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Black-Cockatoo habitat assessment of Lot 200, Plan 71178, Forrestdale
Prepared for Auspan

BACKGROUND

Auspan has submitted a clearing permit application for Lot 200, Plan 71178, Forrestdale (50 Edison Court). The property lies between Edison Court and Tonkin Highway and was cleared in or shortly before 2015 (Plate 1), but regeneration has taken place and therefore the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has requested information on the possible value of the site for black-cockatoos. Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo *Zanda latirostris* is the species most likely to be present, but both the Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksia naso* and Baudin's Black-Cockatoo *Zanda baudinii* may be preset occasionally.

The area of vegetation proposed for clearing is 1.05ha, within an overall lot area of 2.61ha. The remainder of the lot supports only grassy weeds (Plate 2). Auspan commissioned Dr Mike Bamford of Bamford Consulting Ecologists to assess the site, and it was visited on 1st August 2025.



Plate 1. Aerial view of Lot 200 from 2015, illustrating clearing had recently occurred (image provided by Auspan).



Plate 2. View of Lot 200 from Edison Court in July 2025, showing grassy weeds in the foreground and native regeneration in the middle distance (image provided by Auspan).

SITE DESCRIPTION

As a result of clearing that took place in or shortly before 2015, all vegetation on the site was regrowth (Plate 3, Plate 4). The site is low-lying and there was surface water along the north-western boundary, to the south and in land between the site and Tonkin Highway. The vegetation reflected this, consisting mostly of species associated with seasonally waterlogged condition such as *Kunzea* sp. and *Regelia* sp.. These formed dense thickets to tall thickets up to about 4m. There were scattered young Flooded Gum *Eucalyptus rudis* to about 5m. Because all plants were regrowth, maximum stem diameters were around 100mm.

The regrowth vegetation provided no nesting habitat for black-cockatoos as there were no trees of suitable size. There were no trees or even potential tree hollows to be inspected. The site would also be very unlikely to be used for roosting, as black-cockatoos typically choose tall trees in the landscape for roosting (DCCEEW 2024)[1]. Black-cockatoos will fly over and visit almost any vegetation to inspect it for foraging potential, but the vegetation lacks key food plants such as banksias and other Proteaceae (favoured by Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo), and also lacks large-fruited eucalypts such as Marri (utilised by all three black-cockatoo taxa). The site is therefore of low foraging value for black-cockatoos.

[1] DCCEEW. (2024h). *Zanda latirostris in Species Profile and Threats Database*. http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=87737



Plate 3. Vegetation in the centre/south of the site (M. Bamford. 1/08/'25). Kunzea *in the background and* Regelia *in the foreground.*



*Plate 4. Vegetation (*Kunzea*) in the north of the site (M. Bamford 1/08/'25).*