

## Endangered cockatoos flourish at protected reserve

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Updated Tue 20 May 2014, 4:39pm AEST



**PHOTO:** Birdlife Australia south east's Bob Green points out an endangered bird species at Eaglehawk Waterhole, near Frances. (Danielle Grindlay)

**GALLERY:** [Eaglehawk Waterhole restoration reserve](#)

**There are less than 1500 south eastern red-tailed black cockatoos left in the world, but a new South Australian project is working to reverse the population decline.**

The nationally endangered species is dependent on native vegetation for food and habitat.

Farmers' mass clearance regimes have greatly affected survival rates.

In some parts of South Australia farmers have cleared to such an extent that only 10 per cent of native vegetation remains.

Conservation group Nature Glenelg Trust has acquired a 684 hectare sheep farm near the border of Victoria and has plans to restore the land to its natural state.



**PHOTO:** Bird expert Doctor David Baker Gabb and Nature Glenelg Trust manager Mark Bachmann share visions for the freshly-acquired Eaglehawk Waterhole, near Frances, with 100 guests. (Danielle Grindlay)

**MAP:** [Frances 5262](#)

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The Eaglehawk Waterhole property, near Frances and Victoria's Little Desert National Park, features large plantations of stringybark and blue gum.

**AUDIO:** [Protected home for endangered species](#) (ABC Rural)

The trust will hold planting days and hopes to see bird and other endangered species' numbers, increase with revegetation.

Trust manager Mark Bachmann says more than 100 people, including farmers from both sides of the border, attended an on-site open day to learn about restoration plans.

"Just removing the stock itself and allowing nature to take its course will bring back a lot of the species we're looking for.

"If you look at the statistics for the south east region, it's pretty clear that projects like this are required.

"We've lost such a large amount of our native vegetation and this is just one small way that we're hoping to reverse that trend."

Ornithologist Dr David Baker-Gabb did bird surveys in the region and found that 90 per cent of the endangered cockatoos were already living at the Eaglehawk Waterhole property.

"You're talking (about) a species that only has fewer than say 1500 birds left in the world.

"Having 40 or 50 birds on one property, consistently feeding there all year round, makes it a really stand out property for that species."

A further 15 regionally endangered bird species, including the hooded robin, have also been spotted on the property.

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First posted Tue 20 May 2014, 3:49pm AEST

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