

10/09/2024

CEO

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

79 French Street

Hamilton Vic 3300

ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au

Dear CEO

RE: Open Letter to Glenelg Hopkins CMA – The Genetically Pure Endangered Southern Brolga

I refer to the Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Facebook post below which promotes a strategy that will decrease biodiversity in the region by causing the extinction of the genetically pure Endangered Southern Brolga or Western District Brolga as they are often called.

As you know, the Southern Brolga is the only pure bloodline species of Brolga left in the world. The Northern Brolgas have interbred with the Sarus Crane, so they are no longer a genetically pure species.

The Southern Brolga and the Northern Brolga are very different. They breed differently, flock differently and eat differently. The Glenelg Hopkins CMA's suggestion to "*encourage northern brolgas down south*", I believe, amounts to biodiversity vandalism. If the Northern Brolgas were to breed with the Southern Brolgas, the genetically pure Southern Brolgas Species would become extinct and be lost to the World.

The greatest threat to the Endangered Southern Brolga is wind farm developments. The publicly available evidence, including Veltheim's GPS tracking data, shows that Southern Brolga requires a minimum 5km buffer from nesting and flocking home ranges to wind farms.

Wind Farm Living provides all the scientific evidence and information for downloading at www.windfarmliving.com

It is curious that the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, a taxpayer funded organisation, has deleted Wind Farm Living's post below and blocked Wind Farm Living from its Facebook page.

In your capacity as CEO of a Victorian Government biodiversity authority, I ask that you answer the following questions:

1. Have you visited the Wind Farm Living website at www.windfarmliving.com and are you aware of the scientific evidence that shows a 5km buffer from breeding and flocking home ranges to wind farms is required to ensure the Southern Brolga survives as a pure bloodline species?
And will you unblock Wind Farm Living from your Facebook page?
2. Publicly stating that the interbreeding of the Northern Brolga with the Endangered Southern Brolga should be 'encouraged' as a method of protecting the genetically pure Southern Brolga Species, I believe, is false information. Any mixing of the two groups would NOT protect the Endangered Southern Brolga and would cause the extinction of this genetically pure Southern Brolga Species.
Are you aware that is an offence under s50(2)(b) of the Wildlife Act 1975 to import wildlife into Victoria that will prejudice the conservation of the protected Southern Brolga?
3. Is your organisation receiving any financial grants, gifts, money, or financial advantage of any kind from the Clean Energy Council, the wind industry or any wind farm company?
4. Is your organisation intending to undertake a "catch-and-release" program to catch Northern Brolgas and release them in the Western district?
And do you realise that any catch-and-release program or any mixing of the two breeds in any way would cause the extinction of the genetically pure Endangered Southern Brolga?

Please provide your answers by Friday 20th September 2024

Thank you,

Viva-Lyn Lenehan

Killarney

Moyne Shire, VIC, Australia



INFORMATION ALERT: Unfortunately some of the information outlined in this post for the protecting of the Endangered Southern Brolga is WRONG !!



Did you know northern and southern populations of Brolgas don't interbreed with one another? In fact, our Western District brolgas like to keep to themselves when it comes to breeding!

Last year we did a little call out for discarded brolga feathers across the eastern states to support work to study how genetically connected the populations of brolgas across the states are.

It turns out, they aren't really connected at all.

The genetic analysis of the feathers sent in for the study by Skye Davis at Macquarie University has revealed that brolgas in western Victoria are more genetically distinct, and have reduced gene flow from populations in NSW, Qld and NT.

Both males and females show a tendency to return to the same locations, highlighting the importance of protecting wetlands.

The southern population of brolga was found to have only approximately 300 effective breeders, and the 2024 Victorian brolga survey observed only 879 birds. With such small numbers and increased genetic distinctiveness from the northern population, they are at risk of losing genetic diversity and adaptive potential in the long term.

What does this mean we can do for brolga conservation in western Victoria? Look after our wetlands where the brolgas do breed to ensure there's lots of breeding ... But also to encourage even more flocking of the brolgas (and perhaps encouraging more of the northern brolgas down south) having good management of both small and large wetland areas in our region which have diverse ecosystems for food sources and nesting opportunities.

WRONG
↖

PHOTOS: Dave Nichols & Rob Drummond



NO – This is NOT what conservations need to do.

Unfortunately, some of the information outlined in this post is wrong – or at least ill-informed.

The Southern Brolga is the only genetically pure species of brolga left in the world. The Northern Brolgas have interbred with the Sarus Crane, so they are no longer genetically pure.

The Southern Brolgas breed differently, flock differently and eat differently to the Northern Brolga. The Southern Brolga is different in many ways and its pure genetics needs to be maintained and protected.

Encouraging the Northern cranes down to Southern Victoria to interbreed will destroy the pure genealogy of the Southern Brolga. Yes, wetlands and safe nesting home ranges must be protected, but **the Glenelg Hopkins CMA should be advocating for a minimum 5km buffer from nesting and flocking sites to wind farms, as this is the best means of protecting the genetically pure Southern Brolga Species.**

Interbreeding with their Northern cousins will destroy this beautiful genetically pure species.

Unfortunately, some of the information outlined in this post is wrong – or at least ill-informed.

The Southern Brolga is the only genetically pure species of brolga left in the world.

The Northern Brolgas have interbred with the Sarus Crane, so they are no longer genetically pure.

The Southern Brolgas breed differently, flock differently and eat differently to the Northern Brolga. The Southern Brolga is different in many ways and its pure genetics needs to be maintained and protected.

Encouraging the Northern cranes down to Southern Victoria to interbreed will destroy the pure genealogy of the Southern Brolga.

Yes, wetlands and safe nesting home ranges must be protected, but the Glenelg Hopkins CMA should be advocating for a minimum 5km buffer from nesting and flocking sites to wind turbines as this is the best means of protecting the genetically pure Southern Brolga Species.

Interbreeding with their Northern cousins will destroy this beautiful genetically pure species.

Unfortunately, some of the information outlined in this post is wrong – or at least ill-informed.

The Southern Brolga is the only genetically pure species of brolga left in the world.

The Northern Brolgas have interbred with the Sarus Crane, so they are no longer genetically pure.

The Southern Brolgas breed differently, flock differently and eat differently to the Northern Brolga. The Southern Brolga is different in many ways and its pure genetics needs to be maintained and protected.

Encouraging the Northern cranes down to Southern Victoria to interbreed will destroy the pure genealogy of the Southern Brolga.

Yes, wetlands and safe nesting home ranges must be protected, but the Glenelg Hopkins CMA should be advocating for a minimum 5km buffer from nesting and flocking sites to wind farms, as this is the best means of protecting the genetically pure Southern Brolga Species.

Interbreeding with their Northern cousins will destroy this beautiful genetically pure species.

Wind Farm Living

skilling people up with knowledge

[Wind Farm Living | Website](#)

[Wind Farm Living | Facebook](#)

email: community@windfarmliving.com

