29 September 2026

Stuart Simmonds
Principal – Biodiversity
Worsley Alumina

Dear Stuart,

Please find below a summary of the 2026 Black Cockatoo artificial hollow monitoring undertaken at the Gibbs Offset Property.

1 Background

South32 Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd (S32) is expanding its bauxite mining operations near Boddington. As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process, a number of Offset Implementation Plans (OIP) have been prepared to support the Biodiversity Offset Plan (BOP).

Ecology Matters Australia (EMA) has been commissioned to monitor 54 artificial hollows at the Gibbs Offset Property. These hollows were installed in early 2025; monitoring events undertaken by EMA in October and December 2025 returned no documented breeding attempts.

The scope of the current monitoring program comprises:

- Inspect the installed artificial hollows at the Gibbs Offset Site for evidence or confirmation of use by black cockatoos.
- Record evidence of use at each artificial nesting hollow in accordance with DBCA (2023).
- Identify any artificial hollow maintenance needs in accordance with DBCA (2023).

2 Monitoring Surveys

The artificial hollows have been assessed by suitably experienced zoologists on three occasions this year (Table 2-1):

Table 2-1. Dates and personnel of the 2026 monitoring surveys

Personnel	20th – 22nd January 2026	29th May 2026	13th August 2026
Hannah Burgess	X		X
Alex Miller	X		
Courtney Sparks		X	
Nathan Ducker		X	X (drone only)
Tim Gamblin			X

3 Methods

Each artificial nesting hollow was checked for black cockatoo activity by:

- Tapping the tree to flush a female
- Listening for nestlings
- Inspecting the sacrificial post for signs of use
- Observing insect activity around the hollow
- Looking inside the hollow using a telescopic pole and camera, or drone (only if a female is not flushed).

Maintenance checks of artificial hollows were also undertaken; these included checking the following:

- Condition of chewing posts
- Condition of attachment points
- Condition of hollow bases
- Stability of tree or pole used to mount the artificial hollow.

4 Results

Use of the artificial hollows at the Gibbs Offset property during the three checks this year are described below and summarised in Table 4-1.

During the January survey, 26 of the 54 hollows were opportunistically assessed. None contained any evidence of black cockatoo use. A Baudin's Cockatoo was observed in the tree containing OHT01, and two Carnaby's Cockatoos were observed in the tree containing OHT06.

All 54 artificial hollows were assessed during the May survey. Sixteen hollows were found to have either one, or a combination of the following signs: possible chew marks, faecal matter on the outside and/or inside, and downy feathers. None of these signs can be confidently attributed to confirmed black cockatoo breeding at this time. The remaining 38 artificial hollows showed no evidence of use. Two of the 38 hollows contained chewed marri nuts from non-target bird species, these are likely to have fallen in during feeding events above the hollow, hence their inclusion in this category.

All 54 hollows were checked during the August survey. Of these, four hollows contained faecal matter, and the remaining 48 hollows showed no evidence of black cockatoo use, however two (OHT28 and OHT29) were occupied by Common Brushtail Possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula hypoleucus*).

Overall, no artificial hollows were confirmed to have been used by black cockatoos during the survey period. Although several hollows exhibited signs that may indicate investigation or potential use, there was insufficient evidence to confirm occupancy or breeding activity.

Table 4-1. Summary of artificial hollow use during each survey

Date	No evidence of use	Evidence of black cockatoo use (Unconfirmed – e.g. chewing, Faecal matter, feathers)	Non-target species use	Total checked
January 2026	26	0	0	**26**
May 2026	38	16	0	**54**
August 2026	48	4	2	**54**

Yours Sincerely,

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