

## January – December 2023 Nest Box Inspections



Inside nestbox using the new camera.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

During April 2017 Northparkes developed and implemented a Habitat Augmentation Works Report, which included the installation of a total of 78 nest boxes, targeting five different animal species, in the farms and offset areas. An annual inspection October 2023 was undertaken to determine both the condition of the nest boxes and if there was any evidence of nesting birds utilising the boxes.

In 2023 a nestbox camera was purchased and utilised on boxes that could be reached.

## 2. RESULTS

The results of the inspection are provided in Table 1 below.

West Beechmore has a total of 10 nest boxes installed. From the inspection, one box was in poor condition with the roof missing and one in an average condition with a hole chewed in it. Photos were taken in two of the boxes using the new camera, and they appeared unused and empty.

Middle Beechmore has a total of 9 nest boxes installed. From the inspection, three were in a poor condition with sides missing, or the wire on the inside missing (meaning the juvenile birds cannot get out of the box).

Brians Billabong has a total of 27 nest boxes installed. From the inspection, five nest boxes were in poor condition with a combination of sides missing or broken, boxes being turned and unstable or have fallen from the tree. Access to replace the boxes in this area has been hindered due to the amount of water in the billabong making it impossible for the arborists to climb up to the boxes.

Escort Offset has a total of 12 nest boxes installed. From the inspection, all boxes were in a good or average condition with three of them chewed by birds. One box had remnants of a wasp nest inside and none of the other boxes photographed looked like they had been used.

The Kokoda Offset area has a total of 20 nest boxes installed. From the inspection, all boxes were in a good to average condition. Five showed scratchings or chewing by birds.

**Table 1. Results of nest box inspection**

Region	ID	Easting	Northing	Nest box direction facing	Tree type	Condition (Good, Average, Poor)	Comments
West Beechmore	SU01	594412	6356271	SW - Top	GREY	Good	
West Beechmore	SU02	594412	6356271	E	GREY	Good	Photo - empty
West Beechmore	SU03	594404	6356274	S - Top	GREY	Good	
West Beechmore	SU04	594404	6356274	NE	GREY	Good	
West Beechmore	SU05	594381	6356281	N	GREY	Good	
West Beechmore	SU06	594381	6356281	SE	GREY	Good	Photo - empty
West Beechmore	SU07	594358	6356301	W - Top	GREY	Good	
West Beechmore	G08	594358	6356301	W - Bottom	GREY	Poor	Needs replaced - roof missing
West Beechmore	SU09	594367	6356297	NW	GREY	Average	Hole chewed - still ok
West Beechmore	B10	594367	6356297	NE	GREY	Good	
Middle Beechmore	SU11	595627	6356058	NW	GREY	Average	Corner of roof chewed away
Middle Beechmore	SU12	595627	6356058	W	GREY	Good	Some chewing on roof
Middle Beechmore	SU13	595628	6356068	W	GREY	Good	Photo

Region	ID	Easting	Northing	Nest box direction facing	Tree type	Condition (Good, Average, Poor)	Comments
Middle Beechmore	SU14	595628	6356068	N	GREY	Poor	Needs replaced - side missing
Middle Beechmore	SU15	595641	6356051	N - Bottom	GREY	Poor	Photo (10.06) Inside wire missing - needs replaced
Middle Beechmore	SU16	595641	6356051	E - Top	GREY	Good	
Middle Beechmore	SU17	595649	6356055	NE	GREY	Good	
Middle Beechmore	SU18	595670	6356057	S	GREY	Poor	Photo (10.09) leaves and dead body - potential rainbow lorikeet. Needs replaced - appears no wire on the inside
Middle Beechmore	SU19	595670	6356057	NE	GREY	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU20	596301	6355932	S	GREY	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU21	596301	6355932	SE	GREY	Good	Photo (10.30)
Brians Billabong	SU22	596298	6355934	W	GREY	Average	Chewed lid - photo 10.29 am
Brians Billabong	SU23	596284	6355934	S	GREY	Good	Photo (10.29)
Brians Billabong	SU24	596286	6355925	S	GREY	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU25	596286	6355925	E	GREY	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU26	596294	6355922	N	GREY	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU27	596294	6355922	N	GREY	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU28	596340	6355920	S	RED RIVER	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU29	596340	6355920	N/W - 2nd from top	RED RIVER	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU30	596340	6355920	E - 3rd from top	RED RIVER	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU31	596340	6355920	N	RED RIVER	Poor	Needs replaced - side missing
Brians Billabong	SU32	596361	6355917	NE - Bottom	RED RIVER	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU33	596361	6355917	W	RED RIVER	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU34	596361	6355917	E	RED RIVER	Poor	Needs replaced - missing - fell off
Brians Billabong	SU35	596361	6355917	W	RED RIVER	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU36	596370	6355891	E	RED RIVER	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU37	596370	6355891	N/W	RED RIVER	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU38	596378	635588	N/W	RED RIVER	Poor	Side door open
Brians Billabong	SU39	596378	635588	N	RED RIVER	Good	Nest box moved - facing difference direction
Brians Billabong	SU40	596363	6355879	E - Middle	RED RIVER	Good	Photo 10.37
Brians Billabong	SU41	596363	6355879	SW - Top	RED RIVER	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU42	596363	6355879	NW Bottom	RED RIVER	Good	
Brians Billabong	SU43	596369	6355872	S	RED RIVER	Poor	Needs replaced - missing side
Brians Billabong	SU44	596369	6355872	S/W Bottom	RED RIVER	Average	

