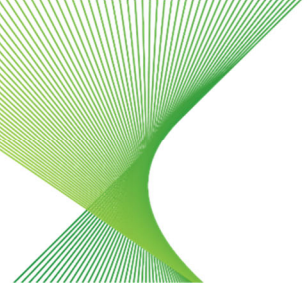


# Environmental Guidance Note – Habitat Trees

HSE DOCUMENT



Habitat trees provide nesting, breeding and/or food sources for native fauna and are defined as being:

- a. habitat for listed threatened fauna (vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered), under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, or
- b. a species of tree listed as threatened (vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered), under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, or
- c. a dominant or co-dominant living hollow-bearing tree where the trunk or limbs contain hollows, holes or cavities.

Hollows take many years to form and may not always be visible from the ground but may be apparent by looking for the presence of deformities such as protuberances of broken limbs or where the head of the tree has broken off.

Gums and Boxes tend to produce more hollows than Stringybarks or Ashes. Common hollow bearing trees include Manna gum, River red gum, Grey gum, Yellow box and Grey box.

Some trees provide important food resources for threatened species such as *Banksia sp.* for Eastern Pygmy Possum and *Casuarina sp.* for Glossy Black Cockatoos and various trees species for Koalas.

## Is harm likely?

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Potential harm to habitat trees may occur where the following activities are undertaken:

- Removal of the tree/habitat
- Pruning of the tree/habitat
- Mulching operations in area of habitat

Contact an Environment Business Partner for advice where habitat trees are proposed to be managed as an assessment of whether harm is likely is required.

## Control measures to mitigate *harm*

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Removal of habitat trees should only be undertaken if a risk assessment determines that the tree must be removed for safety reasons. Pruning to retain hollows is the preferred option.

Where threatened species flag in the vicinity, check the *Threatened Species Fact Sheets* or Threatened species profiles on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website for details of habitat requirements.

Any pruning or removal of habitat trees that are habitat for fauna, work must be undertaken outside the breeding season (refer to *Threatened Species Information Sheets located on The Wire*).

If it is not practicable to undertake pruning or removal of the tree outside of the breeding season for fauna species, contact your local Transgrid Environment Business Partner for advice.

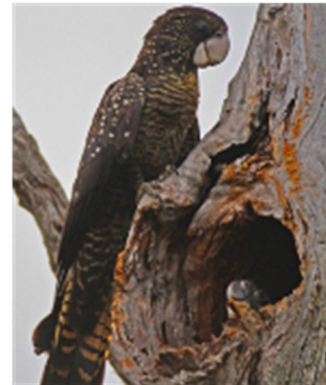
Pruning or removal of habitat trees that fall into category (a) or (b) above may require a 5 Part Test. Seek advice from an Environment Business Partner.

Hollows should be checked for the presence of fauna prior to tree felling or pruning.

Pruning of hollow bearing trees must be undertaken so that where possible hollows are retained.



Gums and Boxes tend to produce more hollows than Stringybarks or Ashes (Sydney Red Gum example above)



Hollows provide breeding/nesting habitat for



Many species of mammals utilise tree hollows



Hollows provide shelter for fauna



Where possible leave natural knots and broken branches as they will often develop into useable hollows



Some tree species provide specific food resources, such as *Casuarina sp.* for Black Cockatoos and some species of Eucalypt for Koalas