

\$3.2m to help save Australia's last 1,500 south-eastern red-tailed black-cockatoos

[ABC South East SA](#)

By [Glen Moret](#)

13 Dec 2018

South-eastern red-tailed black cockatoos are an iconic part of the rural landscape but fussy eating habits and Australia's changing habitats has seen their numbers dwindle to about 1,500.

Now, there are hopes \$3.2 million in funding from the Federal Government will help protect the endangered cockatoos which are found in south-east South Australia and south-west Victoria.



Photo: [Over 240 hectares of stringybark trees will be planted in an effort to help the species.](#) (Supplied: [Bob McPherson](#))

Natural Resources South East biodiversity coordinator Cassie Hlava said the birds were picky eaters and in Australia's changing landscape, there was not enough feeding habitat for them.

"They only eat seeds from three species of trees — the brown stringy bark, the desert stringy bark and the bull oak," she said.

Although other red-tailed black-cockatoos can be found in many parts of Australia, it is the south-eastern which is endangered.

The government funding will go toward regenerating habitat and planting feed and nest trees over the next five years.

"Nests within three kilometres of that feeding habitat is really important to try and make those nesting attempts successful," Ms Hlava said.

"We'll be planting 240 hectares of stringybark feeding habitat for the red-tails including at least 15,000 feed trees and 2,500 bull oaks."

PUBLIC'S HELP VITAL FOR BIRD'S FUTURE

The funding will be distributed through partnerships with organisations like Trees for Life and BirdLife Australia but the public's help is being flagged as essential for the bird's long-term future.

"People don't have to necessarily plant trees on their properties to be involved," Ms Hlava said.

"We need people to help grow seedlings, people to keep an eye out for the birds and help with monitoring and weed control in their habitats."

RED-TAILED AN ICONIC PART OF LOCAL LANDSCAPE

Ms Hlava said the bird is particularly special for locals in south-east South Australia.

"It's an iconic part of the landscape, and anyone who's seen or heard a red tail will just know that you get a really amazing feeling when you see one," she said

"I think a lot of the people here relate to that feeling and they want to keep them here for a long time to come.

"It's sort of up to everyone now to make sure that we can keep these beautiful birds here for the future."