

Action statement

Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

Black Falcon (*Falco subniger*)

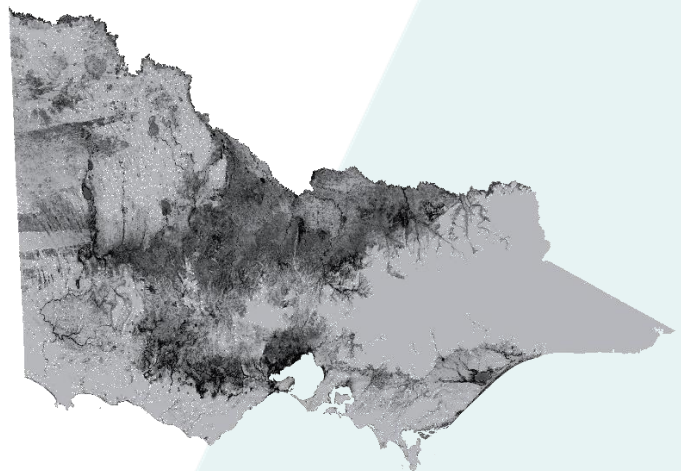
Taxon ID: 10238

Action statements are developed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act). Their preparation and implementation complement the FFG Act strategy *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037* and its vision that “Victoria's biodiversity is healthy, valued and actively cared for”.

Species and Distribution



Black Falcon. Image by Sam Gordon.



This habitat distribution model displays the indicative range of the Black Falcon based on occurrence records and likely habitat. See [NatureKit](#) for an interactive map. The Black Falcon also occurs outside of Victoria.

Conservation Status

Critically Endangered

Listing criteria: 3.1.3(b)(ii) of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020.

This means that:

- the total number of Black Falcon mature individuals is very low, the number is likely to continue to decline and most of the individuals are in one subpopulation.

Corresponding International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria: C2a(ii).

More information on IUCN listing criteria can be found here: [IUCN Red List criteria](#).

Species Information

Species information such as its description, distribution, ecology and references are provided in the [Black Falcon Species Forecast Report](#).

Threats

Threats listed below have been identified through expert consultation, published literature and spatial analysis.

Threat	Description
Habitat loss, degradation or modification	
Dryland salinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased groundwater salinity in some irrigated areas contributes to the loss of large trees.
Land use change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use change from grazing to cropping can alter hydrology, degrade, and deplete roosting and nesting habitat (mature trees), and the habitat of prey (e.g., native grasslands). This will impact the abundance of prey and populations of the Black Falcon. Large scale irrigation modernisation programs (conversion of open channels to pipelines) may reduce populations of prey.
Loss of key habitat features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of mature paddock trees and vegetation in the riparian (streamside) zone can limit nesting and foraging opportunities.
Vegetation clearing or damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical and ongoing removal (both permitted and illegal) of habitat has reduced availability of mature trees for breeding and impacts some prey species populations. Expansion of urban development is contributing to habitat loss in some areas.
Climate change	
Extreme weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change, increasing temperature and a potentially continuing decline in rainfall in northern Victoria are likely to amplify existing threats.
Human disturbance	
Animal collision with built structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct mortality resulting from collisions with wires, fences, and vehicles.
Native species	
Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competition for, and interference at, limited nest trees by over-abundant ravens (<i>Corvus</i> spp.), magpies (<i>Gymnorhina</i> spp.) and cockatoos, or other raptor species, may impact breeding opportunities and breeding success.

Conservation Objectives

Conservation objectives are informed by the conservation status and criteria under which the species was listed under the FFG Act. This provides a framework to understand how we can work towards recovery and improve the species' conservation status over time as per the objectives of the FFG Act.

The key objectives of this action statement are:

- Mitigate threats to populations and habitat to increase resilience and minimise future population decline.
- Increase knowledge of biology, ecology, distribution, demography, emerging threats, and conservation requirements.
- Support community participation and improve awareness of the Black Falcon and conservation of its habitat.

