



BANKSIA WOODLANDS OF THE SWAN COASTAL PLAIN

A nationally-recognised endangered Threatened Ecological Community and crucial for Carnaby's cockatoo feeding habitat

What are banksia woodlands, and why are they threatened?

The banksia woodlands once grew in thick bands from Jurien Bay south to Dunsborough, comprised predominantly of banksias and occasionally with eucalypts or sheoaks in the overstorey. They boast astounding understorey biodiversity of over 2000 plant species, including many orchids. A broad range of native fauna - many of which are threatened - call the woodlands home, such as Quenda, Chuditch, and the Carnaby's black cockatoo.

The woodlands have been extensively cleared over the past 200 years to make way for agriculture and urban sprawl. Today, only 40% of the original vegetation remains and is in a highly fragmented state prone to degradation, such as from weed invasion. Remnants are further threatened by *Phytophthora* dieback, feral animals, changes in hydrology, and climate change. Due to the severity of these threats and the decline of the community, the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain have become listed as an endangered TEC.

Why does this matter for Carnaby's?

Carnaby's cockatoos feed heavily on the nutritious seeds of banksias and other flowering plants found within the Banksia Woodland TEC. Therefore, this means that the loss of these woodlands results in the cockatoos losing one of their primary food source - and further increasing their risk of extinction, along with numerous other species that also rely on the ecosystem.

How can I help?

Only large, relatively intact areas of banksia woodland can qualify to be protected under national environmental law, meaning that much of the remaining areas of the endangered TEC - which are predominantly small and in a degraded state - are vulnerable to being lost to clearing, or losing further ecological function with time. Management of weeds, enhancing the understorey with native species, managing salinity and fencing off from feral herbivores is key to protecting it as Carnaby habitat. Increasing the size and health of remnant banksia woodland is key to getting them listed and protected.

If you have banksia woodlands on your property you may be eligible for NACC's financial incentives aimed at improving condition and function of this ecological community.

For more information, please contact
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