

## Cover Letter - Project Black Cockatoo

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to introduce **Project Black Cockatoo**, an urgent and forward-thinking initiative designed to deliver essential veterinary first aid kits, consumables, and veterinary consultations to flood-affected communities and primary producers throughout Queensland. In the wake of the unprecedented 2025 flooding, this project aims to bridge a critical service gap, using aviation to overcome access issues and provide timely support where it's needed most.

The **red-tailed black cockatoo**, a powerful symbol of strength and resilience, holds deep cultural significance in Australia and personal meaning to me—it became my totem animal from Arnhem Land, NT after my father's passing. As someone raised on cattle stations outside Charters Towers, and among the first veterinary graduates of James Cook University, I've spent my career integrating my passions for veterinary science and aviation to serve some of the most remote regions in Australia.

**Project Black Cockatoo** seeks to:

- **Provide Rapid-Response Veterinary Care:** Distribute veterinary first aid kits and deliver on-site consultations by air to regions where road access has been destroyed or severely limited.
- **Sustain Local Livelihoods:** Support livestock and animal health in rural Queensland through emergency and routine care, nutritional planning, and disease surveillance.
- **Establish Collaborative Community Networks:** Partner with local councils, the AVA hotline, and remote clinics for ongoing support and coordinated response.

### **Long-Term Goals:**

- **Formalise Rural Veterinary Disaster Support:** Much like the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which is subsidized entirely through charitable donations and taxpayer funds, rural veterinary support should be formally recognized and funded. At present, veterinary medicine receives no governmental financial support—neither during peacetime nor in natural disasters—despite its fundamental role in rural economies, biosecurity, and mental health in regional communities.
- **Sustainable Service Delivery:** Without long-term government investment, continued access to veterinary services in remote communities is simply not financially viable. Project Black Cockatoo envisions a sustainable model backed by government, industry, and community partners to embed veterinary care as a pillar of regional resilience.

Your support of this project would allow us to scale our impact, build infrastructure, and formalize a veterinary safety net for rural Australia that is long overdue. I would be honored to discuss this proposal in more detail and explore potential opportunities for collaboration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Campbell Costello**

Founder, Project Black Cockatoo