



HOLLOW AUGMENTATION AND HABITAT REHABILITATION

THREATS TO SUPERB PARROTS

Creating Superb Homes for Parrots

The Superb Parrot

The Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) is a large green parrot with distinctive scythe shaped wings in flight.

Males sport a bright yellow forehead and throat with a red crescent at the base of the throat. Females are a slightly duller green with a light blue colouration in place of the males brightly coloured face and throat markings.

Superb Parrots are generally seen in small flocks and occasionally up to 60 birds.

Distribution

The Superb Parrot is found through much of eastern inland NSW, extending into northern Victoria with records existing from southern Queensland.

Breeding occurs throughout the Central Tablelands and South West Slopes; along the Murrumbidgee River; and in the Murray and Edwards Rivers regions.

The birds typically migrate to northern NSW during winter in an area west of Coonabarabran and Narrabri

Breeding

The Superb Parrot is a hollow nesting species that utilises hollows in large living or dead trees. They nest in small colonies, often with multiple nests in a single tree, typically from September to January.

- Loss of living and dead hollow bearing trees
- Loss of breeding and foraging habitat
- Poor regeneration of nesting trees and food resources
- Feeding on grain spills and subsequently being struck by vehicles
- Loss of hollows to feral bees and native and exotic hollow nesting birds
- Loss of habitat trees from fire damage during hazard reduction and stubble burns



This project is a collaboration between the Environment & Waterways Alliance and Central Tablelands Local Land Services



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The Hollow Augmentation Process

The hollow augmentation process involves a qualified arborist cutting artificial hollows into standing trees that may be dead or alive.

The process involves the removal of a 'face plate' or slab of timber which is set aside while the cavity is created with a chainsaw. Once the desired sized nesting chamber has been cut out, the face plate is re-attached and an entrance hole is cut to provide access to the hollow.

Over 200 of these hollows, specifically prepared for Superb Parrots, have been

created across the Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra and Orange Local Government Areas.

Revegetation

In addition to the hollows being created, several thousand trees, shrubs and grasses have been planted across the project areas to create habitat for the Superb Parrot with a suite of educational materials produced including posters and flyers.



Partnerships and Collaboration

This project is provided by Central Tablelands Local Land Services through funding from Catchment Action NSW.

The project is being delivered by the Central West Councils Environment & Waterways Alliance - an alliance of 18 Councils across the Central West region of NSW.

Specifically, the works have been conducted in partnership with Bathurst Regional Council, Blayney Shire Council, Cabonne Council, Cowra Council and Orange City Council.

Additional funding has been

received from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation to fund a thesis project on the efficacy of the hollow augmentation process. While there is extensive anecdotal evidence to support this habitat creation technique, to date there have been no published studies investigating fauna preference

of these hollows in comparison to nest boxes or naturally formed hollows.

The Orange Field Naturalist & Conservation Society has kindly assisted with the production of educational resources.