Region	ID	Easting	Northing	Nest box direction facing	Tree type	Condition (Good, Average, Poor)	Comments
Brians Billabong	SU45	596365	6355860	E - Top	RED RIVER	Poor	Needs replaced - roof has hole
Brians Billabong	SU46	596365	6355860	S - Bottom	RED RIVER	Good	
Escourt Offset	SU47	599037	6361366	N	GREY	Good	
Escourt Offset	SU48	599047	6361368	N	YELLOW	Average	Chewing @ hole - still ok
Escourt Offset	SU49	599097	6361366	E - Top	YELLOW	Good	Photo
Escourt Offset	G50	599097	6361366	SW Bottom	YELLOW	No longer exists	
Escourt Offset	SU51	599110	6361392	N - Top	YELLOW	Good	
Escourt Offset	SU52	599110	6361392	S - Bottom	YELLOW	Average	Previously had wasp nest - needs clean out (photo)
Escourt Offset	SU53	599121	6361466	E - Top	YELLOW	Good	Small amount of chewing
Escourt Offset	SU54	599121	6361466	S - Bottom	YELLOW	Good	Small amount of chewing
Escourt Offset	G55	599074	6361478	W - Top	YELLOW	Good	
Escourt Offset	B56	599074	6361478	S - Bottom	YELLOW	Good	
Escourt Offset	P57	599084	6361502	SW	YELLOW	Good	Photo empty
Escourt Offset	SU58	599084	6361502	SW	YELLOW	Good	
Kokoda Offset	SP59	635511	6317793	W	MUGGA	Average	
Kokoda Offset	SU60	635511	6317793	N	MUGGA	Average	
Kokoda Offset	P61	635511	6317793	E	MUGGA	Average	
Kokoda Offset	SU62	635557	6317829	W	GREY	Average	Scratching around entrance
Kokoda Offset	B63	635557	6317829	W	GREY	Good	
Kokoda Offset	SU64	635618	6317952	E - Top	RED RIVER	Average	Tipped to side
Kokoda Offset	SU65	635618	6317952	NE - Bottom	RED RIVER	Average	Scratchings
Kokoda Offset	SU66	636651	6318441	NE	MUGGA	Average	Scratchings
Kokoda Offset	SU67	636651	6318441	N	MUGGA	Good	
Kokoda Offset	SU68	636570	6318458	E	MUGGA	Good	
Kokoda Offset	SU69	636570	6318458	NE	MUGGA	Average	
Kokoda Offset	SU70	636742	6318411	S	MUGGA	Average	
Kokoda Offset	SU71	636742	6318411	E	MUGGA	Average	
Kokoda Offset	SP72	636742	6318411	N	MUGGA	Average	
Kokoda Offset	SU73	636233	6318576	NE - Top	GREY	Average	
Kokoda Offset	SU74	636233	6318576	S - Bottom	GREY	Average	
Kokoda Offset	SU75	636224	6318591	N/E - Top	RED RIVER	Good	Scratchings around entrance
Kokoda Offset	SU76	636224	6318591	SE - Bottom	RED RIVER	Good	Some scratchings
Kokoda Offset	SP77	636148	6318625	W - Top	GREY	Average	Spun around to face North; a lot of scratchings at entrance
Kokoda Offset	SU78	636148	6318625	N - Bottom	GREY	Good	

Table 2 identifies that from the 78 installed nest boxes 54 had been chewed by animals, potentially Galahs or Cockatoos and nine will require either maintenance or replacement.

Northparkes will aim to replace/repair nine nest boxes in Q2 of 2024. Habitat augmentation will be undertaken in the surrounding areas as a means of providing compensatory habitat relative to that disturbed by the proposed action.

**Table 2. Condition of nest boxes since installation in 2017.**

Condition	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023
Perfect condition with little to no evidence of animal activity	42	41	13	3	0
Evidence of chewing by birds	27	23	43	52	68
Occupied	2	0	0	0	1
Side Door Open/poor condition	7	13	21	19	9
Destroyed	0	1	1	4	0
Total	78	78	78	78	78

The next nest box inspection is scheduled for H2 2024.

In 2024, Northparkes in conjunction with OS Trees (Bathurst) will look to trialling a hollow augmentation technique aimed at Superb Parrots at two locations.

Figures below show percentage of nest box condition per location.



