

Cockitrough®

Designed and Supplied by




Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communities
**NATIONAL AWARDS
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
2025 Winner: Environment Sustainability

Cockitrough® Purchasing Information Sheet

Thank you for interest in supporting urban wildlife with Cockitrough®

The Cockitrough® is an award winning innovative bird watering structure designed by the Town of Victoria Park to **provide a safe and sustainable water source for native birds**. Developed over five years by our Bird Waterer Team, the Cockitrough® is a low-cost, low-maintenance, and long-term solution for enhancing urban habitats.

Designed with conservation in mind, the Cockitrough® helps reconnect fragmented habitats, **supporting bird populations, including threatened species like Carnaby's Cockatoo and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo**.




The Evolution of the Cockitrough®

Our team has continuously refined the design in collaboration with conservation groups, including BirdLife WA, Perth NRM, the City of South Perth, the WA Museum, and the Friends of Jirdarup.

- **Original Design:** 3m tall with two smaller troughs, primarily for small birds.
- **Current Design:** 4m tall with four larger troughs, purpose-built for large birds such as cockatoos.
- **Customisation Available:** Our manufacturer can tailor the design, including artwork and colour options for powder coating.

Pricing & Ordering of the Cockitrough®

The **Cockitrough®** is available for purchase at **\$4,990 (incl. GST)**. **What's included?**

-  Fully assembled Cockitrough® with irrigation fittings
-  Footing steel, protective pipe, washers, and nuts
-  Installation guide and support

Price excludes delivery and installation (see delivery & install costs on next page)



Option A Installation & Additional Costs (Estimates) of the Cockitrough®

Installation requirements depend on location, existing water sources, and site conditions. Below are estimated costs from external suppliers. **PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE NOT SUPPLIED BY TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK, THEY'RE EXTERNAL**

Item	Estimated cost (ex GST)	Supplier
Water meter (if required)	\$5,000+	May be required if there is no water existing source. WaterCorp (or you could look at purchasing an IBC set up, see below for more details).
Irrigation hook-up: Depending on distance from source to location	\$500 - \$1,500	Licence Plumber / We use UN Plumbing in Welshpool U.N. Plumbing <u>Plumbers & Gas Fitters - Welshpool, WA 6106</u> 13 Sandra Pl, Welshpool WA 6106 (08) 9362 1022
Bluetooth valve, irrigation box, backflow preventer and isolation valve	\$500	Irrigation Supplier: we use Bermad (Green App) valve.
Bird Waterer signage/artwork	\$600+	Martin Jaine
Bird waterer install 400x600x400mm hole = 0.1m ³ of concrete Say 11 bags of cement mixed bag = 11x9 = \$99 excl GST 2 work crews for 1.5 hours to mix and lay cement = 2 x \$110 x 1.5 = \$330 1 Truck - \$35 x 1.5 = \$52.50 1 man and hour for installing sealant = \$110 1 Ute = \$30	\$621.50+	We highly recommend: Sustainable Outdoors: Simon Pawley - 0422 634 809 w: http://sustainableoutdoors.com.au e: simon@sustainableoutdoors.com.au Woodlands: Andrew Wynne - 0412 429 767 w: www.woodlandsf.com.au e: andrew@woodlandsf.com.au Kool Line Electrical: http://koollinewa.com.au/ Carmen Mob: 0409 102 600 OR any contracted concrete installation (eg light pole installer) retic hook up separate
Total rough Estimate (to be used as a guide only, dependant on your circumstances)		\$1121.50 to \$2621.50 *Without optional extras **Please add the \$4990 mentioned above for the Cockitrough®

Option B Installation & Additional Costs (Estimates) of the Cockitrough® WITH SOLAR SIP (PROVIDED BY SUSTAINABLE OUTDOORS)

The Town has worked with Sustainable Outdoors (details below) to install an off grid solar panelled IBC water tank. Below are indicative prices for anyone interested in this type of installation. **NOTE: this information is supplied by Sustainable Outdoors, independent from Town of Victoria Park.**