Conservation Actions

The actions below have been identified through expert consultation, published literature and spatial analysis. Actions are listed in alphabetical order to allow all interested parties to prioritise based on their context, capacity, and capability. Landscape scale actions may mitigate threats for other species. For more information on where to undertake actions that benefit multiple species and identify the most beneficial locations to undertake actions for this species, please refer to [NatureKit](#).

Action	Description
Community engagement and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase landholder awareness about the Black Falcon, including its role in food webs, the importance of paddock trees and native grasslands to its survival, and the impact of livestock grazing and cropping on the habitat and prey availability.
Compliance and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake risk-based compliance and enforcement activities to limit the impacts of illegal native vegetation removal.
Develop, update, and apply forestry prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain prescriptions for this species under the <i>Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 (as amended in 2022)</i> (the Code). Where relevant, incorporate species-specific protection measures into plans and permits relating to timber harvesting operations in native forest on private land.
Protect key habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to manage threats of land use change and development (including retaining isolated remnants and paddock trees). Protect and manage remaining areas of extensive grassland and woodland habitats, which support prey species, along with large trees for nesting habitat. Encourage the protection and conservation management of mature paddock trees and riparian zones within the species' preferred habitat.
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake research to identify the species' recruitment success, nesting requirements and locations.
Restoration and/or revegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore and/or revegetate areas of degraded or lost habitat with species that meet the ecological requirements of the Black Falcon.

**Indicates landscape-scale actions that may deliver benefits to multiple species*

Past Actions

The key conservation management actions listed below have been delivered in the past 10 years.

Past action	Description
Develop, update, and apply forestry protections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Black Falcon has a current species-specific prescription in the Code: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Portland-Horsham Forest Management Area: Apply a management area of 250 m radius over each nesting site. Within 250 m of nesting site, avoid timber harvesting, road construction and burning during breeding season. Apply a protection area with a 100 m radius around nest trees.
Permanent protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent protection of more than 3000 ha of native grassland on the Northern Plains through land acquisition and covenants.
Restoration and/or revegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and restoration of paddock trees, small remnants, and riparian vegetation.

Decision Support Tools

Decision making for conservation actions is supported through the following Victorian Government tools which may be of assistance in choosing the most appropriate or beneficial actions for biodiversity:

- [Choosing actions for nature: NatureKit](#)
- [Biodiversity Knowledge Framework](#)

Further Information

- [Black Falcon Species Forecast Report](#)
- [Threatened Species Assessment report – Black Falcon \(*Falco subniger*\)](#)
- [Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014](#)
- [Commonwealth Species Profile and Threats database](#)
- [Victoria's changing climate – understanding the impacts of climate change on Victoria](#)
- [Genetic Risk Index](#)
- [Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020](#)
- [IUCN criteria summary](#)

Get Involved and Take Action

If you are interested in supporting this species' recovery, there are some important things you need to consider.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is committed to engaging and partnering with Traditional Owners on how they wish to be involved in the planning and implementation of actions for this species. Steps must be taken to avoid harm and where appropriate ensure actions can deliver cultural benefits.

You can find advice about required approvals, land manager and/or owner permissions, options and incentives for private land conservation, and engagement with Traditional Owners and public land managers here: [Action statements \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](#)

To identify the relevant Traditional Owners, use the [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System \(ACHRIS\) Welcome to Country and Acknowledgements Map](#).

You can also register your interest in taking action so we can connect you to other people or organisations working to help us secure the future for this species at threatened.species@deeca.vic.gov.au

Reporting Actions

Activity data is critical to monitoring the implementation and progress of actions and evaluating action statements. These data are also used to:

- Determine progress towards achieving the contributing targets for [Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037](#).
- Inform the five-yearly State of the Environment Report.

For guidance on reporting actions undertaken on this species, refer to [Activity Data](#).

Submitting Monitoring Data

The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) provides a foundational dataset showing where biodiversity occurs across the Victorian landscape and how it may have changed over time. As a core input for decision support tools that inform conservation action, public land management, research activities and reporting, we encourage all participants in the delivery of on-ground actions to submit species records and observations, including to introduced plants and animals, as they carry out their projects.

For further information see: [Victorian Biodiversity Atlas \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Sign up and begin submitting your data today at: <https://vba.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/>

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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