



THREATENED SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ACT

Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*)

A vulnerable species

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The Superb Parrot is a slender grass-green parrot, about 400 mm in length, with a distinctively long tail. The male's general plumage is brilliant green with yellow-green underparts. The forehead, throat and cheeks are yellow and there is a scarlet band across the foreneck. The female is green, with a dull bluish-green face.

The Superb Parrot forages mainly on the ground for seeds of grasses and herbs but also feeds in the canopy and outer branches of shrubs.

Loose nesting colonies are formed around clusters of nest trees. The female remains at the nest throughout incubation and until the chicks are well developed.

The species occurs in central and eastern inland NSW, parts of northern ACT and northern central Victoria. The Hall area in the northern part of the ACT forms the southern edge of one of the two main centres for breeding distribution of the Superb Parrot. The species arrives in the ACT region during August to breed, departing the following January.

In the ACT region, Yellow Box-Red Gum Grassy Woodlands form the major habitat of the species, with *E. blakelyi* being the main source of nesting hollows.

Critical habitat features for the Superb Parrot include clusters of large living and dead trees for nesting sites.

CONSERVATION THREATS

- Inappropriate fire regimes.
- Uncontrolled grazing by livestock.
- Clearing of both living and dead trees.
- Rural tree dieback.
- Use of chemicals.

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CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- Identification of key habitats and potential habitats.
- Protection and management of habitat including:
 - maintenance of woodland remnants and isolated paddock trees;
 - limitation on removal of live and dead timber;
 - prevention of intensive grazing;
 - regeneration of habitat;
 - minimisation of adverse effects of fire; and
 - minimising nest hollow competition.
- Monitoring long term trends and status.
- Research into the ecology and conservation requirements of the species.
- Liaison to achieve regional approach to conservation.
- Education and community liaison to raise community awareness.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The primary source of information for this Information Sheet is the ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy—Action Plan No. 27 where a full bibliography is available. Action Plans are available from the Environment ACT Website: www.environment.act.gov.au or the Arts, Heritage and Environment Information Centre at 12 Wattle Street, Lyneham ACT.

Acknowledgement

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