Item	Quantity	Estimated cost (inc GST)
<p>Solar Sip Supply Only Purpose-built to power Cockitroughs in remote, off-grid locations.</p> <p>Introducing Sustainable Outdoors' latest innovation - a fully self-contained Off-Grid Bird Watering System designed to reliably operate Cockitrough bird waterers in even the most remote settings.</p> <p>The heart of the system is housed in a lockable, weatherproof metal cabinet. Built to endure harsh conditions and low-maintenance by design, this system delivers twice-daily water fills from a nearby tank to your Cockitrough - keeping birds hydrated and your habitat thriving, with no grid connection required.</p> <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 190W Solar Panel (second life tested) ensures strong energy harvest, even in variable light conditions. • 55Ah AGM Battery (second life tested) provides reliable power storage with long cycle life. • Victron Smart MPPT Solar Controller maximises solar input and supports monitoring via Bluetooth. • Programmable Timer gives you full control over watering schedules. • Float Switch safeguards your pump by detecting low tank levels and preventing the pump running dry. • Circuit Protection on pump, controller, and solar input provides robust system safety and peace of mind. 	1	\$3795
<p>On site installation Installation of SolarSip system *mounting location required</p>	1	\$715
<p>Post and Solar Panel Bracket Setup 4m high 112mm Galvanized Stell post (second life post) and solar panel bracket * Powder coating can be arranged POA</p>	1	\$1127.50

Option B Installation & Additional Costs (Estimates) of the Cockitrough® WITH SOLAR SIP (PROVIDED BY SUSTAINABLE OUTDOORS)

Item	Quantity	Estimated cost (inc GST)
Post Installation Install post for mounting the SolarSip and solar panel on top of post	1	\$1375
Poly tank 4500L 4500L Poly tank inc transport to site within metro *accessibility to be confirmed of final location	1	\$1925
Cockitrough Installation Basic Cockitrough installation guide price, collected from ToVP, install concrete footings and post. *Accessibility to be confirmed at location	1	\$2750
Hunter node Hunter Node Commercial grade controller supply and install - this is not required for SolarSip, this is for the connecting to a 25mm retic cut in valve. Including commercial grade valve box cover (connection to be within 5 or so meters from the Cockitrough location otherwise an extending pipe and trenching maybe required)	1	\$522.50
Plumber Plumber to install reverse flow prevent reticulation gate valve - TBA based on existing water main type POA	1	POA
New AGM battery	1	\$170.50



Cockitrough® Location Criteria: provided by Simon Cherriman of iNSiGHT Ornithology

Background information:

A Cockitrough may provide either a NEW or a SUPPLEMENTARY water source for a range of wildlife, especially black cockatoos.

If the former, careful consideration should be given to the following location criteria because a NEW water source will likely become a key focal point in the daily movement behaviour of cockatoos. Birds therefore need to be able to move safely to and from the water point, with an emphasis placed on the fact that most species drink primarily during mornings (after leaving roost sites), and evenings (before heading to roost sites).

If the latter, in addition to the following criteria, wider consideration of the fact that birdlife will already be following certain movement pathways to existing water sources, and (given the Cockitrough is a permanent water point) such pathways are likely to become modified, is also necessary and important.

Cockitrough's are likely to be especially useful in supplying permanent water to, or modifying the behaviour of, birds known to utilise temporary water sources which are often located at sites that pose risks (e.g. roadside puddles). In these cases, LGAs should consider using a Cockitrough strategically to reduce road strike and/or other threats.

Where an existing safe water source is already being used, care should be taken that an alteration in bird behaviour to utilise a supplementary water source such as a Cockitrough does not increase risk (i.e. encourage birds that already drink at a waterway protected by native vegetation to cross busy roads or open areas with increased predation risk to reach water).

Therefore, a brief visual survey of existing bird drinking behaviour may be desirable or necessary to help inform land managers to choose the most suitable sites for their Cockitrough.

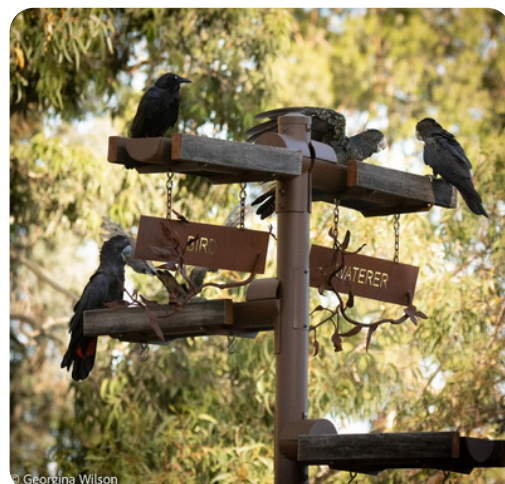
Location criteria:

The following criteria to assess the new locations of Cockitroughs installed in any LGAs are recommended.

