

# Glossy black-cockatoo (Kangaroo Island subspecies) *Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*

**Status** National (EPBC Act): Endangered | State (NPW Act SA): Endangered

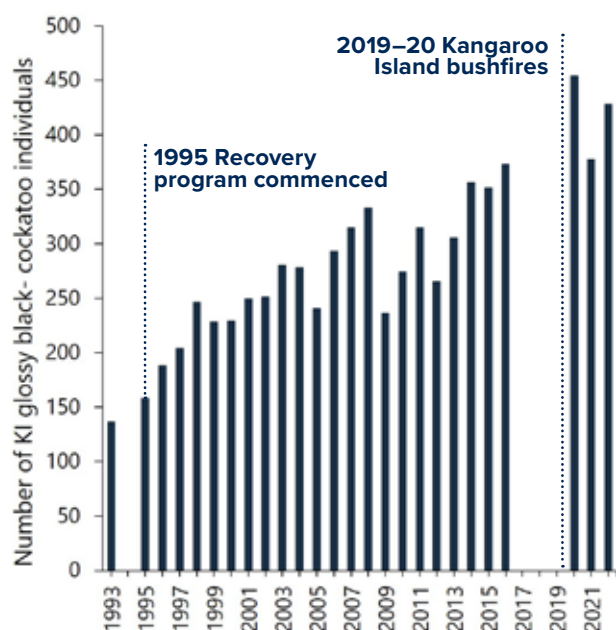
Following the 2019–20 bushfires, the Kangaroo Island (KI) population of glossy black-cockatoos is highly reliant on artificial nesting structures, and remains vulnerable to further habitat loss.

## Distribution and habitat

While the South Australian glossy black-cockatoo was historically found across the southern Mt Lofty Ranges, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island, widespread clearance of habitat resulted in the species being restricted to Kangaroo Island since the 1970s. The subspecies relies solely on drooping sheoak for food, with much of this feeding habitat found along northern Kangaroo Island. Since the 2019–20 fire, glossy black-cockatoos are persisting in all flock regions but some flocks are confined to small, unburnt patches of sheoak and revegetated areas.

## Population trend

During the early 1990s, the Kangaroo Island glossy black-cockatoo population was recognised at risk of extinction, with only approximately 150 birds remaining. Numbers increased to around 400 birds in 2019 as a result of a successful recovery program. Long-term monitoring from glossy black-cockatoo census counts on Kangaroo Island between 1993 and 2022 shows a positive population trajectory prior to the 2019–20 fire. Post-fire monitoring suggests very few birds died during the fire, but longer-term trend data are needed to ascertain the post-fire population trend.



Data source: Kangaroo Island Landscape Board.

## Threats to the species

South Australian glossy black-cockatoos are threatened by limited food resources as they only feed solely on seeds of drooping sheoaks, which have been extensively cleared. The 2019–20 fire burnt 54% of remnant drooping sheoak woodland on KI, and it will take an estimated 15–20 years for these burnt woodlands to recover and start producing seeds. The fire also completely destroyed 47% of tree hollows used by glossy black-cockatoos. Poor nesting success due to excessive nest predation by common brushtail possums, and competition from other species (e.g. galahs, little corellas and feral honeybees), has led to lack of recruitment in the glossy black-cockatoos.

## What is being done?

Since 1995, a recovery program has implemented on-ground management actions including protection of glossy black-cockatoo nests from predators and competitors, revegetation with drooping sheoak feeding habitat, and installation of artificial nest boxes to provide additional nesting habitat. Post-fire recovery actions led by the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board include additional nest box installation and protection, and further planting of sheoak seedlings. Collection of long-term monitoring data is continuing.

