the hills of the Fleurieu Peninsula, southern Mt Lofty Ranges and Eyre Peninsula.

Drooping sheoak trees proved to be a highly valuable resource for early settlers. As a prized source of firewood, and of stock feed during droughts, drooping sheoaks were selectively cleared across the South Australian landscape, destroying habitat for the glossy black-cockatoo.

Rabbit grazing prevented regeneration of sheoaks from the seedbank. With no food for survival, the glossy black-cockatoo disappeared from mainland South Australia.

*Image above: A glossy black-cockatoo chick waits for its parents to return with food at the entrance of an artificial nest box constructed by the Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program.*

*Image right: Common brushtail possum raiding a glossy nest. Image far right: Glossy feeding on a drooping sheoak cone.*



\* The Kangaroo Island Natural Resource Management Board works together with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources as Natural Resources Kangaroo Island



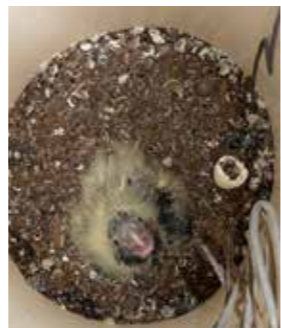
## Achievements to date 1995–2016:

**260** ha of glossy habitat planted on KI increasing this habitat by **5.5%**

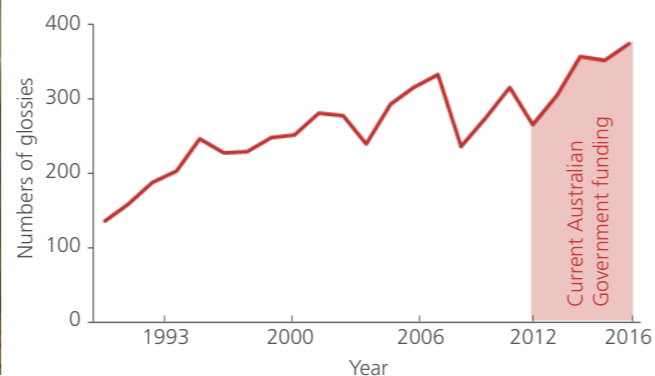


**145** ha of glossy feeding habitat planted on mainland SA

**140** artificial nests built and installed with over **250** chicks successfully raised in them



Population size doubled from **158** birds to **373** birds since 1995



**295** nest trees protected from possum predation

More than **340** volunteers have planted glossy habitat and monitored the population



**1st** glossy chick successfully bred on the Dudley Peninsula **since 1975**



Since the project began breeding rates have doubled from **23%** to **49%**



## We invite you to sponsor the Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program to:

- » increase the glossy population and remove them from the endangered species list
- » ensure this iconic species persists in South Australia and expands to the mainland
- » support valued wildlife relied on by Kangaroo Island's nature-based tourism industry, which underpins the local economy
- » maintain the unique wildlife of KI for the appreciation of all who live and visit here
- » support the stewardship efforts of the Kangaroo Island community
- » address key knowledge gaps to improve recovery efforts
- » develop recovery techniques for use Australia-wide.

## Benefits of sponsorship

- » Help save an endangered species.
- » Promote and profile your business or brand with national exposure, including through the Natural Resources Kangaroo Island website, social media, project reports and community engagement products.
- » Demonstrate your corporate social responsibility ethos and contribute to desirable environmental, social and economic outcomes for Kangaroo Island.

*Sponsors will receive regular reports outlining project activities, outcomes and budget expenditure updates.*

Please contact Natural Resources Kangaroo Island to discuss sponsorship opportunities and to tailor your offer to suit your needs and budget. All ATO-eligible donations will receive a tax deductible receipt from our partnering organisation Nature Foundation SA.

Image below left: Corrugated iron collars are fixed around trees with nesting hollows to prevent possums from accessing the glossy nest.

Image below right: A nest inspection camera mounted on an 18 metre pole enables nests to be quickly and accurately inspected with minimal disturbance to the birds.







## How you can help

All donations, large and small, can help the glossies

**With \$72,500 a year, the program can:**

- » Maintain possum exclusion on 150 nests
- » Maintain 100 artificial nesting boxes
- » Engage the community and stakeholders
- » Manage and report on the project
- » Seek additional project funds.

**With \$89,000 a year, the program can also:**

- » Conduct annual census to monitor population size, distribution and recruitment.

**With \$97,500 a year, the program can also:**

- » Band up to 30 nestlings to monitor their survival and movements.

**With \$103,500 a year, the program can also:**

- » Develop media and publicity for the program
- » Facilitate research partnerships to address key knowledge gaps.

**With \$195,000 a year, the program can also:**

- » Maintain an extra 30 artificial nesting boxes
- » Monitor long-term survival and movement
- » Monitor 50 GBC nests for breeding productivity
- » Engagement with the wider scientific community on results
- » Publish and report on long-term use of artificial nest boxes
- » Support the 'Friends of the Glossies' volunteer group.



## Friends of the Glossies:

Community support for the Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program

The Friends of the Glossies is a volunteer group established in 2012 to support the on-ground works of the Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program.

This volunteer group is ready to mobilise and undertake new citizen science projects to aid recovery and to protect and expand glossy habitat.

Since their inception, the group has:

- » helped to restore 32 ha of glossy habitat
- » contributed 200 hours to the glossy census across 4,800 ha on Kangaroo Island
- » spent 300 hours monitoring glossy nests each year on Kangaroo Island.

*"I feel protective of the glossies on KI, they are so special in a conservation perspective but they are also such characters. I love sitting quietly in the bush watching them interact and fly around in their own funny way. I get a lot back from being a glossy volunteer, it adds a balance to my work life and enriches my spirit."*

Philippa Kneebone  
Volunteer and President of Friends of the Glossies







**For more information**

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