Each Cockitrough should be:

1

Located within or near LGA Urban Ecosystem and/or planted areas. e.g. George Street Reserve, Rotary Park), to ensure the water point is surrounded by existing vegetation that will provide shade, perching opportunities (taller than Cockitrough perches), and protection from native predators.



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- 2 Located within, or, as close as practicable to, **remnant urban bushlands**. (e.g. Jirdarup Bushland).
- 3 Located **within an urban forest corridor** (of remnant or planted vegetation) that facilitates free passage of cockatoos and other birds across the wider landscape.
- 4 Situated within **2km of known black cockatoo roosting areas** (DAWE 2022).
- 5 **Positioned at least 10m away from human movement corridors** (i.e. pathways, cycle tracks). Some cockatoos already adapted to urban environments and will show little fear of humans, but this does not necessarily apply across all LGAs and it is important to place the watering needs of the birds above the viewing/access desires of humans.
- 6 **Installed a safe distance (at least 20m, more if possible) away from external threats** (roads and traffic, overhead power lines).
- 7 **Installed at least 20m from unsafe water sources** (puddles in roads or verges).
- 8 **Placed within a practical distance from a mains water supply** or a water connection to a clean potable water tank supply.
- 9 **Monitored post-installation (e.g. by field staff, remote cameras or through community observations/Friends groups)** to ensure target species (i.e. black cockatoos) are benefiting from the water source, and that super-abundant competitor species (e.g. Galah, corellas) are not out-competing black cockatoos.

Reference: DAWE (2022). Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's Cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra, February.

More on Simon Cherriman and Insight Ornithology:

<https://www.simoncherriman.com.au/>



Habitat Assessments, Camera & Off-Grid Supply Contacts

Habitat Assessment

To ensure minimal disruption to the habitat, plumbing is required to bring the water supply within 1-2 metres of the Bird Waterer. This setup includes a battery-operated valve with a timer, and we recommend using a Bermad (Green App) valve. For expert advice on habitat considerations, we suggest contacting:

- **Merryn Pryor | WA Black-Cockatoo Project Officer**
Mon - Tue, Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm M 0424 735 770 | T 08 9383 7749

Off Grid Supply

If you are considering an off grid solar panelled IBC water tank, we recommend contacting. Costing is provided in the pricing table above.

- **Simon Pawley | Director, Sustainable Outdoors |**
M:0422634809 | W: <http://sustainableoutdoors.com.au> |
E: simon@sustainableoutdoors.com.au

Cockitrough® Camera Monitoring

If you are considering a camera to monitor birdlife usage and/or mechanism of the Cockitrough, we recommend contacting:

- **Sam Patton | Operations Coordinator/Ecologist, Aboriginal Landcare ngala boodja |**
E: admin@aboriginallandcare.com | M: 0475 103 062 |
W: aboriginallandcare.com.au

You can also view the 24/7 Bird Cam, streaming live from the Cockitrough watering station that is installed by and operated by the City of Vincent. Click on the button below to view the live stream.

[Click here](#) →





Cockitrough Cleaning Instructions

- 1 Cockitroughs are designed to be self-flushing, allowing the water to circulate and minimise the build-up of leaf litter and debris.
- 2 The Town of Victoria Park recommends that the bird waterer troughs be cleaned with high pressure water twice a year to clear leaves and debris.
- 3 We recommend using a high - pressure water cleaning method that uses a telescopic or extendable lance attachment with a 180° end piece. (Shepards hook) The lance attachment can reach and clean the internal surfaces of the troughs.
- 4 The lance attachment allows high pressure cleaning of the bird waterer, (4 metres above) while the operator is standing firmly on the ground below. (see lance operator's instructions - 800 psi = operating pressure)
- 5 Alternatively a gutter cleaning services can offer this service if they have the necessary equipment.
- 6 Video instructions for cleaning instructions available - please click on the button below.

[Click here](#) →

Where Can You See a Cockitrough®?

- 📍 Find a Cockitrough® near you: vicpark.info/birdwaterers
- 📺 Watch our Cockitrough video: vicpark.info/birdwaterers

What others say about the Cockitrough®

"Our newly installed bird watering station provides safe access to clean drinking water to species that call Kings Park home." ~Kings Park

"We are ordering 4 every year to install across the City of Canning and the impact will be phenomenal. Within the sector, Mayors, Councillors, CEOs and local government staff talk about being "destination cities" and "making a difference" - making an impact - your city did that on steroids with this project. Well done! I'll always be in awe of what you've done!" ~Councillor Ben Kunze, City of Canning



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