



NATURAL
RESOURCES
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

Fauna camera monitoring at Cranbourne West

Autumn 2025



Fauna monitoring at Cranbourne – Autumn 2025

During 2025, Mal's Ecological & Environmental Services Pty Ltd was again commissioned by the NRCL Board to conduct its faunal camera monitoring program at the Cranbourne West property. This year marked the 10th camera monitoring research survey program conducted since the program commenced in 2017 and was designed to determine whether Southern Brown Bandicoots (SBBs) and other threatened fauna species still exist or have moved onto the property. It is also designed to monitor the existing fauna species and to determine whether populations are fluctuating and also informs NRCL of its needs for pest plant and animal control actions.

The study area is located within Cranbourne West at NRCL's property on 950 Westernport Highway, which falls within the City of Casey, Victoria and falls within the Gippsland Plains Bioregion (DNRE 1997). The aims and objectives of works for the camera monitoring project include:

- a review of threatened fauna databases of the study area;
- conducting motion-censored camera surveys at monitoring sites;
- obtaining data on threatened & other fauna population densities within the study area; and
- report to the Board on the survey results and share project data with relevant stakeholders.

During the most recent surveys, due to construction works that included the new Wetland and Waterway, site selection was achieved by deploying cameras at new monitoring sites within the 'General Exclusion Zone' that preserves areas from works being undertaken. NRCL plans to reintroduce surveys of the new wetland in 2025. Recommendations from past monitoring surveys have included:

- Continue to conduct fox, cat and rabbit control programs during spring;
- Retention of all River Red Gums on the property in order to retain and provide habitat for the Red-rumped Parrot. This regionally significant species is habitat specific and occurs on the property due to the presence of River Red Gums;
- Monitor Red-rumped Parrot breeding boxes during breeding season;
- Retain creek and plant out areas with dense indigenous vegetation to provide habitats for waterfowl such-as Australasian Shoveler and Buff-banded Rail; and
- Ensure the new wetlands incorporate shallow areas for wading birds (dotterels & stilts) and deep areas for diving birds (ducks & grebes etc). Also, bird observing hides can be built around the wetlands for the public's pleasure and education.

The most significant fauna species photographed in the smaller survey areas in 2024 was the Common Brushtail Possum, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Buff-banded Rail, Common Bronzewing, Eastern Rosella and White-browed Scrub-wren, which are local to regionally threatened species. In total, 58 fauna species have been observed during the ten camera monitoring periods since 2017 and of these, 48 are indigenous fauna species and ten are introduced fauna species. The tables below show the Fauna taxa detected throughout the survey study site since 2017.

KEY-Significance/status of species:

N National

S State

R Regional

HL High Local

L Local

* Introduced

Type of record:

h Heard

s Seen

I Incidental (scats, feathers etc.)

t Trapped/handheld

a recorded on Anabat 2 Bat Detector

v Filmed on Scout-guard Camera

B Breeding residential bird

Table 1. Amphibian results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation status within the property.	Type of record
Crinia signifera	Common Froglet	Common	Lhs
Limnodynastes dumerilli	Southern Bullfrog	Common	Lhs
Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	Spotted Marsh Frog	Common	Lhs
Litoria ewingii	Southern Brown Tree Frog	Common	Lhs
Litoria verreauxii	Verreaux's Tree Frog	Common	Lhs

Table 2. Reptile results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation status within the property.	Type of record
TORTOISES			
Chelodinia longicollis	Common Long-necked Tortoise	Common	Ss
LIZARDS			
Lampropholis guichenoti	Garden Skink	Common	Lst
Saproscincus mustellinus	Weasel Skink	Uncommon	Rst
Tiliqua nigrolutea	Blotched Blue-tongue	Rare	Rst

Table 3. Wetland bird results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation status within the property.	Type of record
Phalacrocorax melanoleucos	Little Pied Cormorant	Rare	Lhs
Tachybaptus novaehollandiae	Australasian Grebe	Rare	Lhs
Poliiocephalus poliocephalus	Hoary-headed Grebe	Rare	Lhs
Anas superciliosa	Pacific Black Duck	Uncommon	Lhs
Anas castanea	Chestnut Teal	Uncommon	Lhs
Anas rhynchotis	Australasian Shoveler	Rare	Sc
Chenonetta jubata	Australian Wood Duck	Common	Lhs
Gallirallus philippensis	Buff-banded Rail	Rare	Rhsc
Gallinula tenebrosa	Dusky Moorhen	Uncommon	Lhsc
Porphyrio porphyria	Purple Swamphen	Rare	Lhs
Fulica atra	Eurasian Coot	Uncommon	Lhs
Egretta novaehollandiae	White-faced Heron	Rare	Lhs
Threskiornis molucca	Australian White Ibis	Uncommon	Lhs
Threskiornis spinicollis	Straw-necked Ibis	Uncommon	Lhs
Vanellus miles	Masked Lapwing	Uncommon	Lhs
Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe	Rare	
Erythrogony scinctus	Red-kneed Dotterel	Uncommon	Rhs
Himantopus himantopus	Black-winged Stilt	Rare	Rhs
Elseiyomis melanops	Black-fronted Dotterel	Rare	Rhs

Table 4. Woodland bird results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation status within the property.	Type of record
Turnix varia	Painted Button-quail	Rare	RLs
Circus approximans	Swamp Harrier	Uncommon	HLs
Elanus axillaris	Black-shouldered Kite	Rare	HLs
Phaps chalcoptera	Common Bronzewing	Uncommon	HLhs
Ocyphaps lophotes	Crested Pigeon	Uncommon	LHs

<i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>	Galah	Common	LHs
<i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>	Long-billed Corella	Uncommon	Lhsc
<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	Rainbow Lorikeet	Common	Lhs
<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	Eastern Rosella	Uncommon	Lhs
<i>Psephotus haematonolus</i>	Red-rumped Parrot	Rare	Rhs
<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	Superb Fairy-wren	Common	Lhs
<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	Spotted Pardalote	Common	Lhs
<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>	White-browed Scrubwren	Common	Lhsc
<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>	Brown Thornbill	Rare	Lhs
<i>Acanthiza carunculata</i>	Red Wattlebird	Rare	Lhs
<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	Noisy Miner	Common	Lhs
<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	Flame Robin	Rare	Rhs
<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	Willy Wagtail	Rare	Lhs
<i>Grallina cyanoleura</i>	Magpie-lark	Uncommon	Lhs
<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	Grey Butcherbird	Uncommon	Lhs
<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Australian Magpie	Uncommon	Lhs
<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	Australian Raven	Uncommon	hs
<i>Corvus mellori</i>	Little Raven	Common	Lhs
<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	Welcome Swallow	Uncommon	Lhs
<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	Golden-headed Cisticola	Rare	Lhs
<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	Richard's Pipit	Uncommon	Lhs
* <i>Turdus merula</i>	Common Blackbird	Common	hs
* <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	Rare	hs
* <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	Common	hs
* <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Spotted Turtle-Dove	Uncommon	hs
* <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna	Common	hs

Table 5. Mammal results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation status within the property.	Type of record
MONOTREMES			
Tachyglossus aculeatus	Short-beaked Echidna	Uncommon	Rslv
MARSUPIALS			
Trichosurus vulpecula	Common Brushtail Possum	Uncommon	Lhsv
Pseudocheirus peregrinus	Common Ringtail Possum	Common	Lhs
Macropus giganteus	Eastern Grey Kangaroo	Rare	Lhs
INTRODUCED MAMMALS			
*Rattus rattus	Black Rat	Uncommon	tv
*Mus musculus	House Mouse	Common	tv
*Oryctolagus cuniculus	European Rabbit	Uncommon	hs
*Vulpes vulpes	Red Fox	Common	S
*Felis catus	Feral Cat	Uncommon	s

Some of the fauna photographed in Autumn 2025:



Short beaked echidna



European red fox



Common bronzewing